

of all its primitive occupants, clouds of sea, surf ducks, gulls and other water fowl.

THE GENIUS OF PERCÉ ROCK.

In the distance one discerns the fanciful rock called Percé Rock, § so often described. At present it is chiefly remarkable as being the breeding place of the gannet, the gull and the cormorant: the white plumage of the gull contrasts agreeably with the verdure which clothes its summit, inaccessible to man.

A romantic story is told by the fishermen residing at Percé, about a phantom having been seen during a storm on the Percé Rock. It is known as "Le Genie de l'Ile Percé," the date of its existence runs beyond the memory of man. It seems difficult to imagine that any living thing, save the snowy gannet, the black cormorant or the silvery gull, should ever have sought a footing on this lofty rock. A German novelist might have considered it a fitting throne for the storm-king, wherefrom rejoicing, he might look defiance at the northern blast. It is likely that the foundation for this legend is about as substantial as, but no more so than, the one which attaches to a point near La Magdeleine, and known to the Canadian *navigateurs* as "Le Brailard de la Magdeleine." It refers, I believe, to some awful shipwreck, which took place, *before the St.*

§ A detailed account of this Rock will be found in *l'Ornithologie du Canada*, by the same writer