

1697.

Project of a
sedentary
fishery on
the St.
Lawrence.

New France this year beheld another project formed, less glorious indeed, but one that would perhaps have proved no less useful, and have been crowned with success, had the projector been supported as he deserved. For some time back several merchants had been associated to establish sedentary fisheries in Canada; but they had been unable to agree on a safe and convenient place for such an undertaking. The originator of this association was the *Sieur Riverin*, already spoken of: he was an intelligent, active, enterprising man, not disheartened by obstacles. At last, after many difficulties, he succeeded in inducing them to adopt the haven of *Mont Louis*, situated on the southern bank of the *St. Lawrence*, amid the mountains of *Notre Dame*, and about half way between *Quebec* and the sea.¹

Description
of *Mont
Louis*.

This haven is the mouth of a pretty river; the anchorage is very good, and ships at anchor are exposed only to the north wind, which very seldom blows in summer. The river can be entered by vessels of a hundred tons. There they are sheltered from all winds and weather, and from the enemy, as it can only be entered at high tide, there being but two feet of water at low tide, although inside in the river they can always float. The entrance is moreover easily defended, having inaccessible mountains on one side, and on the other a tongue of land, which forms a peninsula, a gun-shot in width at the most, and on which a fort can be erected.

Its utility.

This same tongue of land is also well adapted for drying fish, which, as elsewhere noticed, are very abundant on this bank, from *Cape des Rosiers*, at the entrance of the river, to *Matane River*, that is to say, a space more than eighty leagues. Whales may be taken even fifteen leagues higher. As for the soil of *Mont Louis*, it is adapted for raising wheat and all other kinds of grain, and very good pasturage is found there.

All ships ascending to *Quebec*, pass in sight of *Mont*

¹ Ante, vol. iv. p. 13.