

of verdure, as no longer to afford them the means of sustenance, they assembled on the water in clusters, resembling small rafts, and floated with the tide and wind, along the basin of the St. Lawrence, to Quebec, where they filled the decks and cordage of the vessels at anchor, and afterwards betook themselves, through the town to the ramparts, which, having stripped of grass, they proceed in separate columns, through the country to the southward. A considerable part of their number probably perished in the voyage from the island, and the remainder, having a greater extent of territory over which to spread, their depredations became less perceptible.

Orleans contains five parishes, two of which, Saint Piere and Saint Famille, are on the north side; and three on the south, Saint François, Saint John, and Saint Lawrent. The number of its inhabitants amounts to about two thousand.

The channels which separate the island from the continent, are each about a league in breadth. The banks on its western side, consist, for a considerable way down the coast, of black lime-slate, covered with soil, generated from the decomposition of that substance, and the annual decay of vegetable productions. The rocks of those on the eastern extremity, are mixed with grey quartz, reddish limestone, and grey limestone, combined with pale grains of sand.

From the parish of Ange Gardien to the base of Cape Tourment, throughout an extent of 18 miles, the coast is composed of fertile meadow land, varying in breadth, bounded on the north by steep and lofty banks, from whence the ground rises in gentle acclivities to the bases of the hills. By the reflux of the tide, a swamp of a mile in width, is here left uncovered; on some parts of the coast of Orleans, there are similar muddy grounds. In spring and autumn, these situations are frequented by great numbers of snipes, plover and wild ducks.

In the midst of meadows, near Cape Tourment, a narrow hill, about a mile in length, and flat on its summit, rises to the height of about a hundred feet. A large dwelling-house, with chapel and other buildings, are placed towards the eastern extremity; thither, the ecclesiastics of the seminary of Quebec, to whom lands belong, retire in autumn.

NORTH COAST OF THE SAINT LAWRENCE.

Between the cape and the adjoining mountains a lake is formed, the height of whose situation is several hundred feet above the Saint Lawrence. The parish of Saint Joachim is populous, and the soil is rich, being equally adapted to pasturage, and to cultivation. It is separated from the parish of Saint Anne by a

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