

13-24. test, so as not to give the least pretext for disturbing the good understanding which it had cost so much to restore between the two Crowns. The settling of the boundaries even ceased to be negotiated in the two courts, although commissioners had been appointed on both sides in 1719. There is every reason to believe that the English who massacred Father Rasle, were disavowed, as the matter was not at all followed up on our side; moreover, it is not for men to avenge the blood of martyrs.¹

The English forced to leave the Indians at rest.

Description of the island of Cape Breton.

By the cession of Acadia and Placentia to the English, France had no place left to catch cod, or rather dry it, except the island of Cape Breton, now known only under the name of Isle Royale. This island lies between the forty-fifth and forty-seventh degree of north latitude, and with Newfoundland, from which it is only fifteen or sixteen leagues distant, forms the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The strait which separates it from Acadia, is only about five common French leagues long, by one broad, and is called the Passage de Fronsac.² Its length from northeast to southwest-east³ is not quite fifty leagues, and its greatest breadth from east to west is not over thirty-three. It is very irregular in form, and so intersected by lakes and rivers, that the two chief divisions are connected with each other only by an isthmus about eight hundred paces wide, which separates the head of Port Toulouse from several lakes called Labrador. These lakes empty into the sea on the east, by two channels of unequal width, formed by the island of Verderonne or la Boularderie, which is seven or eight leagues long.⁴

The climate of this island is about the same as that of

came a Jesuit in 1712; came to America in 1716, and began his labors at Norridgewock in 1730. He died in Canada, Aug. 28, 1747.

¹ For the condition of the Abnakis in 1724, see N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 939-940.

² Gut of Canso.

³ Southwest.

⁴ Pichon, *Lettres et Memoires pour servir à l'Histoire du Cap Breton*, pp. 1-53. Jefferys, *French Dominions*, p. 119. Pichon was a French officer who betrayed the operations of his own forces to the enemy. Hence his remarks are to be received with caution. See Akins, *Nova Scotia Documents*, p. 229, note.