

the *bird's eye* maple, is a variety of this tree, but its chief value at present arises from the great quantity of sugar annually manufactured from its sap; the greatest part of the inhabitants of the island, supplying themselves with all the sugar they consume in this manner, whilst many of them have frequently a great deal to dispose of.

Elm, red-oak, (which is to be found in considerable quantities), poplar, swamp-willow, two kinds of ash, several species of the pine, larch, fir and spruce, with several kinds of fruit and flowering shrubs abound in the island.

The fisheries of this island and of Cape Breton may be greatly extended; they consist of the same variety of fish as are found on the coasts of the King's provinces. Cod fish is perhaps no where in greater plenty than on the coast of Prince Edward's Island, the principal fishing ground in the gulph of St. Lawrence, being in sight of its shores, but unfortunately the subjects of the United States reap *at present* the greatest advantage of the cod-fishery there.—Besides the seals which constantly frequent the waters of this island, there is a larger kind brought on the coast annually by the floating ice; they are often taken in great numbers, are very productive, and the oil is usually carried to Halifax or Quebec, where it is sold from 25*l.* to 32*l.* per ton\*.

Sea-cows about thirty years ago were found in great numbers on the northern coast of this island, but they have become scarce, particularly since the American war, "when so many *American* fishermen poured into the gulph and attacked them in the summer, about the *Magdalen Islands*, that in two or three years the species were nearly destroyed, few having been seen for several years after; however the kind still exists, and they are known to be increasing fast, and if the killing them was under proper regulations they might again become so numerous as to be an object of great consequence, but this never can be the case, while the *New England* fishermen are allowed to come into the gulph and destroy them†."

The grants to individuals of the *Magdalen* and other islands, are considered to be particularly disadvantageous and injurious to the British fishermen.—It is, however, to be expected that in all future grants, reservations will be contain-

\* Stewart's Account.

† Ibid.