

12 PICTURES FROM CANADIAN HISTORY

found a safe anchorage, but hardly were they settled when the mouth of the bay filled up with ice. Days passed before they could get out.

6. When they did, everything that met their eyes seemed wonderful. The fish were so thick in the water that one could catch them with his hands. The rocks were so covered with sea birds that they seemed like heaps of drifted snow. Some little birds nestled under the wings of big ones, and some had red legs and huge red beaks that clashed together, while others, when the sailors tried to catch them, bit like dogs.

7. In some places, immense, ungainly animals, with tusks from one to two feet long, lay on the sandbanks. They were the only things that appeared timid, for they did not wait the approach of the boats. Sliding off, they plunged into the sea. Cartier called them sea-cows, though now they are known as walrus.

8. Bears, too, pure white and very large, could be seen swimming from shore to island, where they leisurely caught and feasted upon the birds that took no trouble to keep out of their way. None of the creatures took the least notice of the newcomers, except the seals, who, with their black noses above water, swam everywhere after the boats. Looking at the rowers with their soft, friendly eyes, they seemed to say: "We never saw such queer creatures before. What can they be?"

CARTIER, THE NAVIGATOR—II

1. THESE things, of course, were not all discovered at once. For weeks the two ships followed the coast from Cape Race to Belle Isle, while the commander busied himself with giving names to headlands, bays, and rivers.

2. As the summer advanced, the men sometimes rowed