

July 19th, 1629, Quebec is taken by Kertk; surrendered back to the French in July, 1632, when Emery De Caen took possession, and landed with the Jesuit Fathers.

In July, 1632, was the month, I might say the only month, during which the trade of the Great Lakes was performed on the St. Lawrence, mostly on the spot where Three Rivers stood afterwards. The flotilla of bark canoes used to spend from eight to ten days, and no more, in that place, very seldom reaching Quebec. Therefore, so soon as De Caen arrived in July, 1632, he was in a position to send orders to the most remote interpreter of the country, Nicolet, through the Indians returning home that very month. Generally it took five weeks for them to reach Georgian Bay.

It was in 1633, I firmly believe, that Nicolet was ordered to go down to Quebec, as I have thus explained. The *Relation* says positively, that on the French resuming possession of Quebec, he was called to the colony. Champlain arrived from France on the 23d of May, in that year. In June, he caused a small fort to be built about forty miles above Quebec, to afford protection to the trading flotilla descending the St. Lawrence, and which was always much exposed to the attacks of the Iroquois, especially when having landed at Three Rivers to trade. It was thought advisable to draw the trade nearer to Quebec, and thus the St. Croix fort was established in June, 1633. During the same month, and in the early part of it, one hundred and fifty Huron canoes arrived to trade. They must have left their country by the 1st of May, and traveled fast. No doubt that that "engressement," and the great number of them, can be explained by the news of the return of the French to Quebec in the preceding year. Nicolet must have been with them. In the meantime vessels arrived safely from France, loaded with provisions, people and supplies of various kinds. The promise of a bright period would seem to have dawned upon the colony. No wonder that Champlain should have taken advantage of this happy state of affairs to develop his scheme of exploration in the far and unknown country, the door of which he had reached in a single day, and where Nicolet had resided for so many years. Even supposing