

ciety of Arts in London ; and should the event confirm my opinion I doubt not that this object alone will become a considerable Article of Commerce besides the important benefit which we might ourselves derive from it as affording the means of promoting that fine Art in this Country. The Committee are aware that the kind of Stone I now mention is extremely rare in Europe, and is almost as dear as Gold.

The Mountains I now mention skirt the Saint Lawrence as far as Duck River, the Course of which is Northerly and the Mouth of which is One hundred Feet broad, and would afford convenient shelter for small Vessels. From that River to Saint Catherine's Bay, which is about Ten Leagues lower down, the Ground is a Plain, the evenness of its surface and lofty Trees indicating the fertility of the Soil, form a striking contrast with the bare and barren Rocks from which the River divides them. The extent of this Tract along the Saint Lawrence is about Two Leagues and its depth One League and a half, at the extremity of which there is a Chain of high Mountains situated along the Saguenay which descends in rear of that Plain and shelters it from the North Winds which are so common and so dangerous to Vegetation. The Soil is pure Clay covered with a thin Stratum of Marl, which renders it of value for Agriculture. I have also deposited a Specimen of this in my Museum by which the Committee may better judge than I can. The Trees there are Cedar, White Birch, Ash and Poplar, the Roots of which are surrounded by a dense and spontaneous growth of the best Hay. This Tract is commonly called *Pointe aux Bouleaux*, (White Birch Point) and could support and comfort more than Two hundred Families. In addition to the benefits which this Tract promises to Agriculture I must add that the ebbing Tide of the River St. Lawrence exposes a fine Beach for several Leagues. Fish abounds in that spot, Salmon especially. Its vicinity to Tadoussac, (which place is Two Leagues below it,) would greatly enhance its value, should it be determined that the former intention of establishing at Tadoussac a Port or commercial Entrepôt be carried into effect. This Port in fact affords advantages which are not found elsewhere. Situated in a Bay and sheltered from the Winds by lofty Mountains, its Roadstead might contain a large number of Shipping, and is destined to become the Entrepôt of such Trade in Lumber and in Fur as may be carried on throughout the Tract of Saguenay as far as Lake St. John.

In mentioning White Birch Point I should add that the Tract is of no value to the Company of the Northern Posts, because it can in fact be useful only to those whose intention it is to render the productions of the Soil profitable instead of speculating upon the imbecility and ignorance of a Tribe which is kept in a state of dependence probably as revolting to humanity as is the Slave Trade in another Hemisphere. In fact the Visitant of that Wilderness which is in our immediate vicinity cannot fail to experience the most afflicting sentiments, on observing the Natives of the Soil whom the weight of Years prevents from gratifying the excessive avidity of a foreign Master, contesting for the remains of the most worthless Animal which I had stripped of its Skin. It is nevertheless proclaimed and echoed to the extremities of the civilized World that the