

Annual reports submitted by Jesuit missionaries in New France (Canada)
to officials of the Society of Jesus in Paris, 1610-1669, 1716-1791

Vol. 4: 1616: Index of the Most Important Subjects

[Excerpted]



Advancement of the English eighty leagues into New France.
English [*Anglois*] settled in Virginia, two hundred leagues from the French of St. Sauveur [Maine].

English invade the ship of the French of St. Sauveur, plunder the settlement, and capture the French.

English merely pretenders to New France.

Eel-fishing [*Anguilles*] in the middle of September.

Fruit trees [*Arbres*] very rare in Canada.

Armouchiquois strongly suspected by the French of intending to plunder them, under pretext of trade.

To have [*Avoir*] a dog and a bag, in Canada, is to enjoy the rights of Property.

Autmoins are the Priests of the Canadians.

Autmoins, Medicine men and Sorcerers dupe the simple Canadians.

Autmoins invoke God by the name of the Sun, when they are in need.



Bay of Chiniotou in Canada, surrounded by beautiful meadows.

Baptism too easily administered in Mexico, with notable detriment to those baptized.

Baptism administered to the Canadians not yet Instructed in the duties of Christianity, and the evils which result therefrom.

Baptism of aged persons, not well instructed, deferred with great consideration.

Baptism desired by Canadians before dying.



Cabins of the Canadians always in a beautiful location, and near good water.

Canada parallel to France, in the same climate and Polar elevation.

Canada colder than our France, and why.

Canada subject to Scurvy or land disease.

Canada brings sickness to those who are idle.

Canada shows vegetation as early in Spring as our France.

Canada in the coldest places yields the wheat crop in its season.

Canada has no high mountains.

Canada, very much intersected by rivers and arms of the sea, is thereby rendered colder.

Canada, not being cultivated, is covered with hard crust, almost impenetrable to the Sun, and therefore much colder.

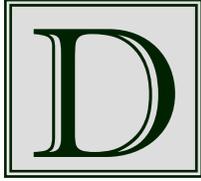
Canada, in the lands known to the French, has only ten thousand inhabitants.

Canada, why the French should cultivate it.
 Canadians faithful to French against English.
 Canadians have a good memory for visible and material things.
 Canadians nearly all beardless, except the more robust.
 Canadians have no memory for a consecutive arrangement of words.
 Canadians cowardly and great boasters.
 Canadians strong and skillful in wrestling, and not in any other kind of combat.



Champlain, *Carte Geographique de La Nouvelle France*, 1612, detail

Canadians generous and grateful.
 Canadians not anxious about tomorrow, only living from day to day.
 Canadians, when they rub themselves with seal oil, have a bad smell.
 Canadians embrace Christianity only as a sign of friendship with the French.
 Canadians complain greatly that they were not advised of the duties of Christianity before their baptism, to which they would not have bound themselves if they had known them.
 Canadians give generously of their game to the needy French of St. Sauueur.
 Canadians very faithful to the French.
 Canadians enemies of the English and Dutch.
 Canadians do not wear trousers.
 Canadians wear leggings and shoes of elk skin.
 Canadians erect new houses at every change of place and residence.
 Canadians camp in pleasant localities and near good water.
 Canadians live only upon game and fish.
 Canadians die of starvation when hunting and fishing are not successful.
 Canadians howl terribly around their dying friends.
 Caribou, half ass, half deer, good to eat.
 Catechism and Cross, hung from the neck of a Canadian woman, cure her of a mortal illness.
 Canoes, the skiffs of the Canadians, made of birchbark, very light, capable of holding an entire family and their necessary utensils.
 Canoe makes forty leagues in one day.
 Champlain establishes the settlement of Kebec [Quebec].
 Champlain explores the shores of the river St. Lawrence.
 Champlain, going to Kebec, passes through enormous and frightful masses of ice.
 Coal in Canada.
 First hunt [*Chasse*] for Beavers in February and March.
 Second hunt for Beavers and Elk in October and November.
 Chiquebi, a root something like truffles, upon which the Jesuits lived in time of famine.
 Shellfish [*Coquilles*], and fish of all kinds, swarm in the Canadian sea during five months.



Devil tormenting the Canadians before the coming of the French.
 God [*Dieu*], among the Canadians, is known by the same name as the Sun.
 Ten thousand [*Dix mille*] people only in all the lands of Canada.
 Dead kindred [*Dueil*] or friends mourned by smearing the face with black.



Large families [“*Enfans en grand nombres*”: *children in large numbers*] the strength of Canadian Sagamores.
 Canadian child sick unto death cured by Baptism.
 Canadian husband [*Espoux: engaged man*] gives to his father-in-law, instead of receiving from him.
 Rubbing and vapor-baths used in Canada for the health.



Canadian women [*Femmes*] bear the burdens of the household, and are in a worse condition than chambermaids.
 Canadian women modest.
 Canadian women badly treated by their husbands.
 Canadian women not fruitful on account of their continual hardships.
 Hay [*Foin*] in Canada as high as a man.

New France is owned by the French exclusive of the English.
 French have taught the use of poison and other evils to the Canadians.
 French justly assume to overrule the claims of the English in New France.
 New France is an interminable forest.
 New France, why it ought to be cultivated by the French.



Masses of ice [*Icebergs: Glaçons*], wonderfully large, drifted a hundred leagues into the sea through the rivers.
 Gilbert du Thet, Jesuit, killed by the English at St. Sauveur.
 Leggings [*Greues*] and shoes of the Canadians.
 Wars [*Guerres*] of the Canadians are carried on by strategy.



Inhabitants of the lands of Canada, ten thousand in all.
 Clothes [*Habits*] of the Canadians made of hairy skins.
 Henry III, King of France, appoints the Jesuits to Canada.
 Henry Membertou [Micmac leader], being sick, dies at Port Royal¹ in a very Christian Manner.
 Seal oil [*Huile de graisse*] the Canadian sauce the year round.



Jesuits [*Jesuites*] exhort the Canadians, baptized before they came to Canada, to discard Polygamy, and what they answer thereto.
 Jesuits try to change into the Canadian tongue the principles of the Faith, but suitable words for this purpose cannot be found.
 Jesuits sail for Canada in January, 1611.
 Jesuits arrive at Port Royal in June, 1611.

Jesuits are prevented from making progress in the Canadian language by the very ones who ought to aid them.

Jesuits build with their own hands a boat, to go in search of food in time of famine.
 Jesuits gather the Chiquebi root, and fish for Smelts and Herring in time of famine.

¹ Port Royal: first French settlement (1606) on Nova Scotia in Acadia (what is now southeastern Quebec, eastern Maine, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island).

Jesuits are withdrawn from Port Royal, and taken to the Island of Pemetiq, to establish a new settlement. Jesuits of Canada, prisoners in England, liberated and sent to Calais.



Kadesquit, a port of Acadia, intended as a new residence for the French. Kebec settlement, founded by Champlain.



Canadian Language very weak in expressing an infinite number of very ordinary things.

Rabbits [*Lapins*] and hares rather scarce in Canada.

Vegetables [*Legumes*] grow very large and are good in Canada.

Seals [*Loups marins: sea wolves*] are caught in abundance in January.



Madame de Guercheville raises a fund for a continual income in Canada, to maintain the Jesuits there.

Madame de Sourdis furnishes the Jesuits with the linen for Canada.

Madame la Marquise de Vernueil furnishes the Jesuits with the Ecclesiastical robes and other utensils, for Canada.

Magistrates of Virginia decide to ruin all the places of the French in Canada, to plunder their ships, and to send the people, back to France.

Sick people [*Malades*] cruelly treated in Canada.

Sick people who are slow to die, smothered by pouring a quantity of cold water upon their stomachs.

Marriages, how arranged among Canadians.

Matachias, chains, and adornments of Canadian women.

Medicines in use among the Canadians, vapor-baths and rubbing.

Membertou the first Sagamore to be baptized.

Membertou lodged and cared for by the Jesuits in their cabin up to the time of his death.

Membertou asks to be buried with his fathers; the Jesuits urge that this would be contrary to Christianity; he insists for some time, then finally yields.

Mementos of France effaced in Canada, by English.

Mine of iron at the river St. John.

Mines of copper at port Royal and Bay of mines.

Months. Every month of the year in Canada has an abundance of fish or game, or both.

Dead people [*Morts*] buried in a sitting posture, the knees against the stomach, the head upon the knees.

Codfish [*Moulues*] abound near the seacoast from the beginning of May until the middle of September.



Ship [*Navire*] arrives very opportunely for those at port Royal in their great need.

Nuptials of the Canadians with solemn Tabagie songs, and dances.

Norembegua, country of Canada, as good as France.

New France separated from Guienne [region of southwest France] by eight hundred or one thousand leagues of the sea.



Settlement at Quebec, in Champlain, *Les voyages du sieur de Champlain Xaintongeois*, 1613



White and grey geese [*Oyes*], birds of passage in Canada.
 Marine birds [*Oyseaux*] of prey cover the Islands of Canada with their eggs.
 Anointing [*Onction*] with Seal oil used in Canada against heat and cold.
 The season for moose [*Orignacs*] is in February and March.
 Bears [*Ours*] good to eat in Canada in the months of February and March.



Father [*Pere*] Enemond Massé goes to live with Membertou to learn the Canadian language.
 Father Biard keeps with him a Canadian, to learn from him the language of the savages.
 Father Biard refuses to disclose to the English the position of Sainte Croix, for which he is in danger of losing his life.

Fish [*Pesche*] abundant from May to the middle of September.
 Tobacco [*Petun*] used among the Canadians as a protection against bad weather, famine, and other evils.
 Tribes [*Peuples*] of Canada, only three are allies of the French.
 Puritan[s] makes all the trouble he can for the Jesuits.
 Port Royal badly provisioned for the Winter, on account of the great number of persons.
 Port Royal, defenseless, is lost to the French, and pillaged and burned by the English.
 Port of St. Sauveur newly called by this name, an intended as a new habitation for the French.
 Port of St. Sauveur very spacious, and protected from the wind.
 Presage of evil in a phenomenon appearing in the heavens.

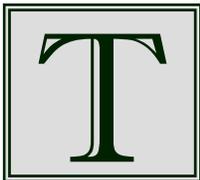


Reasons why the French ought to cultivate Canada.
 Religion of the Canadians, pure sorcery.
 Rivers, and many arms of the sea, make Canada much colder.
 Robe of the Autmoins [*magician/sorcerer*], sacred and precious.
 Roland, a Sagamore, and others give bread to the French of St. Sauveur.



Saint Lawrence, a river whose drift ice extends far out into the open sea.
 Saint Sauveur, a settlement of the French in Canada, in the land of Norembegua.
 Saint Sauveur, taken and pillaged by the English.
 Saussaye arrives in Canada to establish a new settlement, and take the Jesuits from Port Royal.

Saussaye, Captain, in amusing himself too much with the cultivation of the land, neglects the construction of buildings, and causes the loss of St. Sauveur.
 Saussaye, Captain, sent back to France by the English with fourteen Frenchmen.
 Scurvy, or land disease, common in Canada.



Turtles abundant in December.
 Trade in the skins of Beavers, Elks, Martens, and seals, in Summer.
 Turnel, English Captain, has his love for Father Biard changed into hate, and why.
 Turnel, English Captain, carried against his will to the lands of Spain, becomes reconciled to the Jesuits, in order to have their favor.



Virginia. A fort of the English on the mainland of Mocosa [North America], 250 leagues from St. Sauveur.
 Vine, wild, in many places in Canada, which ripens in its season.