

does Prince Edward island answer to this description? In the first place it is nearly one hundred and fifty miles long, and lies very low. At first sight it would not have been distinguished at all as an island. That fact could not be known without sailing between it and the mainland, through the straits of Northumberland. Much less can it be made to comply with the Latin inscription on Adams's map of "an island off the shore," or right alongside. It cannot be seen at all from Cape North.* Its nearest point, Cape East, is above seventy miles distant. Again, between Cape North and Prince Edward island arises an immense promontory, forming part of Inverness and Victoria counties of Cape Breton island, a mountain over one thousand feet high. To surmount or circumvent this difficulty M. Beaudouin is obliged to suppose that Cabot made the land for the first time at Cape North, "a little on the west side" *un peu vers l'ouest*, but this involves another difficulty. To arrive at the west coast of this peninsula of Cape Breton, coming as he did from the east, he would be obliged to coast along shore for a whole day without seeing land, across Aspey bay and bay St. Lawrence, to round Cape North and Cape St. Lawrence (with his eyes shut?) and then sail southwestward till he came to Cape Mabou, the nearest point to Prince Edward. But this would require nearly another day, as it is about eighty miles from Cape North; and he would be no better off, for Prince Edward island would be still nearly thirty miles distant, and would not be seen at all from the deck of his vessel, and, if seen from the lofty summit of the hills ashore, would only appear as a dark blue outline of land lying low on the distant horizon, but not at all as a small island "just alongside."

The only island near Cape North which would verify the title of "a small island off the shore" is St. Paul's, which Cabot could not have avoided seeing if he came to Cape North, yet there is no sign of it on his supposed map, and it has never been claimed that he saw it, which is strong proof that he never saw Cape North. How or when the island of Prince Edward came to be named St. John, and marked so conspicuously on this map, and placed so far out of its true position in the effort to make it comply with the Latin inscription, is a fact yet to be cleared up.†

M. Beaudouin, in refuting Biddle, rightly says that Cartier never saw the island of Prince Edward, and, consequently, did not name it St. John.

* I speak from experience, having spent the greater part of a day there last year. There was no glass aboard the ship powerful enough to enable us to descry this island, *tout à côté*, in fact it was far below the horizon.

† It received its present name after the visit of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent (father of Queen Victoria), in 1799.