

volcanic trap reposing on the new red sandstone; the latter consisting of granite resting in many places on metamorphic slate. Through the centre of this valley runs the Annapolis river, one of the largest in the peninsula. The name given to it by the aborigines was *Taywapsk*, a Micmac word, meaning "opening out through rocks." The French first gave it the name *Lesquelle*, from a small fish—probably the smelt—with which its waters abounded. They afterwards called it the *Rivière Dauphine* in honour of the heir to the French throne. After the conquest by Nicholson in 1710, the English for a time called it the British river, but this name was soon changed to that it now bears. From the neck of land on which the old town of Port Royal was built, it rapidly widens until it expands into one of the finest basins imaginable, extending from Goat Island westwardly to the town of Digby, and filling nearly the entire space between the ranges of hills just noticed.

The view presented to DeMonts and Poutrincourt as they first sailed into this basin on that fine day in June, 1604, which witnessed the first visit of the white man to its shores, must have been one of unsurpassable beauty and loveliness. The mountain sides and intervalle slopes were clad with unbroken primeval wilderness; the songs of birds and the murmurous rippling of the waters on its shores alone disturbed the silence which seemed to have taken complete possession of the scene. In wonder the Indians,—if any were there at the time,—must have beheld the novel spectacle of the French ships moving majestically forward without the aid of the paddle or oar; and a feeling of awe must have thrilled their souls as they beheld the *white* faces of their future conquerors, who were so very soon to give them a new religion and a strange civilization. Carefully the ships felt their way up the basin, past Goat Island, to what, to their navigators, appeared to be the head of navigation, to the "cape" or