

## Jacques Cartier's First Voyage, and the Landing at Cascumpec.

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WHEN His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec was here last year, I took the liberty of recalling to his mind that portion of Jacques Cartier's narrative<sup>1</sup> which spoke of his landing on the first day of July, 1534, at a spot on the north shore of Prince Edward Island, which corresponded with Alberton or Cascumpec Harbor, at the entrance to the Kildare River; and pointed out to him the probable spot,—although the information as to it is meagre indeed, and three centuries and a half had rolled by since then. Many doubts and misgivings as to the accuracy of this historic contention have been expressed within my own hearing recently; and it is to remove them and make the truth on this point better known, that, at the request of the Prince Edward Island Magazine, I have consented to prepare this article.

I have said that the intrepid navigator of St. Malo made a landing on the north shore of Prince Edward Island. Perhaps it will be necessary to add that neither to him, nor to any previous navigator was this land known to be insular in its character; and, as everybody knows, it was not for hundreds of years afterwards called Prince Edward Island,—the latest of its numerous appellatives.

In our histories—so often inaccurate—it is said that John or Sebastian Cabot was the first discoverer of Prince Edward Island; looking in upon it on June 24th, 1497, and, as that day was St. John's day, calling it St. John's Isle. This is all fiction, pure and simple. Few who have had the opportunity of studying the pieces upon which this claim is based, whether charts or written descriptions, care to defend it seriously. It is now pretty clearly demonstrated, as clearly, indeed, as can any such remote and comparatively unimportant incident in a great voyage of discovery, that the land Cabot called St. John's Island, was none

<sup>1</sup>. French edition, possibly the Ruen, jealously guarded at Ottawa. The extracts in my possession are certified to by L. P. Sylvan of the Parliamentary Library Staff.