

probably thought that the removal of the French fishermen would permit an occupation by the English rivals. One writer of this period, Diéreville, (in his book published in 1708) gives a very interesting account of a voyage from Rochelle in a vessel "La Royale Paix," to obtain plants for the Royal Gardens. Fifty-four days out—October 23, 1699—they ran short of provisions and were obliged to put into Chibouctou, "called Baye Senne on the Chart," where they soon found the help they required. He refers particularly to a very curious structure used for drying codfish: "It was as long as half the wall of Paris, and as wide, built on a fine beach along the river,(?) at such a distance that the water can pass under it when the tide is full, and carry off the refuse. Imagine you see a bridge of wood built on the land, with large trees stuck in very far on the water side; on their extremities other pieces of wood across well jointed with similar work not so high on the land side because of the slope, and over all that young fir trees long enough to carry on the two sides, evenly arranged one against the other and well nailed at both ends to the pieces of wood that support them, and they will know that it is this machine that fishermen call a *degras*. (The English call it a "flake.") They spread the codfish, well-opened, upon it during the summer, turning it and re-turning it, without ceasing, to cause it to dry, and to render it what it ought to be, and as it is seen in a thousand places in the world where it is easily carried on." I really don't think this a very lucid description of this wonderful contrivance—Diéreville goes on to say that the place was without inhabitants. "It had been made before the last war by French fishermen who were settlers there for a company which did not find it profitable." He found Indians there and entertained three of the chiefs on board his ship. They took him to see