

after leaving Gaspé, for the narrative is here perfectly clear. Yet more than one writer has claimed that instead of crossing to Anticosti he sailed up the St. Lawrence to near Point des Monts. This is the view taken by Abbé Laverdière in M. Génest's map.<sup>1</sup> In the latter the course, as marked, follows the curve of the north shore of the Gaspé peninsula to near the present River St. Anne, then crosses to near Seven Islands, recrosses to near Matane, then runs nearly direct to the north of Anticosti, and along the Labrador coast to the Strait of Belle Isle. This view is taken also by the very courteous author of a short review<sup>2</sup> of my paper on Cartier's first voyage. I cannot help believing, however, that the latter has not examined the evidence in the light of facts, but has rather based it upon supposition. The chief reason advanced by the reviewer was, practically, that Cartier would never have gone to the east along Anticosti, when the great St. Lawrence was opening to him what would seem to him to be the western passage for which he was seeking. It is not in the light of what Cartier would have done with a modern chart of the Gulf before him, but in the light of what he, with his imperfect knowledge or want of knowledge, did do, that we are to read the history of his voyage. This matter is so clear that argument is hardly needed. There are at least three distinct lines of evidence showing that he did not go up the St. Lawrence on this voyage, but to the eastward around Anticosti.

(1.) The narrative itself is quite clear on this point. It says that he sailed away to the east-north-east; that he thought he was crossing the mouth of a great bay, the coast of which he could see from his ships; that the land he approached lay south-east and north-west, and that the passage across was twenty leagues. This is all unmistakeable. The "*Relation originale*" reads as follows: "*Le landemain, xxve jour dudit moys, le vent vynt bon et appareillastes du hable; et nous estans hors de ladite ruyere, fismes porter à l'Est Nordest, pour ce que depuis la terre de ladite ruiere estoit la terre rengée, faisant une baye en manière de demy cercle, dont auons veues de toute la conste de noz nauires; Et en faisant la routte, vynnmes querre ladite terre qui gisoit Suest et Nornoyst, e paraige de laquelle il pouoyt auoir de distance, depuys ladite ruiere, enuyron xx lieues.*" The edition of 1598 is less clear here as elsewhere, but its meaning is the same. His distances and directions from his landfall on Anticosti to East Cape, thence around and up the northern coast of Anticosti, are quite correct and clear, and leave no doubt that he reached North Cape and went but very little beyond it. Now, as to why he thought he was crossing the mouth of a bay, the whole coast of which he could see from his ship, when crossing to Anticosti, I can only suggest that he was deceived by fog-banks.<sup>3</sup> Why is it, I may ask, that the position of the Bay of Fundy is represented by solid land upon nearly every known map up to the time of Lescarbot? Navigators and

<sup>1</sup> See ante, p. 20, note 1.

<sup>2</sup> See *Le Canada-Français*, i. 689-690.

<sup>3</sup> "In the same manner, in modern times, Sir James Ross, in Lancaster Sound, believed he saw mountains where there were but fogs, and depicted this sound as land-locked, whilst it has the widest open water in the whole world." J. G. Kohl, *Coll. Maine Hist. Soc.*, vol. i, 1869. "The reports of lands seen at a distance in these waters (i.e., Arctic Ocean, near Alaska) should be made with great circumspection, where clouds and fog-banks are constantly appearing on the horizon, and are so very deceiving," etc., and examples of such deceptions. W. H. Gilder, *Ice-Pack and Tundra*, p. 100. My friend, Dr. Benjamin Rand, of Cambridge, who has sailed in schooners in the Gulf and River St. Lawrence, tells me that the region we are considering is a famous one for its mirages.