

foil, which is its distinguishing characteristic.

All this tract, though covered with good wood, has but few rivers that are navigable, and still fewer harbours. Its shores are steep and rocky, in many places high and mountainous, and often intersected with deep creeks, or impassable swamps, overgrown with forests of spruce and pine. The climate is subject to frequent fogs, which arise from the neighbouring gulf and river, and not only diminish the sun's influence, but increase the dampness and cold to a very great degree.

In consequence of these disagreeable circumstances, we find very few inhabitants *
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* In exploring the south side of the river, the author saw scarcely any until near the islands called the Pilgrims, 30 leagues below Quebec, where there is a small village.