

bound coast. It is not only lofty, and frequently so precipitous as to be nearly perpendicular or even sometimes overhanging, but so broken by frequent indentations and precipitous crevices and ravines, as to afford no regular edge or summit along which to walk. Meanwhile to the very verge of the rocks, and wherever there was a possibility of a sufficient thickness of moss supporting itself, the compact array of stunted fir-trees crowded themselves, as if resolved to bar all thoughts of a passage. I now began to understand the quiet smile of ridicule with which the people met my proposition to walk across from Pouche Cove or Cape St. Francis to Portugal Cove, and the decided refusal they gave to be partakers in such an extraordinary undertaking as it evidently appeared to them. I could not before conceive what possible obstacle there could be to render a journey of only six or eight miles such a mighty matter; and was astounded to hear it related as rather a doubtful fact, that one or two men had sometimes done it in the winter when the snow had got hard-frozen and rendered the ponds and marshes capable of bearing their weight, and thus enabled them