

although in some degree similar in effect, are, notwithstanding, inexhaustible in variety.

GULPH OF ST. LAWRENCE.

The Gulph of St. Lawrence, as well as the great river which there disembogues its waters, received its name from Jacques Cartier, who in 1535 ascended as far as Montreal. Its boundaries are the coasts of Labrador, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Newfoundland. The island of St. John, whose name is now changed to that of Prince Edward's island, was first settled by Acadians, in 1749, and their number soon amounted to three thousand. When the English took possession of it, the former people retired to the continent. Its present condition is flourishing, and its inhabitants amount to about seven thousand. The soil, which is level, is in general fertile, is watered by rivulets and springs, is diversified with meadows for pasture, and with situations which would be well adapted for the culture of grain, were it not, that from the frequency of fogs, that article is liable to be destroyed by mildew. The climate is likewise subject to dry weather, when insects and vermin, hostile to vegetable productions, are abundantly propagated. The island is upwards of an hundred and ten miles in length, and its greatest breadth does not much exceed nine. It bends in the form of a crescent, each extremity terminating in a sharp point. The harbours are commodious and safe. Cod-fish is found in great plenty all around its coasts. A channel, five leagues in width, separates it from the continent; and Green Bay, nearly opposite the center of the island, enters the country more than four leagues, forming, with the bay of Fundy, the isthmus, whose breadth is about five leagues, that connects the peninsula of Nova Scotia with the main land. At the bottom of Green Bay the French had some settlements, and a small fort. Several families are now established on that part of the coast, and a road of communication from Pictou to Halifax, has lately been opened.

Not far from the entrance of the gulph, and somewhat to the northwards, the Magdalen isles, which are seven in number, and of small extent, present themselves in a cluster. They are inhabited by a few families, whose principal support is derived from fishing. The Bird isles, situated in the gulph, consist of two rocks, elevated above the water, upwards of an hundred feet; their flattened summits, whose circumference exceeds not, each, three hundred paces, exhibit a resplendent whiteness, produced by the quantities of ordure, with which they are covered, from immense flocks of birds, which, in the summer, take possession of the apertures in their perpendicular cliffs, where they form their nests and produce their young. When alarmed, they hover above the rocks,