

noumahafat correctly accord with Mynhasset of De Fonte. It is in vain, I think, to argue, that the fabricator of this account formed these names on the idiom of the American language of the east side of the continent; because some of the places there, as Cohasset, have the same termination. As the north-west coast of America, and consequently the language, was totally unknown in the year 1708, when the narrative was written, it must therefore be a strange coincidence, not to be accounted for, that in the language of a country then unknown the names of places should be so strikingly alike. It may be inferred, on the contrary, that the similarity between the sounds was so great, that instead of writing the name Mynhafat, they changed it to Mynhasset, in order to make it accord with the orthography of the language spoken by the Indians on the eastern side of the continent.

There is a strong similarity between the three first syllables of Arathepescow and Arenna, one of the places in the lake at which De Fonte anchored. The Canadians call the next lake Arabaska, if there be so great difference between modern travellers, why may not the other appellation be as near the true pronunciation, especially as Arathepescow seems to be a compound word, the former part of which might be intended to signify the real name of the lake? The similarity of the names in fact is so very striking, that Mr. Duncan was convinced of the authenticity of De Fonte's account, when he heard them give the names of Claasset, Kenoumahafat, and Eloiset, to some of their villages, before he
had