

inferred that the sons of Rene Rassicot were among these busy workers, Whatever uncertainty may hang around the date of Rassicot's change of settlement, there can be none regarding the fact that his name displaced the cumbrous designation given by the Micmac to the swift current sent in from the Gulf among the far-stretched sand hills, and that it has remained attached to a district up to our own day, in the slightly altered form of Rustico.

Communication between the different settlements was kept up in early times chiefly by water. The three great rivers which met under the very heights, on which Port Lajoie stood, served as so many highways, on which the settler, in his batteau or canoe could reach remote distances. Roads along which traffic and travellers could be carried from place to place, were luxuries of a later period. All the establishments we have above mentioned could, however, with the exception of that near East Point, be easily reached by water in summer, or by the ice in winter. Entering a shallop at the landing at Port Lajoie, we steer up the broad expanse of the East River, passing on the left hand, the site, on which a century hence Charlottetown will rise, but where a rough tangled forest now holds absolute sway down to the water's edge. To the right stretches, far as the eye can reach, a leafy sea of woodland, varied only by the lighter or deeper tints of the waving foliage. Huge trunks embedded in the tidal slime, lie rotting, while flocks of water fowl, not yet familiar with man and his devices, spring up at the approach of the boat, and hurry away in low flight to more secluded haunts. Every valley is filled and every rising ground is covered with forest, whose sway for miles up the river, only stops at high water mark. Then the aspect of the banks is changed. The woodlands cease to darken the water, and are succeeded by broad level marshes bearing rank grasses, and stretching for miles along either bank. These "prairies" as they were called by the French, excited the admiration of all who sailed up the East River. Such marshes were indeed in those days of vast importance to the farmer, as on them he depended for the fodder to feed his cattle. The land he cleared, was