

THE WINTER AT ST. CROIX ISLAND, 1604-1605.

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Samuel de Champlain accompanied the Sieur de Monts in the expedition to found a settlement in Acadia in 1604, with the command from the King of France that "he should prepare a faithful report of his observations and discoveries." From Champlain's vivid narrative of the discovery of the Island of St. Croix, and its occupation by the French during the following winter, the following extracts are made:

From the river St. John we went to four islands, on one of which we landed, and found great numbers of birds, called magpies¹, of which we captured many small ones, which are as good as pigeons. . . . Farther west are other islands among them one six leagues in length, called by the savages Manthane², south of which there are among the islands several good harbours for vessels. From the Magpie Islands we proceeded to a river on the main-land, called the River of the Etechemins³, a tribe of savages so called in their country. We passed by so many islands that we could not ascertain their number, which were very fine. Some were two leagues in extent, others three, others more or less. All of these islands are in a bay⁴, having, in my estimation, a circuit of more than fifteen leagues. There are many good places capable of containing any number of vessels, and abounding in fish in the season, such as codfish, salmon, bass, herring, halibut, and other kinds in great numbers. Sailing west-northwest three leagues through the islands, we entered a river almost half a league in breadth at its mouth, sailing up which a league or two we found two islands: one very small, near the western bank, and the other in the middle, having a circumference of perhaps eight or nine hundred paces, with rocky sides three or four fathoms high all around, except in one small place, where there is a sandy point and clayey earth, adapted for making brick and other useful articles. There is another place, forming a shelter for vessels from eighty to a hundred tons, but it is dry at low tide. The island is covered with firs, birches, maples and oaks. It is by nature very well situated, except in one place, where, for about forty paces, it is lower than elsewhere; this, however, is easily fortified, the banks of the main-land being distant on both sides some nine hundred to a

¹ *Margos*, Magpies. The four islands which Champlain named the Magpies are now called The Wolves, and are north-east of Grand Manan.

² *Manan*. Known as the Grand Manan in contradistinction to Petit Manan, a small island further west.

³ The St. Croix River, sometimes called the Scoodic. The Etechemins we now call Passamaquoddies.

⁴ *Passamaquoddy Bay*. From the Indian *Pes-kut-um-a-quali-dik*, meaning, Place where pollock are.