

its physical features, resources, etc., as well as to enjoy the pleasures it affords—and it affords abundant in the form of boating, fishing, gunning and sea bathing—and as some of your readers may be uninformed as regards this interesting group of rock-walled islands, I will benefit them with a little of the knowledge I received by my visit.

The group consists of thirteen islands: Amherst, Grindstone, Entry, Deadman, Coffin, Alright, East, Byron, Grouse, Wolf, Gannet Rock, Little Bird Rock and Gull Island. They assume the form of a horse-shoe about fifty miles long, and at the widest part thirteen miles wide. The islands are connected by sand bars. Sometimes two sand bars join one island with another, forming a shallow sheet of water, or lagoon between the two bars. In season some of those bars are literally covered with wild strawberries.

The Islands were discovered by Jacques Cartier, in 1534, and in 1663 the Company of New France granted them to Sieur Doublet, a mariner of Harfleur, France. In summer the fishermen came from France and used the islands as a fishing station, but in the fall they returned to their homes, leaving the Islands destitute of persons for the winter, the undisputed kingdom of the walrus and seal. In 1757, four Acadian families came to the Islands from St. Peter's Bay, P. E. I., and made it their permanent home. At present the population is over five thousand. A large majority of the inhabitants are of French descent, primitive, hospitable French Acadians who speak a *patois* of their own which a cultured Frenchman might have some difficulty to understand. On Entry, Grouse and Byron Islands the inhabitants are mostly English.

The chief source of wealth is the fisheries. Sealing is one of the chief occupations of the inhabitants during the months of February and March. The seals are valuable for their skins, which are salted and shipped to Europe, and for the oil which is obtained by rendering the fat, which is