

other than Scateri²; his landfall, so much and so commonly discussed in academic circles, being Cape Breton. Dr. Dawson, whose knowledge on this matter is as thorough as it is accurate, has to my mind, lifted the whole vexed question of the landfall, and matters germane to it, out of the region of reasonable doubt.

Cabot, then, did not discover Prince Edward Island. We have no proof that Verrazzano (1525) did, either; although many writers so contend. Of the great navigators, Jacques Cartier is the first who adduces incontestable proofs, not only of having sailed along its coast, indicating many of its geographical traits in his narrative or log; but of having landed upon it from his boats. And this landing is important. On the first of July, 1534, the discoverer of Canada set foot on Canadian soil for the first time, at or near Cascumpec, Prince Edward Island. He had landed before on American soil, it is true, but not Canadian: Newfoundland still being without the jurisdiction of Canada. This is a fact every Islander should remember with pride; while the fortuity of Cartier's landing on that day which is now our national feast—Dominion Day—is worthy of the attention of the curious.

The first great navigator who really found out the insular nature of our Province was Samuel de Champlain (1604),—Cartier had ever regarded it as a portion of the mainland. Champlain rounded it; noted its geographical features; placed it on the map of the new world correctly³; and, from the familiarity which he enjoyed with the old charts and narratives, and the knowledge of an Island having been called St. John's Island by Cabot⁴, and spoken of always—though differently located—by later discoverers; gave it, definitely, that name. Inside the Gulf, then, an island Cabot never saw, bore up to the conquest a name that great navigator attached to another and much less important islet without the gulf on the Atlantic coast of America.

We have been speaking all along, of course, of the great discoverers. It is admitted on all sides, that long before Cabot, Verrazzano, Cartier, or Champlain, the Basque, Breton, and Norman had landed on the north-west shore of Prince Edward

2. Scateri was known for hundred of years after Cabot as St. John's Island.

3. See Champlain's map of 1613.

4. Subsequent cartographers have placed this St. John's Island in a dozen different places on their rude maps.