

to "our people of France," as we are still called there, exceeded all that they could have imagined; one of them goes so far as to say that he dare not relate all the kind attentions of which they have been the recipients, because he would not be believed. Their accounts are of continuous festivities of every sort, with addresses of welcome, picturesque excursions, and triumphal entrances, accompanied by the ringing of bells, into cities decked with tri-colored flags, among which some old banners adorned with the *fleur-de-lis*, still reverently preserved as relics, are here and there seen. The clergy in their altar garments, led by the great dignitaries of the church, came and received our countrymen at the doors of the churches that were adorned as for the greatest Catholic festivals and where the holy sacrament was exposed for adoration. It is but just to add that the reception given them by the English was no less warm nor less cordial.

The various provinces of France have coöperated in a greater or less degree in the formation of the French population of Canada, but it was the provinces of the West and Northwest that furnished the greatest number of emigrants; in particular, Normandy, whose influence is recognized to-day in the language, where we find certain turns of speech, certain meanings of words, still in use in our province. If one looks through the "Annuals" of the Canadian cities he will find there all our old family names. Almost all the employés of the company which was formed during the winter of 1613-1614 came from Normandy. The crews of the ships were furnished by the ports of Rouen, Honfleur, Fécamp, Cherbourg, le Havre, Dieppe, and Caen. These cities were the nurseries which produced the most useful interpreters.¹

In order to train these interpreters, the need of whom had been felt since the beginning of colonization, young men were taken, sometimes mere youths, and sent to live for some years in the midst of the "savages" as the natives were

¹ Benjamin Sulte. *Les Interprètes du temps de Champlain*; "Memoirs of the Royal Society of Canada," 1st t. 1883.—H. J.