

The smaller isles consist of those of Saint Paul, the Magdalenes, the Bird isles, Saint Peter, and Miquelon. The first is quite desert, parted from the northern extremity of Cape-Breton by a safely navigable channel, four leagues wide. Of the Magdalene islands, eight in number, situated twelve leagues to the north of Cape-Breton, the largest, containing a deep harbour, consists of a rock, covered with a thin stratum of earth, inhabited by a few fishermen. The Bird isles are two rocks, rising more than a hundred feet above the sea, and terminating above in flat surfaces, covered with the dung of immense flocks of birds, which frequent them chiefly in the breeding season. The isles of Saint Peter and Miquelon lie near the southern coast of Newfoundland. They are barren and of no value except as convenient stations for the fishery. The former, two leagues in length, is furnished with a good harbour for small vessels, of which it can contain thirty. The latter is somewhat larger, and is less barren, as it produces more wood. Miquelon however is conceived to consist of two isles, the greater and the less. The latter, situated southward of the former, is more woody, but otherwise not valuable.

CHAPTER
VIII

Smaller isles.