

A fine looking schooner came into the harbour on the afternoon of the 16th bound for Mingan with a cargo of salt. I hastened on board as soon as she cast anchor, and made arrangements with the captain for a passage for my party, canoes and baggage. We went on board at night-fall in order to take advantage of the rising tide, and a probable change of wind in the early morning; but we were disappointed; the wind continued unfavourable, so that we employed the time in fishing for cod. Père Arnaud shortly before noon set sail for Bersamits in an open boat, with a number of Montagnais.

The whole Indian population of Seven Islands were about to disperse as soon as the priest had taken his departure, birch-bark lodges were taken down, canoes were launched, and their little store of worldly goods were all embarked ready for a start the moment the Père left the shore.

A salute was fired by the Indians, which was repeated again and again. They watched the boat until it had reached half way across the bay, when, one by one, they walked slowly to their canoes. The Nasquapees were going to the Moisie—some of them to retrace their steps to Ashwanipi and Petichikapau. Dominique was going to Mingan, Bartelmi to the east branch of the Moisie. Otelne and Arkaske intended to remain at Seven Islands. Most of the other Montagnais were going up the St. Marguerite to hunt. In a few hours Seven Islands would be comparatively deserted—the few people remaining being the custom house officer, his family and servants, a trader or two, and a few fishermen.