

neighborhood an odor exactly like that of gunpowder. The heat between these two chains of mountains, most of which are bare and inaccessible, is so great that the gum on the canoes often melts at the surface of the water. Nature seems to have contrived favorable and convenient stopping-places for travelers. With the exception of a single stretch of 4 or 5 leagues, to which it would be dangerous to confide oneself too headlessly, and whence in the event of a sudden storm it would be well-nigh impossible to escape in a bark canoe, nature provides here and there small sandy ports, where one can conveniently put in. These landings are more accessible on the north side. Anchorage for vessels can be found almost everywhere; the largest ships, in case of need, would be fortunate to find refuge there—as, during the war, when the English unsuccessfully besieged Quebec, did the french ships that arrived too late to be of use. The remains of their barracks and their batteries can still be seen, 2 leagues this side of Tadoussac. At low tide, it is more difficult to disembark; it is sometimes necessary to carry one's baggage a very long distance, over slippery stones covered with those slimy plants that we call "sea-wrack." But on the other hand, as a compensation, providence has at nearly all these spots placed fire-wood; and little brooks,—which, flowing from the swamps where the beaver dwell, fall from the tops of the cliffs, to refresh and rejoice tired travelers.

The northwest and northeast winds are the only ones that blow on the Saguené; the others are either but slightly felt or at least are never violent. During the many journeys that I have made, I have seen only the 2 former exceedingly treacherous, stormy,