

who dwell farther north. These latter, as we have been assured, destroyed last year a vessel which had come from Europe, with all its crew, in order to avenge the deaths of some of their tribesmen; these had been slain by some of the ship's people, in a quarrel that arose while they were trading together.

All the coast of this sea is frightful to behold; there is naught but rocks piled together, encumbered with low thickets and a dense growth of stunted trees. Our Savages could not hunt there, if they were not entirely clad in skins instead of our stuffs, which would be quickly torn to pieces.

These rocky lands are intersected by numerous rivers; some of these, of considerable volume, discharge their waters into the sea, and at their mouths form very commodious harbors for the reception of barks.⁶

Game is very abundant in this quarter, but it comprises only sea-birds; their flesh is disagreeable to the palate, for it has an oily flavor that is insupportable. In that vicinity could be carried on an extensive fishery of salmon, codfish, seals,—and even whales, which are found in abundance and of great size,—in a fine and large bay, in which they could easily be taken. These two kinds of fish, whales and seals, could supply a great commerce in oil, if it were undertaken in the right way.

As the Savages of that coast are, as I have said, very friendly and desirous of being instructed, Father Louis Nicolas,⁷ about the end of spring, made the beginning of that Mission. It is, correctly speaking, only an attempt; for the Father went mainly to ascertain how he ought to go to work, in order to labor efficaciously for the salvation of those peoples.