

origin of good; the other, to whom they pay the most frequent homage, as that of every species of evil.

Their canoes are formed with no inconsiderable degree of art, and much industry appears to be bestowed on their construction. They are pointed at each extremity, and are covered with the skins of sea animals. In the upper part, or deck, is an aperture with a bag affixed to it, through which the savage introduces his body, and tying its mouth around his waist, and taking in his hands a paddle which he uses alternately on each side, he shoots through the waves, by which he is tossed and buffeted, whilst the water is unable to penetrate the slender vessel in which he rides.

Newfoundland extends in the form of a triangle, about a hundred leagues from east to west, and a hundred and twenty-five from north to south; being situated between forty-six and fifty-two degrees of north latitude. John Gabato, a Venetian, was its first discoverer, under the patronage of king Henry the Seventh of England. No advantage was derived from thence, until the lapse of a period of near forty years. Cape Race and Cape Ray are the two promontories which present themselves to mariners sailing on the river Saint Lawrence. Eighteen leagues to the westward of the first, appears Cape Saint Mary, which forms the entrance of the bay of Placentia towards the east. This bay is sixteen leagues in breadth, and twenty in depth. Towards its head is the harbour, capable of containing in safety one hundred and fifty vessels, and defended by a fort called Saint Louis. The French were the first Europeans who frequented this situation. Between Placentia and Cape Ray, the western point of the island, two other bays, of considerable extent, penetrate some distance into the country. They are distinguished by the appellations of Fortune and Despair. No settlements have yet been made on their coasts, and they are but little frequented. Cape Ray, together with the island of Saint Paul, about fifteen leagues distant from it, forms the entrance into the gulph of Saint Lawrence; and vessels sailing thither, must pass, in clear weather, in sight of the one or of the other. Besides the bays already noticed, this island contains a variety of others, particularly on the eastern coast, among which two are remarkable for their extent; those of Trinity and Conception. Near the latter is the harbour of Saint John, which is secure and well fortified.

Bordered by dark and gloomy rocks, which exhibit a barren, inhospitable appearance, the country, on a nearer view of its soil, belie not the character of its rude uninviting features, which, amid their nakedness, display neither grandeur nor sublimity. At a league distant from the entrance of Saint John's harbour, no opening in the coast is discernible. A white tower raised on a precipitous eminence, seems rather intended as a mark to warn