

1603. Scotia, and giving the rest the name of New Alexandria. This may be seen in de Laet, who cites the patent at the place already cited.¹ Several years after, Charles II. having ordered the restitution of Acadia to the French, according to the treaty of Breda, Sir Thomas Temple pretended to a right to retain Pentagoët, asserting that that post was not included in Acadia, but in Nova Scotia. He was shown, however, that this assertion was unfounded.

Description
of Acadia.

After this short digression, which should not be regarded as foreign to my history, as it tends to settle an important geographical question directly bearing on the subject we are treating, I will say a few words of these southern provinces of New France, which were then discovered by Messieurs de Monts and de Champlain. There are, perhaps, none in the world possessing finer harbors, or furnishing in greater abundance all the conveniences of life. The climate is quite mild and very healthy, and no lands have been found that are not of surprising fertility. Near La Haive a single grain of wheat was seen which produced one hundred and fifty ears, so long and full that an iron ring had to be put there to support them. The Sieur Denys who reports this fact, actually witnessed by himself, adds that in the same place he saw a field of wheat where the seeds that were least prolific had eight stalks, all bearing ears, the least six inches long.² Finally, nowhere are there to be seen forests more beautiful or with wood better fitted for building and masts.

There are in some places copper-mines,³ and in others of coal. It is even asserted that at three-quarters of a league off Isle Menane, which serves as a guide to vessels to enter St. John's River, there is a rock, almost always covered by the sea, which is of lapis-lazuli. It is added that Commander de Razilli broke off a piece, which he sent to France, and Sieur Denys, who had seen it, says

¹ De Laet, *Novus Orbis*, p. 61.

² Denys, i. p. 80.

³ Champlain, *des Sauvages*, Laverdière's edition, p. 49.