

feathered race were holding convention there, for sky, sea, and rocks were virtually screened by a mass of sea-fowls.

What struck me with particular wonder was the surprisingly large number of kinds of wild plants, flowers and shrubs. To no better place could the botanist repair to study the plants of the American Continent, for here can be found specimens to collect which, on the continent, would necessitate a journey from the Atlantic to the Pacific. With such a varied store of plants, stones and birds the Magdalen Islands should be the mecca for botanists, geologists and ornithologists, when they wish to spend a pleasant holiday season.

There is a great extent of marsh land or *Brachois* on the islands. On those marshes grow immense quantities of cranberries and foxberries, for which a ready market is found in the Maritime Provinces.

In religion the great majority of the people are Roman Catholics. There are four Roman Catholic churches at Amherst, Grindstone, House Harbor and Grand Entry. Father Defenance, of Etang du Nord, Grindstone Island, is of noble birth, being the son of a French Count. There are four English Churches at Amherst, Grosse Isle, Entry and Grindstone. English Church service is also conducted at Byron and Grand Entry.

At House Harbor there is a large convent conducted by the ladies of Notre Dame. This institution is very largely attended. The school houses are very neat and comfortable. According to the last report of Mr. David Paquet, School inspector, there are nineteen schools in operation, attended by 862 pupils.

During the winter months the Magdalens are shut off from the outside world except by cable.

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