

a French fleet of eighteen vessels, which were carrying out a number of new colonists for the settlement, as well as badly needed supplies of provisions, goods and military stores. Just at this time Cardinal Richelieu, moved by the representations Champlain had made as to the miserable condition and prospects of the colony, had resolved to create a company on a much wider basis than any previously formed. This was the Company of New France, more generally known as the Company of One Hundred Associates. The preamble of the edict issued set forth in forcible terms "the lamentable failure of all previous trading associations to redeem their pledges in the matter of colonization; and the new associates were, by the terms of their charter, bound in the most formal and positive manner to convey annually to the colony, beginning in the year 1628, from two to three hundred bonâ fide settlers, and, in the fifteen following years, to transport thither a total of not less than four thousand persons male and female." The charter contained other useful stipulations, including the maintenance of a sufficient number of clergy to meet the spiritual wants both of settlers and natives. So long as it fulfilled these conditions, the company was to have absolute sovereignty, under the French king, of all French possessions between Florida and the Arctic regions, and from Newfoundland as far west as it could take possession of the country.

It was in furtherance of these plans that the fleet which Kirke captured had been sent out. Had Kirke sailed at once to Quebec the place would have fallen but he preferred to let starvation do his work. The following year he took the town without a struggle and set up his brother as governor. Champlain and many of his associates returned to France. But in the meantime peace had been signed and in 1632 Canada was given back to France.

It now remained to be seen what Richelieu's company would effect. Crippled by the loss of the capital invested in the fleet of 1628, it did not accomplish much, although a beginning was made when Champlain returned to Quebec in May, 1633, bringing with him over a hundred settlers. His life was, however, drawing to a close, and he died on Christmas Day, 1635.

Several events of special importance may be noted here. In 1639, two ladies of distinction arrived from France, Madame de la Peltrie and Madame Guyard, the latter better known as Mère de l'Incarnation. Their monument is the Ursuline Convent of Quebec. In 1641 M. de Maisonneuve conducted a band of earnest followers to Montreal in order to found there a strictly Christian colony. Twelve years later Sister Margaret Bourgeoys established at Mont-



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real the Congrégation de Notre Dame for the education of girls. The year 1668 is glorious in Canadian annals for what has been called the Canadian Thermopylae. To avert an attack on Montreal, Dollard, a young inhabitant of the place, and a score or so of companions threw themselves in the path of the Iroquois, and so sternly and heroically defended a position they had fortified on the river Ottawa that the Indians were disheartened and withdrew. Of the Canadians, all but one perished.