

northward, so that he was compelled to anchor off shore and send his longboat to examine the coast more closely. 1525.

As this boat ran up, the shore was found lined with Indians, in whom were witnessed at once tokens of surprise, admiration, joy, and fear; but it is not easy to judge from the letter written by Verazani to the king at what degree of latitude he first discovered land, nor precisely how far north he ascended. Lescarbot says that he discovered all the country between the thirtieth and fortieth degrees of north latitude, but he cites no authorities.¹ Verazani simply informs us that from the place where he perceived land for the first time, he coasted always in sight for fifty leagues, always going south; which he could not do, as the coast lies, if his first landing had been further north than thirty-three degrees. He even says, in express terms, that after having sailed some time, he found himself at 34° north. Thence, he adds, the coast turns east. Be that as it may, having resumed his northerly course, and seeing no port, apparently because he did not run near enough to land to distinguish the mouths of rivers, his want of water forced him to send out his boat to get a supply; but the waves ran so high that his boat could never land.

His first landing.

Meanwhile the Indians, by all sorts of demonstrations, invited the French to approach; and a young sailor, who was an expert swimmer, finally ventured to leap into the water, after taking some presents for the savages. He was not more than a gunshot from land, and was only waist-high in the water, when fear seized him; he threw all he had to the Indians, and began to swim back to the boat. But at that moment a breaker rolling in threw him up on the beach with such violence, that he lay stretched there senseless. Verazani says, that having lost his footing, and his strength failing, he was on the point of drowning, when the Indians ran to his aid and took him ashore.

Singular adventure of a sailor.

¹ Lescarbot, *Hist. de la Nouv. Fr.* (1612), p. 232. Champlain says, 33° to 47°.