

and we gave it this name because, however little wind there may be, the water rises there as if it were full tide. At this point the water begins to be fresh. Thence we proceeded to the Island of Orleans,* a distance of two leagues, on the south side of which are numerous islands, low, covered with trees and very pleasant, with large meadows, having plenty of game, some being, so far as I could judge, two leagues in length, others a trifle more or less. About these islands are many rocks, also very dangerous shallows, some two leagues distant from the main land on the south. All this shore, both north and south, from Tadoussac to the Island of Orleans, is mountainous, and the soil very poor. The wood is pine, fir, and birch only, with very ugly rocks, so that in most places one could not make his way.

Now we passed along south of the Island of Orleans, which is a league and a half distant from the main land and half a league on the north side, being six leagues in length, and one in breadth, or in some places a league and a half. On the north side, it is very pleasant, on account of the great extent of woods and meadows there; but it is very dangerous sailing, in consequence of the numerous points and rocks between the main land and island, on which are numerous fine oaks and in some places nut-trees, and on the borders of the woods vines and other trees such as we have in France. This place is the commencement of the fine and fertile country of the great river, and is distant one hundred and twenty leagues from its mouth. Off the end of the island is a torrent of water on the north shore, proceeding from a lake ten leagues in the interior: † it comes down from a height of nearly twenty-

* *Isle d'Orleans*. Cartier discovered this island in 1535, and named it the Island of Bacchus, because he saw vines growing there, which he had not before seen in that region. He says, "Et pareillement y trouuâmes force vignes, ce que n'auyons veu par cy deuant a toute la terre, & par ce la nommasmes l'ysle de Bacchus."—*Brief Récit de la Navigation Faite en MDXXXV*, par Jacques Cartier, D'Avezac ed., Paris, 1863, pp. 14, 15. The grape found here was probably the Frost Grape, *Vitis cordifolia*. The "Island of Orleans" soon became the fixed name of this island, which it still retains. Its Indian name is said to have been *Mitigo*—*Vide* Laverdière's interesting note, *Œuvres de Champlain*, tome ii. p. 24. Champlain's estimate of the size of the island is nearly accurate. It is, according to the Admiralty charts, seventeen marine miles in length, and four in its greatest width.

† This was the river Montmorency which rises in Snow Lake, some fifty miles in the interior.—*Vide* Champlain's reference on his map of Quebec and its environs. He gave this name to the river, which it still retains, in honor of the Admiral Montmorency, to whom he dedicated his notes on the voyage of 1603. *Vide* Laverdière, *in loco*; also Champlain, ed. 1632; *Charlevoix's Letters*, London, 1763, p. 19. The following is Jean Altonse's description of the fall of Montmorency: "When thou art come to the end of the Isle, thou shalt see a great River, which falleth fifteen or twenty fathoms downe from a rocke, and maketh a terrible noise."—*Hakluyt*, vol. iii. p. 293. The perpendicular descent of the Montmorency at the falls is 240 feet.