

being of very pure and very wholesome water; secondly, the bottom is of rock or sand; thirdly, they are in continual motion through the flow and ebb of the tide, whose action extends five hundred miles inland, and, finally, through the winds, which agitate them like the Sea, and thereby restrain the action of the Sun which otherwise would draw from them a greater abundance of vapors. This last is the very reason why it does not continually rain on the sea,—whose water, on the other hand, is much warmer, of greater volume, and more open to receive the influence of the Sun. Some one might add to this the nearness or contiguity of the Seas of Canada to the icy sea,—from which, or at least from whose shores, are detached whole mountains of ice, which, in the months of June and July, are encountered even in the gulf of Saint Lawrence. I have repeatedly seen them as great as entire Cities; and Pilots worthy of credence say that they have seen some, along which they have coasted for 200 miles and over.

But it is unlikely that these masses of ice, immense though they are, have any effect at so great a distance as ours, since we dwell between the 47th and the 44th degrees of latitude, 900 miles or more [4] from the sea. Some have supposed that these countries were, in former times, discovered by the Spaniards, from whom, perhaps, they got the name of Canada,—as if they meant to say *hà nada*, there being almost nothing but woods. But it is certain that this region was taken possession of for the first time by the French in the year 1504; and from them it received the name of new France, without losing that of *Canadà*, which some have wished to apply to the more Northern part.<sup>17</sup> They made several voyages