

Paces in Circuit, in the Middle of which there was sometimes seen a large Tree floating, which maugre all the Force of the Tides and Floods steadily kept its Post, and standing upright, seemed to turn upon its Root as upon a Pivot. However this was, so far is certain, that a kind of superstitious Worship was paid to it by the *Indians*, who hung it round with the Skins of Beavers, and other Animals; it was also deemed an ill Omen when it chanced to be under Water, and could not be seen by them as they passed in their Canoes along the River.

Upon these Reports of the *Indians*, Mr. *La Tour* (whose Character we shall see in the ensuing History) went in his Longboat with six Pair of Oars to the Place, and coming up where it stood, fastened his Cable round it, and set all his Hands to work in order to force it away; but all in vain, the miraculous Stump mock'd their utmost Efforts, and could not be dispossessed of its Station, notwithstanding the Sloop had the Advantage of the Current.

I allow this in itself is a very idle Story, and besides the Phenomenon, if true, when stripped of some Circumstances which Superstition has hung upon it, might easily be accounted for in a natural Way; but at the same

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