

Island, to dry their cod and try out the oil of the seal, whale and walrus, on its clean, pebble-strewn, wave-laved sand hills. Although the previous record is vague, it is certain that early in the sixteenth century those daring fishermen can be traced all over the shores of the Gulf and up the St. Lawrence as far as the Saguenay. Take Cape Breton alone, and we have the names of the ports frequented by the fishing-smacks of the different European nationalities. The English frequented the Havre-aux-Anglais (Louisbourg); the French, Baye de Ste. Anne (Port Dauphin); the Spanish, Baye aux Espagnols (Sydney); and the Portugese, Mira Bay. On Amherst Island, Magdalens, they call their best shelter for small embarkations, Havre aux Basque to this day, and it is known that there the Basque, Breton, and Norman fishermen of France, and the English whalers, resorted early in this century. Hakluyt states that on one trip of the ship Bonaventure, in 1591, they killed fifteen hundred morses or sea-cows in the Magdalens. These animals were slaughtered in great numbers on our shore also; Sea Cow Pond, near the North Cape, getting its name from their presence there in the hunting season.

But what proofs have we that Jacques Cartier made a landing at Cascumpec. I have secured from the Parliamentary Library at Ottawa, a certified copy of the portion of the famous navigator's narrative, which bears on this point, and intend letting him speak for himself. First it may be necessary to say that Cartier, being duly commissioned by the King of France to explore the new world, and find the much-sought passage to the East Indies, set sail from the port of St. Malo, on April 20th, 1534. On May 10th, he sighted Cape Bonavista, Newfoundland. We cannot follow him among the islands north of that country, through the straits of Belle-isle, and along the desolate Labrador coast back again to western Newfoundland; and then by a south-west course to the Magdalens. Having departed from those islands which Jacques Cartier named and accurately described, on June 29th, he sailed westward; and on Tuesday, the 30th, discovered Prince Edward Island, or land which, to him, appeared like two islands, as he approached it from afar. I translate from the narrative freely.