

Voyages of Samuel De Champlain: 1604-1618 (Classic Reprint)

Samuel de Champlain



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Samuel De Champlain was born about the year 1567 in the town of Brouage in the province of Saintonge. Now a quiet little village in the department of Charente Inférieure, in the days when Catholic and Huguenot were at each other's throats all through France, the harbor of Brouage and its proximity to the Huguenot stronghold of La Rochelle made it a stirring and important place, several times taken and retaken during the youth of Champlain. A devout Catholic, but a fervent Royalist, he rallied to the side of Henry IV., and fought with credit both on sea and land during the confused years of foreign and domestic warfare which were terminated by the peace of Vervins in 1598. But from the first his love had been for the sea, and soon after the peace he entered the service of the King of Spain, and in January, 1599, set sail for the West Indies, as captain of the St. Julian, a stout ship of five hundred tons. Till March, 1601, he remained in the neighborhood of the Caribbean Sea, visiting Mexico, Cartagena, Havana, and the other Spanish colonies on the main land and among the Antilles. On his return he wrote a short account of his travels entitled Brief Discours des Choses plus remarquables que Sammuel Champlain de Brouage a reconneues aux Indes Occidentalles au voiage qu'il en a faict en icelles en l'année 1599 et en l'année 1601, comme ensuite.

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