

always serene, that there are fine forests, fields covered with flowers and strawberries; that the bushes are almost all raspberries, with fruit of marvellous taste;¹ that the water is good; that there are fertile valleys; that it produces spontaneously a kind of barley, which is very nutritious; that game swarms on all sides, and that wild animals, such as caribous, moose, stags, bears, foxes, deer, and beaver, are found by the thousand.

Others, on the contrary, represent Newfoundland as a fearful country, and say that this island is almost everywhere a moss-covered rock; that in the fine season a quantity of strawberries and raspberries are gathered; but that it produces no other fruit; that the wood is good for nothing, and hunting, except for partridges and river birds, impracticable, on account of the precipitous mountains that cover the country;² that the fogs of the Great Bank extend to the island, and that it rarely enjoys a fine sun; and when the sun does appear in summer, its ardor is intolerable, and burns the fish on the Greves. Finally, that for six months of the year the cold is excessive.

To reconcile these two opinions, we have only to distinguish the different quarters of the island, which have been frequented by Europeans. It is true, that the southern and eastern shores have not usually a very clear sky, and I have elsewhere observed that this comes from its vicinity to the Great Bank, where an almost eternal fog prevails. But this is not the case in the northern and western sections, where winter and summer are very serene. As to the interior of the island, that can be spoken of only from conjecture; for it is almost impossible to penetrate far inland; and I could never hear that any person had ever

¹ De la Potherie, *Hist. de l'Amérique Sept.*, i., p. 19; White's *Newfoundland*; *Voyages au Nord*, ix., p. 359

² La Hontan, *Memoires de l'Amérique Septentrionale*, ii., p. 31.