

gladly : Monsieur Hainaut¹ de Barbaucannes wished much to join the party, and offered in the most obliging manner to keep me company. We prepared for our purpose our provisions, which consisted of twenty-four little [loaves of] bread, five to six pounds of flour, three pounds of butter, and a little bark keg which held two to three pots of brandy ; for the rest, I took as a precaution a box of hyacinth confection, which the hospital nuns had given me before my departure from Quebec for Nepisiguit.

Nepisiguit² is one of the most charming places in all the Gulf of St. Lawrence ; it is distant only a dozen or fifteen leagues from the Isle Percée. The land there is fertile and abounds in everything ; the air is pure and healthy. Three beautiful rivers which empty there form a very attractive basin, whose waters lose themselves in the sea through a strait which makes the entrance [gives] and the access [to it].

The Recollets of the Province of Aquitaine commenced there a mission in 1620, and Father Bernardin,³ one of those illustrious missionaries, died of hunger and fatigue in traversing the woods on the way from Miscou and Nepisiguit to the river St. John in Acadie, where these Reverend Fathers had their principal establishment. The Reverend Capuchin Fathers, and particularly the Reverend Jesuit Fathers, have there employed their zeal and their charity for the conversion of the pagans ; they have built a chapel dedicated to the Holy Virgin, and it is said that one of the fathers who had gone from the mission, left his hat above the altar, saying that he would return to seek it when it pleased him ; [doing this] to make known that his order had the right of establishment in this place. The Sieur Henaut de Barbaucannes cultivates the soil there with success, and harvests wheat more than sufficient for the support of his family. Monsieur Richard Denys de Fronsac is Seigneur-proprietor of it.

It is well to know that it is needful to carry the necessaries of life when one departs in Canada from the French settlements, and when one undertakes any considerable voyage ; there being neither public-houses nor inns, and houses never being found in these vast forests in which to pass the night, one is obliged to sleep at the Beautiful Star.⁴ Convinced as we were of this truth by our previous experience, each one took his wrap, and loaded his pack in which was a part of the provisions which we needed for the journey before us.

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We took our packs upon our shoulders and set out upon our way with

¹ This was the Enand or Enault often mentioned in the histories of that region.

² Bathurst, properly Bathurst Harbor.

³ A conspicuous mountain at the head of the Nepisiguit river has recently been named in honor of this missionary.

⁴ A pleasantry of the author, based on the custom of naming inns by such names as *Beautiful Star* ; he means, of course, out of doors under the stars. He refers to it again a little later on.