

1669. yet done it. Among those who have advanced farthest, it may be that some perceived fine valleys, while others discovered only precipitous rocks. There are no mountains without valleys, but these valleys are sometimes precipices, or filled with rocks and sterile sands. Moreover, in so extensive a country, it is impossible but that there is some variety.

In the neighborhood of the port and bay of Placentia there are ponds and streams, which attract quantities of game; but it is almost impossible to hunt wild animals in parts so little frequented, and almost impracticable. Hence they must multiply infinitely, and no one can profit by it, except rarely and by accident. Nor can the cold fail to be very severe in that island, not so much on account of its situation between the 46th and 52d degrees of north latitude, as on account of its mountains and woods, the west and north wind which often prevail, and especially of those monstrous icebergs, which, coming from the northern seas, are arrested by its shores and long remain there. Finally, it is not surprising that the heat should be extreme in open spots where the sun darts its rays on bare rocks and beaches covered with pebbles, which reflect them on all sides.

Its native
inhabitants.

Nor do writers better agree as to the native inhabitants of Newfoundland, than on the character of the interior of the country. From the expressions used by some historians, they lead us to infer that they believed it inhabited; but according to the more common opinion, it is not inhabited by any sedentary nation. On the coasts none are seen but Esikmaux, who pass over to it from the mainland of Labrador, in order to hunt and to trade with the Europeans; but these Indians have often spoken of other tribes with whom they have commercial intercourse. They intermingle, it is true, much that is fabulous with all that they say about it, as I have elsewhere remarked, and it is difficult to conceive how whole nations can keep themselves so shut up in the centre of an island, however ex-