

Q. What is the Climate, Soil and Productions of the said Tract of Country?

A. The distance from the Settlements of Malbaie is so trifling that there can be no difference in the general character of the Climate. Those spots which are protected from the bleak North West Winds of this Region I have no doubt have advantages, as regards Climate, over Malbaie. The Valleys of the Rivers Gouffre and Murray Bay, from the Northerly Winds rushing down them early in the Fall, are exposed to injurious frosts.

The Soil, (where there is any) as in the greater part of mountainous Countries, is generally rich Alluvion.

The Productions may one day be of consequence to the Arts and our Commerce; the most remarkable of them, not already well known, are: the statuary Marble at Moulin Baude, the Clay at Pointe aux Bouleaux, and the Iron Ore, chiefly of the description of magnetic Iron Ore.

From the large masses of the Iron Ore found in wide veins at Echafaud des Basques, the layers of Iron Sand in the small eminence on which Tadoussac stands, the Specimens we saw of it at the Post, and the indications of it every where as one walks along the Shore, I am satisfied that it must occur in the vicinity in Beds sufficiently rich to be profitably worked. The Norway Iron of such repute in Commerce is extracted from similar Ore. Both it and that of Cornwall in England are found in Rocks of the same formation as those between Malbaie and the Saguenay. We brought away large masses of Ore.

The Clay at Pointe aux Bouleaux and Pointe aux Vaches, the two outermost tongues of the Banks of the Saguenay at its mouth, occurs in immense beds, of which that at the first place is about Thirty or Forty Feet in thickness above ground, and that at the last place, probably Two hundred Feet; both together extending in superficies apparently Ten or Twelve Miles. It is extremely fine in its texture, contains a good deal of Lime and some Iron. It has the property of crumbling when water is thrown upon it, as unslacked Lime does, and might, by merely being spread out and exposed to the falls of rain, answer for an excellent manure for a Soil having an excess of Acids, such as that of Swamps, &c. &c. It is very probable that this Clay will be successfully used in the manufacture of Crockery and Earthenware and the abundance of it, the vicinity of Fuel, and the advantages of good Harbours for Export at the door of the Manufacturer, would make it extremely valuable.

The Statuary Marble of Moulin Baude, Four Miles below Tadoussac, is in a rent of about Six to Eight Feet in Breadth; the rent rises almost vertically to the top of the Bank, which is here One hundred and fifty Feet high. The Marble is therefore abundant. It is, generally speaking, solid, and masses sufficiently large to form the Pillars of a fine Public Building might be quarried at a trifling expense. The parts which have not been exposed to the action of the air will probably take a good polish, and as Chimney Pieces, Tables, &c. would really make