

II.—*The Cartography of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, from Cartier to Chumplain.*

By W. F. GANONG, A.M.

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At its meeting in May, 1887, the present writer had the honor to lay before this Society, a paper on the first voyage of Jacques Cartier to Canada. At that time the importance of the bearing of this voyage upon the subsequent cartography of the Gulf had not become evident to me, but a more careful and comprehensive study since then of this in connection with other early voyages and with early maps, has made it clear that it is of the greatest importance. The first voyage of Cartier to the Gulf quite overshadows, from a cartographical point of view, his later ones, and indeed all of those of the Sixteenth Century. Its results largely moulded the maps of this region for nearly eighty years; and the various discrepancies and errors of those maps, as well as the differences of opinion and inaccuracies of some late writers, have been due to a lack of that true interpretation of Cartier's course which is the key to the situation. So marked and important is this, that I may be pardoned for repeating with greater emphasis what is in reality the text of this paper:—*The correct interpretation of Cartier's first voyage is the key to the cartography of the Gulf for almost the subsequent century.* This statement I hope to substantiate in the following pages.

In order that we may have a connected view of the whole subject, I must ask you to briefly review Cartier's itinerary as set forth in the paper¹ referred to. In this connection it will be necessary to mention the different and sometimes inconsistent views held by several writers, since these have directed the writings on the subject.

I.

VOYAGES OF CARTIER AND CONTEMPORARIES.

A.—*Cartier's First Voyage.*

Cartier, with two ships, left St. Malo on April 20th, 1534. He made land at Cape Bonavista, May 10th, and after spending some days in Catalina Harbor, visited Funk Islands to provision his ships with the birds there. He entered the Strait of Belle Isle early in June, and coasted along the Labrador shore as far as the present Cumberland

¹ Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada, 1887, vol. iv. sec. ii. pp. 121-136.