he only required them to work three hours a day. The rest of the time they spent as they pleased—in hunting, fishing, ranging the forest, or in rest.

The next winter was passed in comfort and cheerfulness. This was owing to the care which had been taken to make the fort and dwellings dry, and also to an admirable arrangement which had been established at the table of Poutrincourt by Champlain. He organized the guests, fifteen in number, into a society which he called the *ordre de bon temps*. Each guest in his turn became steward and caterer for the day, during which he wore the collar "of the order and a napkin, and carried a staff." At dinner he marshalled the way to the table at the head of the procession of guests. After supper he resigned the insignia of office to his successor, with the ceremony of drinking to him in a cup of wine. It became a point of honor with each guest, as his day of service came, to have the table well supplied with game, either by his own exertions, or by purchasing from the Indians, and in consequence they fared sumptuously during the whole winter, so that Lescarbot was enabled to reply with truth to some Parisian epicures, who made sport of their coarse fare, that they lived as luxuriously as they could have done in the street Aux Ours in Paris, and at a much less cost. It is painful, however, to be obliged to record that, although bread and game were abundant, the wine of those festive Frenchmen fell short, so that before Spring they were reduced from three quarts a man daily to the inconsiderable allowance of a pint. The winter was mild and fair, and only four died, who are described as having been sluggish and fretful. These men died in February and March, and in January it seems that the whole company went two leagues to see their cornfield, and dined cheerfully in the sunshine. People accustomed
to the climate may be pardoned for supposing that a few experiments of that description might have a tendency to thin the ranks of the colonists, many of whom might not be the most rugged of men.

The Micmacs were their constant visitors throughout the winter, making them presents of venison, and selling the remainder at a fair price. Membertou, their great Sachem—who was chief of the whole tribe from Gaspé to Cape Sable—and many of their lesser dignitaries were the frequent guests of Poutrincourt. Membertou had been a noted warrior, and was a great friend of the white men. He was very aged, and remembered Cartier’s visit to the Bay Chaleur in 1534.

In the Spring, Poutrincourt, with his accustomed energy, renewed the work of improvement. He had a water-mill erected for the purpose of grinding grain, which they had previously done with great toil by hand labor. The fisheries were also prosecuted vigorously, two small vessels for coasting voyages built, and all the available land prepared for cultivation. Everything promised fair for a busy and prosperous season, when their labors were brought to a sudden termination by an untoward event.

One morning, in May, a vessel was observed by the Indians making her way up the Basin. Poutrincourt was immediately informed of the circumstance, and set out in a shallop with Champdore to meet her. She proved to be a small barque from the Jonas, which then lay at Canso, and brought the evil tidings that the company of merchants was broken up, and that no more supplies would be furnished to the colony. This, then, was the inglorious termination of all Poutrincourt’s hopes and labors. Just as the community was being put in a position to become self-sustaining, the message came which sealed its fate. As the
vessel brought no sufficient supplies, nothing remained but to leave Port Royal, where so much money and toil had been fruitlessly expended.

The cause of so sudden a change in the conduct of the company of merchants was the revocation by the King of the exclusive monopoly of the fur trade, which had been granted to De Monts and his associates for ten years. The grant of this monopoly had provoked great jealousy in France among merchants and traders, who were debarred from this lucrative trade, and their jealousy was not lessened by the knowledge that the Dutch, who cared nothing for De Monts' patent, were prosecuting the trade which Frenchmen were unable to pursue, without violating the laws. It was also urged by the enemies of this monopoly that De Monts, during the three years he had held the patent, had made no converts among the natives. These seem to have been the reasons which influenced the King, and the patent being revoked, the dissolution of the company followed. Accordingly the Jonas was sent out to bring back the colony, and, to defray the expenses of the voyage, was ordered to fish and trade at Canso, while the people were brought round from Port Royal in the smaller vessel.

Pourtrincourt, however, had resolved that he would return to Acadia, even if he brought with him none but the members of his own family. To enable him to take home with him to France visible tokens of the excellence of the products of the country, it was necessary for him to stay until his corn was ripe, and to accomplish this without sacrificing the interests of the merchants, at whose charge the vessel had been sent, he employed Chevalier, the commander of the barque, to trade with the Indians for beaver at St. John and St. Croix, and went to Mines
himself with the same object. By this means the departure of the colonists was delayed until the end of July.

Some time prior to this a war had broken out between the Indians of Acadia and the tribes west of the Penobscot. The whole available force of the Micmacs was called into the field, and Port Royal was the place of rendezvous.* Early in June the Chief, Membertou, took his departure for Saco, with four hundred warriors, to attack the Armouchoquois, who dwelt there. This savage pageant was a novel and interesting sight to the French, as the great flotilla of canoes swept past the fort and settlement towards the west. Before Poutrincourt departed, Membertou and his warriors returned from their campaign, which had been attended with success, but for several years the warfare between the tribes east and west of the Penobscot continued. It was characterized by revenge, violence and extermination; the great Bashaba, or Prince of the western tribes, was slain, and his nation totally defeated. His death was followed by a civil war amongst his now divided tribes; a fearful pestilence succeeded and swept over the whole coast from Penobscot to Cape Cod. Some tribes were totally exterminated, and others reduced to one-tenth of their former strength in warriors. Such was the tragic termination of this great savage war. On the 30th July most of the colonists left Port Royal in the small barque. Their destination was Canso, where the Jonas was awaiting them to take them to France. On the 11th August, Poutrincourt, finding that his grain was ripe, gathered a quantity of it to take to France as a proof of the excellence of the soil and climate. He also took with him a number of other natural productions of the country.

*The cause of the war was the killing of Pennoniac, a Micmac Chief, by the Armouchoquois who dwelt at Chouacoit or Saco.
He gave Membertou and his people ten hogsheads of meal and all the grain that was left standing. He enjoined them to sow more in the Spring, and, if any of his countrymen came there from France, to give them their friendship and assistance. They were deeply grieved at Poutrincourt's departure, and promised faithfully to carry out his wishes. A system of mutual forbearance and assistance had endeared those polished Frenchmen to the savages of Acadia, and their departure seemed like the loss of old and tried friends. It is an honorable feature in the character of the first colonists of Acadia that they could awaken such sentiments in the breasts of those barbarous warriors.

Poutrincourt and his company reached France in the Jonas in the latter part of September, and he immediately waited on the King, to whom he presented wheat, barley and oats, grown in Acadia, and other specimens of its productions—animal, vegetable and mineral. Among the former were five living wild geese, which had been hatched from eggs found near Port Royal. King Henry was much pleased with those specimens of the natural products of the colony, and encouraged Poutrincourt to continue his efforts in that direction. He ratified the grant of Port Royal, which had been made to him by De Monts. He desired him to procure the services of the Jesuits in the conversion of the Indians of Acadia, and offered to give two thousand livres towards their support. All these inducements coincided with Poutrincourt's resolution to continue the colony, and encouraged him to follow out his plans for that purpose, but time was required to complete them, and for two years Port Royal remained without white inhabitants. All the buildings had, however, been left untouched, and only awaited new occupants. The grain fields also were kept in order by the savages, and
Champdore, who was on the coast in 1608, and visited Port Royal, found the grain growing finely, and was received by Membertou and his people with every demonstration of welcome. Everything was favorable for a new essay in colonization, which could not fail to be successful, considering the experience of its chief promoter, and that so much had already been accomplished in the way of conciliating the savages and erecting habitations for the people.