

NATURAL HISTORY OF CANADA

CHAPTER I.

OF NEW FRANCE IN GENERAL.

Speaking of New France as a whole, I may say that it is a good country, and one that contains in itself a good portion of all that can be wished for. The soil is very good, it produces wonderfully well, and is not ungrateful; we have had experience of that. The country is covered with dense and very fine forests, that are stocked with numbers of animals of various kinds; and what is of still greater consequence, is that those forests are intersected by large and small rivers of very good water, and have in them numbers of springs and fountains; besides which there are large and small lakes, bordered as well as the rivers by fine large prairies which produce as good grasses as there are in France. In these lakes and rivers there are great numbers of fish of all kinds, very good and very dainty; water fowl are also to be met with in great numbers on these lakes and rivers; the country is a very healthy one; animals brought from France thrive very well in it; one sees here many fine plants that are not to be found in France; there are few plants here that are injurious to man, and, on the other hand, there are many simples here the effects of which are wonderfully good. There are also few noxious animals here. Salt springs have been found, from which very good salt can be got, and also mineral