

under that of Elizabeth, the more especially as both were disputed by the Basques, Bretons, and Normans, for reasons which I have elsewhere explained.<sup>1</sup> 1669.

The French, at last, began to settle in Placentia Bay, where they found a commodious harbor, one of the finest, formed by nature, in North America. It is indeed only a port, and the most essential necessaries of life can be obtained only by importation: but as the cod-fishery is extremely abundant, and the place affords every facility for drying the fish, this consideration should alone apparently suffice to induce those whose affair it is to settle Acadia, to give all their care to the cultivation of the soil, which is excellent; these two colonies being in a position to aid each other easily, and by their mutual correspondence enable both to subsist and defend themselves without depending on aid from France and Quebec, which has almost always failed them in the moment of need.

Placentia Bay is eighteen leagues in length, and the port is at the extreme end. The entrance to the bay is a narrow inlet, affording passage for only one ship, but the largest vessels can enter. The port can hold one hundred and fifty, sheltered from every wind, and there they can fish as tranquilly as in a river.<sup>2</sup> Before the inlet lies a roadstead, a league and a half in extent, but not sufficiently sheltered from the north-northwesters, which frequently blow on this coast, and are almost always violent. The channel of the inlet is rendered narrow by dangerous rocks, which must be left on the right, and above which we had built Fort St. Louis.<sup>3</sup> The currents there are violent, and rush over a bed of rock, so that they can be ascended only by towing, by means of a hawser which is fastened on the great Greve.<sup>4</sup>

Description  
of Placentia  
Bay.

<sup>1</sup> Ante, vol. i., p. 106.

<sup>2</sup> De la Potherie, i., p. 15.

<sup>3</sup> La Hontan, ii., p. 32.

<sup>4</sup> *Touer* or *monter à la touë* is to force a vessel along, by hauling in a cable attached to an anchor, which is carried far ahead in a boat in the direction in which it is desired to