

which run from one river to another which they [the Indians] call Louniguins.† Other portages are at places along the rivers where the navigation is impeded by falls or rapids caused by rocks which hold the water back and narrow the passage, thus rendering the current so rapid and making the water fall from such a height that it is necessary to carry the canoes on the shoulders or on the head to where the course of the river is smooth. Most commonly those portages are five to six leagues,² sometimes even ten, which is uncommon. It is those which the Indians call Louniguins and of which they willingly undertake the passage because of the ease with which they carry their canoes, which are very light, as may be easily understood from the account which I have given of them in its proper place. Boats cannot go up this river higher than eighteen to twenty leagues³ because of falls and rocks which are scattered there and which compel a resort to canoes.

Besides all the woods which I have already mentioned to you there are also here great numbers of very fine oaks which are excellent for shipbuilding, and ought to be better than those of the coast to the north,⁴ of which the wood is too soft.⁵ There are also plenty of beeches, very tall and with high branches. It also abounds in wild walnuts, of which the nuts are triangular and difficult to open, though when placed by the fire they open easily; that which is inside has the taste of a walnut.⁶ There is found here also a great quantity of wild grapes on wild vines, of which the fruit is large and of very good taste, but the skin is thick and hard. It comes to maturity, and if cultivated and transplanted I do not doubt it would produce very good wine.⁷ This is not a sign that the cold there is so severe nor the snow so deep as everybody says. I believe there are many parts of France which are not so good as this place in climate, and where many people live not so much at their ease as they would be in these parts, distant though they are.⁸

¹ The Maliseet Indians living on the St. John to this day call a portage oo-ne-gunce.

² Some of the principal ones are much shorter, only two or three miles.

³ Small vessels can go as high as Springhill, ninety miles from the mouth.

⁴ The coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, of which Denys was governor; still called the "North Shore."

⁵ *Gras*, literally fat.

⁶ Probably the butternut, or white walnut, is meant, though it is incorrect to say that the nut is triangular. The beech nut has this shape.

⁷ Wine is often made from the wild grapes growing along the St. John.

⁸ The description of the river ends here, and he passes on to the Bay of Fundy.