

description of the places he visited and the natives he saw, and for its explanation of the origin of many names of places which we use to this day. A few years ago our historians were in doubt as to his exact route in some parts of the Gulf, for the different versions of his narrative do not agree, and all are obscure in places; but in recent years several scholars have examined and compared the different versions so critically, and have compared them with the old maps so carefully, that almost the entire subject is now perfectly clear.

Cartier left St. Malo, with two tiny ships, April 20th, 1534, and sighted Cape Bonavista, Newfoundland, May 10th. On May 27th he reached the Strait of Belleisle, and later entered the Gulf and coasted along the shores of Labrador as far as the place now called Cumberland Harbor. He was repelled by the rocky barrenness of Labrador, which, he says, "must be the land allotted by God to Cain." He crossed to Newfoundland, which he explored to near the present Cape Anguille, whence he crossed to the Magdalene Islands. After exploring this group he sailed away, on June 29th, to the westward. From this time on we shall let him tell his own story.

The next day, being the last of the month save one, the wind blew south and by east. We sailed westward until Tuesday morning at sunrise, the last of the month, without knowledge of any land, except in the evening towards sunset, when we discovered a land which seemed to be two islands<sup>1</sup>, that were beyond us west-southwest about nine or ten leagues. All that day<sup>2</sup> till the next morning at sunrise we sailed westward<sup>3</sup> about forty leagues, and on the way we perceived that the land we had seen like islands was main-land lying south-southeast and north-northwest to a very fine cape of land called Cape Orleans<sup>4</sup> (Cap d'Orléans).

All of the said land is low and flat, and the fairest that may possibly be seen, and full of beautiful trees and meadows; but we could find no harbor there, for it is a low land all ranged with sands. We, with our boats, went on shore in many places, and among others we entered a goodly river, but very shallow, where we saw boats full of savages, who were crossing the river, which on this account we named the River of Boats (*ripiere des barcques*)<sup>5</sup>. But

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<sup>1</sup>The high land near Grenville, Prince Edward Island.

<sup>2</sup>Night is meant.

<sup>3</sup>All of Cartier's directions are by the compass to the magnetic meridian, which is in the Gulf considerably west of the true meridian; hence Cartier's westward means south-westward on our maps. This must be kept in mind for the other directions he mentions.

<sup>4</sup>Now Cape Kildare. The original French name is given in brackets. It was named in honor of the father of the king of France.

<sup>5</sup>Now Richmond Bay.