

NEWFOUNDLAND,

CHAPTER VIII.

FORMING on one side the boundary of the sea of Saint Lawrence, is parted from Labrador by the strait of Belleisle, which affords every where good anchorage in a depth of thirty or forty fathoms, but is of dangerous navigation in the night on account of the force and uncertainty of its currents. By a multitude of inlets, some of which penetrate very deeply into the land, the coasts of this great island are broken in so extraordinary a manner as to form a vast number and variety of capes and peninsulas. Of the two greatest and most remarkable of the latter one extends far northeastward from the western side, constituting the northwestern portion of this country, which nearly approaches a triangle in figure. The other, advancing from a very narrow isthmus toward the southeast, is itself so pierced by two opposite bays, that its eastern part forms also a peninsula. Of the multitude of inlets, by which the coast of Newfoundland is every where indented, so many are commodious for the reception of ships, that no country is known, in proportion to its size, to furnish so great a number of safe and convenient harbours. To enumerate all such would be to frame a large catalogue. To particularize two or three may suffice. In the western side of the great northwestern peninsula lies a bay termed by the French Ingornachoix, which from a narrow, but perfectly safe, entrance divides into two branches, of which the northern, called port Saunders, is preferable on account of