

décline du méridien vers l'est et ouest, ce qui peut servir aux longitudes—ayant ces observations et retournant au mesme lieu d'où vous les aurez prises, trouvant les mesmes déclinaisons vous sauriez où vous seriez, soit en l'hémisphère de l'Asie ou de la Pérou, et de ce on ne doit estre négligent."—He accordingly records several observations with this object, and upon one occasion, whilst endeavoring to identify a river which he enters (the modern Penobscot) with one described by former navigators as the Norembegue, he says that he cannot be sure of it, as, though the latitude corresponds, none of them have given the declination—speaking of it much as a modern geographer would of the longitude in a similar case. The coast which he was exploring was indeed peculiarly favorable for such a use of the declination as he found nearly  $5^{\circ}$  of change of declination in about  $1^{\circ} 30'$  of latitude.

In connection with this subject there are some curious observations in the notice entitled *Intelligence des deux cartes géographiques*, in the edition of his voyages published in 1813. The smaller of the two maps, the only one preserved I believe in any copy of the edition on this continent, he describes as being constructed on the true meridian. It may be used, he says, when on the Great Bank by placing the needle from  $12^{\circ}$  to  $15^{\circ}$  or  $16^{\circ}$  to the west of the north point of the card of the compass—a vague enough determination certainly. But the other map, which is wanting, must be rather a curiosity. Although the separate ports, bays and capes were alike in each, the general configuration of the shores, he says, is quite different, because this larger map is constructed to suit a compass made like those of France, where the needle points to the east of north. It seems that the needle was not usually placed under the north point of the card, though Champlain recommends that as an improvement, but it was fixed about  $8^{\circ} 30'$  to the east of it, so that on the coast of old France the card pointed due north. But when the earlier mariners shaped their course for New France, steering always west by their compass, they found themselves after a while several degrees too far south, to their great astonishment. Champlain himself appears to