

in the Acadian period, applied to the basin or harbour now called Bathurst Harbour, at the mouth of the river, and extended to include the old Acadian settlements around the basin. The word is pronounced as though spelled NEP-IZ'-A-GWIT.

Although the name is universally in use on maps and in writings, and is still perfectly understood locally, it is being replaced in the speech of guides, lumbermen and local residents, so far at least as concerns the river, by the shorter and more familiar name Bathurst, extended from the town at its mouth. The river is also called locally Big River in distinction from the three smaller rivers which empty into the same harbour.

HISTORY OF THE WORD.—It occurs for the first time, so far as known, in the year 1643, in one of the Relations of the Jesuit Missionaries, in the form NEPEGIGSIT (Thwaites' *Jesuit Relations*, XXIV, 150). This word must have been pronounced by the missionaries as if spelled NEP-PEJ-IG'-OO-IT, for the first G would naturally be soft before I, while other confirmatory evidence follows below; the S, as is well known, was used by the French writers for the sound oo or ou (as in TOO or YOU); and the accentuation would of course accord with the Indian word, noted below, with which it is almost identical. The word occurs several times in the *Relations* during the next few years in the forms NEPEGIGOUÏT NEPIGIGUIT, NIPIGIGSIT, NIPIGIGSI and NEPIGIGOUÏT (*op. cit.*, through the index). The Jesuits established on the border of the basin an important Indian mission, which inaugurated a settlement, and a prominence in Acadian affairs, almost unbroken to the present; and thus their form of this name came into universal use, and has descended from them to us with only insignificant changes. An independent Relation, by the Capuchin Father Ignace, of 1656, has NEPIGIGOUÏT (*Report on Canadian Archives*, 1904, 334). Nicolas Denys, who knew this region intimately from his long residence at the basin, writes the name, in his well-known book, either NEPIGIGUIT or NEPIZIGUIT, the latter form showing, if further evidence were needed, that the first G of the Jesuits' form was soft, while it marks a stage in the transition from their soft G to our S (*Description géographique*, I, 44, 183; Champlain Society's edition 118, 198). It next appears on a map of 1685, by Father Jumeau, in the form NIPIZIGUI (*these Transactions*, III, 4897, ii, 363, and Father le Clercq's *New Relation*, mentioned below, opposite page 10), while the great Franquelin-de Meulles map of the next year (1686), which became the original for the French maps for a century after, has NEPISIGUY, the earliest known use of the S (*these Transactions*, III, 1897, ii, 364). Denys' son Richard, in a document of 1688, used the form NIPIZIQUÏT, the earliest use of the Q, which still sometimes reappears (*Collections of the New Brunswick Historical Society*, III, 1907, 34). Father le Clercq, who knew the place well, uses the forms NIPISIGUIT and NIPISIQUÏT in his book of 1691, showing that the S had then become well fixed in place of the Z and G, (*Nouvelle Relation de la Gaspésie*; published by the Champlain Society as *New Relation of Gaspesia*.) The important map and report of Sieur l'Hermitte, of 1723, have NEPISIGUI (*Ms. in Canadian Archives*). Thereafter the word occurs frequently, with, of course, sundry variants and aberrations of spelling, through the maps and documents of the French period.

The earliest English use of the word is found on a curious crude map of about 1700 by Southack, in the greatly corrupted form PISGUY (*these Transactions*, IX, 1891, ii, 72), and it appears thereafter on numerous English maps, obviously following French originals, whose forms are variously misspelled even to such extremes as NEPISIKI and MISSISQUIT. One of these misspelled forms, however, arose to marked historical importance, for the NIPISIGHIT used on Jeffrey's chart