

but that there were sand-hills along the coast, the sawnatives in their boats at a river, which he named the "River of Boats," and is supposed to be the entrance to Richmond Bay. He saw more natives towards the North Cape, near which he also landed. He rounded the cape, where he noted the long and dangerous reef. The appearance of the whole country, with its fine woods he greatly admired. Sailing up the coast, after rounding the cape, he saw the land apparently closing in on both sides, but could see no harbor, and then turned back. He did not know it was an island, but supposed it to be part of the mainland. It was not known to be an island until long afterwards, when it was named the Island of St. John.*

St. John the Baptist seems to have been the cause of much of the confusion and doubt that exists, and has long existed regarding the early history of this Island. His was a favorite name with the old navigators, and we find it in many places, hence the confusion. There were Cabot's Island of St. John, off the east coast of Cape Breton; Gomez's Island of St. John, meaning Cape Breton itself; on Sebastian Cabot's map of

1544 the Magdalens are called St. John; then there were St. John's, Newfoundland, the river St. John, and others. No wonder that, at a later date, Governor Patterson complained of mails going astray, and asked to have the name changed.

Nothing further is known of the Island for a century. Not even that greatest of French explorers, Champlain, seems to have set foot on her shores, although he was aware of her existence. Cartier's discovery would certainly have conferred upon France the first claim to the ownership of the Island, but it was long overlooked, or, probably, the French were too busily employed at home, where they had plenty of troubles to engage their attention, to give much thought to their North American possessions. The Bretons and Basques, as well as the Portuguese, English and other nationalities resorted more and more to the Newfoundland fisheries, which were carried on before Cartier's time, and undoubtedly they would not neglect the rich fisheries of Cape Breton. It is also most unlikely that these hardy fishermen did not seek their fairs round the Magdalens, and in the teeming waters off the shores of Prince Edward Island. But their business was catching and curing fish; reaping the harvest of the sea, and not settlement or exploration. It is even likely that they would land and erect their flakes and shelters on the coasts of these different lands, but there is nothing to tell us of what they saw or did, or how the Island fared, or how her swarthy inhabitants occupied themselves during the long years when, after Jacques Cartier's visit, she slumbered and slept in all the beauty of her forests and streams, her bright skies and splendid summer climate; or how the winter months of isolation sped away.

*In preparing this part of his paper, the writer has been much indebted to the excellent work of Dr. S. E. Dawson, and in reference to his great authority, has adopted, in the text, Capes Turner and Tryon as the parts of Prince Edward Island first seen by Cartier. He has also consulted Mr. Joseph Pope's "Jacques Cartier," in which the lands seen are placed farther west, and Kildare River is supposed to be the River of Boats. Cartier, approaching the Island, saw two high lands which looked like islands in the distance. There were formerly some very high sand hills, known as the Seven Sisters, to the eastward of Gascon (now Holland Bay), off the shores of Township No. 11. These were swept away by storms some time in the middle of the last century. Till then they were most prominent objects, particularly when approached from the sea. These, the writer would suggest, were the two high islands seen by Cartier. If so, Kildare River would be the River of Boats, and the Cape of the same name was Cape Orleans. The Kildare seems to answer Cartier's description better than Richmond Bay. The writer, who spent his boyhood in that part of the Island, is personally inclined to agree with Mr. Pope. A very strong objection to this view is the distance (about forty leagues) which Cartier says he sailed to the westward after seeing the two supposed islands. From where the most eastern of the seven Sisters were to be seen to Kildare River would not be more than twenty leagues, even following the bends of the coast. Hence, Cartier's leagues do not apply to either. If the distance sailed is given with any degree of accuracy it would be more applicable to Cape Turner than to the Seven Sisters. Can it be that the distance of forty leagues sailed was an erroneous entry for a much shorter run?