

DESCRIPTION of the Harbour and River of

St. J O H N's, in Nova-Scotia, and of the Townships of Sunbury, Burton, Gage, and Conway, lying on said River, as received from CHARLES MORRIS, Esq; Surveyor General of Halifax, and contained in a Letter wrote to Capt. WILLIAM SPRY, one of the Proprietors of said Townships. Dated 25th of January, 1768.

THE Harbour, or Mouth of the River *St. John's*, lies on the North Side of the *Bay of Fundy*, distant twelve Leagues due North by the Compass, from the Gut of *Annapolis*. About the Fort, and the Parts adjacent, are broken Grounds, with rocky Hills; the Soil fit for Pasture Land, but not for Agriculture. About one Mile from the Fort is the only Entrance into the River *St. John's*, which is about eighty Yards wide, and about four hundred Yards in length, and this Passage is called, *The Falls of the River*; this Passage being streight, and a Ridge of Rocks running across, whereon there is not above seventeen Feet Water, renders it insufficient to discharge the Fresh Waters of the River above: The common Tides flowing here about twenty Feet at Low Water. The Waters of the River are about twelve Feet higher than the Waters of the Sea, and at High-Water, the Waters of the Sea are about five Feet higher than the Waters of the River, so that in every Tide there are two Falls, one outward, and one Inward; and the only Time of passing this Place is at the Time when the Waters of the River are level with the Waters of the Sea, which is twice in a Tide; and this Opportunity of passing continues not above ten Minutes; at all other Times it is impassable, or extreme dangerous. After you have entered through this Place, which is called, *The Falls*, you enter into a Gullet, or Neck, which is about a Quarter of a Mile wide, and about two Miles long, winding in different Courses; having about twenty Fathom Water in the Channel. When you have passed this Gullet, you enter into a fine large Basin, about one Mile and a Half wide, and Eight Miles in Length, entering into the Main River of *St. John's*. The Lands on the South Side of the Basin, are low, but broken and stony; indifferently well timber'd; would make pretty good Pasture Land, but not fit for Agriculture: Black Birch, Beach, Maple, Hemlock, Spruce, and Pine, are the principal Growth of the Woods. From this Basin you enter into the main Branch of the River *St. John's*; and after having passed about two Miles and an Half North-West, you enter into that Part of the River, called, *The Long Reach*; which, from a Place called, *Beaubebert's Fort*, to *Belle Isle*, is six Leagues; in this Course you have from six to ten Fathom Water, till you come to *Thirty Penny Island*; from thence to *Oak Point*, keeping pretty near the Island, you have six Fathom; and from *Oak-Point*, passing thro' the Channel of *Rushes*, you have not above two Fathom and an Half, till you have passed the *Rushes*, and then you have six or seven Fathom to *Belle-Isle*. The Course of the River from *Beaubebert's* to *Belle-Isle*, is North-East: The Main Branch of the River at *Belle-Isle* turns North; but there is a Branch of the *Long-Reach*, that still continues North-East about ten Miles, through a broken, rocky Country: The Timber of all the Lands having been burnt about six Years ago by the Indians. From *Belle-Isle* to *Jemseg* and *Grimrose*, is about sixteen Miles. Here the Borders of the River are formed of Intervale and Marsh Lands; the Intervale are those Lands that border next the Stream, and are covered with Timber Trees, such as Elm, Ash, Beach, and what the Inhabitants call Black Wallnut, not such Timber as the Black Wallnut of *Virginia* and *Maryland*, but is so called, from a black Wallnut which it bears, about the Bigness, and indented like a Peach Stone, but rougher, and of a blacker Colour; the Colour of the Timber is somewhat darker than Maple, and of a Grain much like it. The Soil of these Intervals is very rich, producing, when cultivated, Wheat, Barley, Oats, Maze, or Indian Corn. Flax, Hemp,

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