

being Pagans. A missionary sent from Quebec, resides among them; and chapels, where divine service is performed, are erected at the principal posts. Repeated efforts, and much persuasion have been used, to prevail on these savages to cultivate the lands, and to plant Indian corn, or potatoes. They have not, however, been able to overcome their propensity to indolence, or their utter aversion and abhorrence to that species of labour. They appeared to relish these articles of food, when offered, and would eat them with avidity, if accompanied with a little grease; yet, even the incitement of reward, superadded to the prospect of a constant and wholesome supply of nourishment, failed in producing any inclination for industry. Although, like other tribes in a barbarous state, each individual is solely dependent, for support and defence, on the strength of his own arm, and the resolution of his mind; they are, notwithstanding, so pusillanimous, that at the appearance of an enemy, however small in numbers, they betake themselves to flight, and retire for safety into the woods.

The furs procured in this quarter, are, in general, of a superior quality; and great attention is bestowed by the hunters, in scraping and cleaning the parchments. These posts, which produced to government a rent of no more than four hundred pounds a year, have lately been let on a lease of thirty years, to the North-west Company, a society of merchants at Montreal, for the yearly rent of one thousand and twenty-five pounds.

In ascending the Saint Lawrence, the country on either side affords pleasure and amusement to the traveller, by the exhibition of a profusion of grand objects. Amid the combination of islands, promontories, and hills clothed with forests, some scenes, more strikingly than others, attract the attention. On the north side, after passing Mal-bay, a bold and interesting scene is formed, by large huge masses of rock, interspersed with shrubs, and by the east side of the hills, called *les Eboulements*, which with majestic elevation project into the river. The settlement of Camourasca, with the mountains beyond it, forms the opposite coast.

The island of Coudres, situated at the distance of about a league from the north shore, rises gradually from the water, except in a few places, where its borders, although of no great height, are almost perpendicular, and covered with small trees. It contains one parish, and about thirty families, each of which derives its support from its own lands. The extent of this island, is about seven miles in length, and about three in extreme breadth. Its name arose from the quantity of hazel-trees, which Jacques Cartier, in his voyage to Quebec, found growing in its woods.

The part of the country round St. Paul's bay, as well as Mal-bay, is subject to earthquakes, particularly in the winter

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