

the course of the fall is a great hole about three or four hundred feet in circumference which is made by the fall of the water in passing between two rocks forming a narrow place in the river, which is thus made more rapid at that point. In this hole is a great upright floating tree, and whichever way the water runs it never gets out, and it only appears from time to time. One is sometimes eight, ten, or fifteen days without seeing it. The end which appears above the water is a little larger around than a hogshead, and when it appears it is sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other. All of the Indians who formerly passed by here, and they are in great numbers in these parts, rendered it homage, but they pay little attention to it at present, having been undeceived. They called this tree the Manitou, that is to say, the Devil. Their ancient homage to it was one or two beaver skins or other peltry which they attached to the top of this tree with an arrowhead made of moose bone and sharpened with stones. When they passed by it and their Manitou did not show himself, they took it as an evil omen, saying that he was angry with them. Since the French have come to these parts and have given them iron arrowheads, they use no other kinds, and the poor Manitou has his head so covered with them that one can scarcely stick in a pin. I have seen it, and Monsieur de la Tour's men, who were formerly with him and afterwards with me, have assured me that they once attached ropes to the top of this tree, and that ten-oared boats rowing with all their strength with the current were unable to draw it out of the hole.

Having passed the falls, the river becomes larger, more so on one side than the other on account of some islands.² There are three of these which are large, on which there are very beautiful meadows, as there are also along both banks of the river; these are flooded every year by the melting of the snows which occurs usually in spring. It runs far back into the country, and the Indians, by means of this river, by crossing some land, even pass into other rivers, of which some fall into the River St. Lawrence, others into the Gulf of St. Lawrence and at Nepisiguit into Bay Chaleur.³ There are along each route two or three canoe portages through the woods, where one finds paths

¹This hole was without doubt that whirlpool now known as "the pot." It is on the west side just above Union Point, and is formed only on the flood tide. In it various objects brought down by the river often are caught and float round and round for hours, and boats go out to see whether anything of value may be found, a process called "skimming the pot." I have never heard of trees floating in the pot, as Denys describes them.

²It is not plain to which islands he refers unless it be those in the Kennebecasis; but these are high and are not flooded in spring. The description which follows applies to islands and meadows farther up the river.

³This is strictly true; branches of the St. John thus communicate with all of the principal rivers flowing north and east.