

tized." This reason so shrewdly set forth surprised Father Biard, and fully persuaded him to accompany them, especially as there were only three leagues to traverse, and the whole would involve no great loss of time, merely an afternoon. So he took his place in one of their canoes, with the Sienr de la Motte and Simon the interpreter, and on they sped.

Arrived at the cabins of Asticou, we found him sick, to be sure, but not unto death, for it was only a cold that was troubling him. The assurance of his strength, therefore, gave us ample leisure for going on a visit to this place, so highly extolled, and better than Kadesquit as a residence for the French; and, verily, we found that the savages were not without good reason for their high praises, for we ourselves were in wonder over it. So that, having carried the news to the principal men of our company, and they also having come to reconnoiter, all without dissent agreed that we should make our settlement there, and not seek for anything better, seeing that God even seemed to say the same by the pleasing occurrences that had met us, and by a certain miracle which he had wrought in the healing of an infant, of which we shall speak elsewhere.

This place is a pleasing slope, gently rising from the sea, and bathed on its two sides by two springs. The land is clear of trees to the extent of twenty or twenty-five acres, and covered with grass in some places almost to the height of a man. Its aspect is to the south and east, like that at the mouth of the Pentagoët [a possible reminiscence here of the lay of the land at the Castine peninsula], and looking to where several attractive brooks, abounding in fish, discharge themselves. The soil is dark, rich and fertile. The port and harbor are the finest that one could behold, and so situated as to command the whole coast; especially the harbor is secure as a lake, for besides its being inclosed (*separé*) by the great island of Mount Desert, it is also shut in by certain little islands, that break the force of the waves and winds and fortify its entrance. There is no fleet that it could not hold, nor ship of such draught as not to be able to approach within a cable's length of the shore for discharging her cargo. It is in latitude forty-four degrees and one-third, a situation less northerly than that of Beauvais.