

tensive it may be, that no individual belonging to it should ever be seen on the coast.<sup>1</sup>

1669.

The channel which separates the island of Newfoundland from the continent of America, is called the Strait of Belle Isle; it runs northwest and southwest. After passing it, descending southward, you find at 50° on the mainland of Labrador, a great bay, where we have a fort that bears the name of Ponchartrain. This post now belongs to Tilly de Courtemanche,<sup>2</sup> a Canadian gentleman, a Norman by origin. The codfishery is abundant; but there is no profit to be made with the Indians, who are the most intractable of all men, and whom they have despaired of ever improving.

The Great  
Bay.

Yet we have, on the whole, turned Newfoundland to better account than Acadia, which is not, however, much inferior to it in the general fishery, and with which it cannot enter into comparison in other respects; but the profit was actually visible, and did not require a great capital; nor were settlements required, which need concert and resolution, but simply a four or five months' voyage, at the end of which they return to the bosom of their family.

Much stress, too, was laid on the convenience of the port of Placentia, which was deemed a necessary stopping-place for ships returning from the French and Spanish isles in the West Indies; as though Acadia did not offer ports as commodious much nearer, more easy of access, and where they could be supplied with stores that they

<sup>1</sup> A century has not settled this question. It is still a matter of doubt who are the native inhabitants of the island, and what are their numbers, etc. As to these Beoths, or Red Indians, see Bishop Mullock's Lectures on Newfoundland (1860), p. 9; and Pedley's History of Newfoundland (1863), pp. 227, 338, 482, 508; Charlevoix Journal, p. 178.

<sup>2</sup> See Canada Documents, II., x., p. 452; Ferland's Labrador, p. 305; Hind's Labrador, ii., p. 128. Near St. Paul's River is the port of Brest, frequented in Jacques Cartier's day, and represented about 1600 as the chief post in New France: Robert's Dictionary of Commerce. It is the *Vieux Fort* on the map of Newfoundland in this volume. The old Esquimaux fort was on St. Paul's Bay.