



A View of the Bay of Gaspé, in the Government of Quebec, Situate in the Gulf of S^t Lawrence.
1. House on the Beach in which Gen^l Wolf Resided in 1759.
2. 1500 Quintals of Fish.

95601

Ce texte accompagne l'illustration de
la baie de Gaspé.

C. 36
ms 95601

ding from this cause, by
the camphire and sugar on
ate till it frothed, and then
a hankerchief, and binding
his forehead.

The greatest advantages of this
country are plenty of fur and fish; the
greatest disadvantages the want of iron
and salt. The author, says, that a
common ax costs two rubles, and a
pound of salt four. † Upon this occa-
sion, it may be of some use to remark,
that translators should always reduce
weights, measures, and coins to the
standard of the country into the lan-
guage of which they translate; travel-
lers also should do the same, for want
of this, half the translations and books
of travels extant, are unintelligible in
many interesting particulars. The o-
riental traveller, tells us, that one
place is so many hours distant from
another; that he went to the *Bezeesteen*
travelled in a cadgeway, and put up
at a carevanfary. The translator of
this book, tells us the distance of place
from place by *Verst*, and the price of
commodities by *Rubles*, without ex-
plaining the word *Verst*, till the 75th
page of his book, and without ex-
plaining *Ruble* at all. The *French* are
not equally guilty of this fault, and
their attention and our negligence,
appear often in the same sentence, for
in our translations of *French* accounts
of foreign countries, we are frequent-
ly told that such a commodity is sold
for so many *Rubles* or *Abouquet*, which
is so many *Livres*; whereas, for the
same reason that the *French* author
reduced the *Rubles* or *Abouquet* to
Livres; our translator should have re-
duced the *livres* to pounds, shillings
and pence.

There are several hot springs in
Kamtschatka, in which *Farenheit's* ther-
mometer, stood from 74 to 188, at 3
time, when in the open air it stood at
49, several of these springs throw up
their waters in a jet, a foot or a foot &
an half high, with a great noise; there
are two wells in a bottom, surround-
ed by smoking hills, one of them is
35 feet wide and 11 feet deep, the o-
ther 21 feet wide and 7 feet deep, in
which the water boils up with white
bubbles, and makes so much noise,
that one person cannot hear another
speak, though the voice be raised con-
siderable above the common tone; the
vapour is so thick, that a man cannot
be seen at 16 yards distance, and the
earth between the wells yields like a

bog, so that there is danger of sinking
in, the water is distinguished from
that of other springs, by a black sub-
stance like *Indian ink* swimming on
the top of it, which sticks so to the
fingers that it cannot without great
difficulty be washed off, the water of
all these springs is turbed and smells
like rotten eggs.

The inhabitants imagine that all
the burning mountains and places,
where hot springs rise are the habita-
tions of spirits, and therefore, never
approach them, but upon compulsion,
and with the greatest awe. These
phenomena, and the frequency of
earthquakes here, confirm the conje-
cture that *Asia* in this place was sepa-
rated from *America*, by the sinking of part of
the continent, especially as the shores
of all the islands between the coasts
are rocky and broken into huge irre-
gular cliffs, such as would naturally
have been left, supposing them to have
been torn from a buried country, of
which they were part.

Besides the springs that are sensibly
hot, there are in *Kamtschatka* several
rivers that never freeze, and indeed
there are scarce any which are not al-
ways liquid in some parts, though fro-
zen in others.

It is probable that this country con-
tains mines of various metals, parti-
cularly iron and copper, though the
Kamtschatkans being entirely ignorant
of minerology, and the *Russians* hav-
ing neglected the search, very little
ore has been discovered.

Native sulphur is gathered about
several of their rivers, and it drops
fine and pellucid from the rocks in a
district called *Oloutski*; it is to be
found also in the pyrites, which are
every where scattered upon the coast;
white chalk, *tripoli*, and *oker* abound
in many places; about the hot springs
there is an earth of a purple colour,
and among the stones in the moun-
tains a few small cherry-coloured
chrystals. Near one of their rivers
there is found a substance called fluss,
in appearance like coarse green glass,
of which the natives formerly made
knives, axes, lances, and darts. Upon
the shore there is hard iron-coloured
stone, which is easily fused in the fire;
pellucid and semi-pellucid stones are
found near the springs of the rivers;
the *Russians* call them *cornelians*.
Small yellow pellucid stones are also
found on the banks of several rivers,
and near *Tomskoy* there are plenty of
hyacinths; where the earth has fallen
away

† A Ruble is about 4s 2d.

away from the sides of the hills *lac luna* is found in great abundance; amber and a soft kind of bole of a fattish creamy taste is found on the sea coast, and the banks of the rivers; the hole is an excellent remedy in fluxes.

The most useful wood that grows in *Kamschatka* is the larch, and the white poplar, these they use for houses, forts, and barks of all sizes; the birch tree grows in great plenty, and the inhabitants strip the bark from the trees when they are green, and cutting it into small pieces like vermicelli, eat it with dried *caviar*, with this bark they also ferment the juice or sap of the same tree, which makes an agreeable drink.

Salloes and alder are the common fire wood of the country, but the bark of the fallow is used for food, and that of the alder for dying their leather.

(To be continued.)

A Description of Gaspee Island, in the Gulph of St Lawrence. (See the Plate.)

AMONG the many cessions made to Great Britain by the late peace, the little island of Gaspee, situated in the Gulph of St Lawrence, deserves the notice of those who are inclined to engage in the fishery. This island was scarce known to the British navigators till the landing of Gen. Wolfe upon it in his way to Quebec. That General found it wholly deserted, no fortifications upon it, only a few quintals of fish which the French had left behind them, and but one house. By which it should seem that the French themselves were not fully apprized of its importance.

The harbour, or bay, however, is perhaps the largest, the safest, and the most commodious for establishing a fishery of any under the government of Quebec. The air is purer, and the island less subject to fogs than either Cape Breton or St John. Fish abound more about this island, and are caught and cured with more ease than at either of the above islands; and the reason why the French made so little use of it, seems to have been the difficulty of procuring provisions, and carrying on an illicit trade with the English; that trade, which was chiefly for meal, biscuit, pitch, tar, and several sorts of dry goods, was chiefly carried on at *Louisbourg*, and the adventurers at Gaspee were by that means laid under the double disadvantage of running them a second time, & buying them at an advanced price of their rapacious countrymen. A company,

however, that would, under the management of a factory trade, with proper economy, establish a longy at a small expence, and to advantage. By its situation,

A more convenient for a furr trade than the savages on the continent, who, the hunting season, visit the islands, than any other; and, by being near the mouth of St Lawrence, Gaspee would soon become a place of call for all ships to refresh, that were bound to or from Quebec; the advantage of which is obvious to every one concerned in mercantile affairs.

B The furr trade with the savages is of vast importance to the fishery. Where this trade is cultivated, there will be no want of inhabitants; and Gaspee bids the fairer for this trade, as it may here be carried on with less danger than elsewhere. There are no savages that remain here during the winter, by which means the settlers are in no danger of a surprize from them, the dread of which has deterred many from settling in *Newfoundland* and the adjacent isles. Corn may be sown here, and cattle bred upon this island, as there are many delightful meadows that afford good pasturage in summer; and hay and straw may be laid up for the winter, by which the inhabitants will be under no apprehensions from famine. There are no ferocious animals upon the island, so that the settlers may range the woods and forests with safety in search of game, or to cut timber: In short, there are many reasons to believe, that a settlement in this little island would very soon become rich and flourishing: But it is sufficient, for my present purpose, to point out the island to the public attention; for which purpose, I have annexed an exact view of the great bay, as it appeared to us when Gen. Wolf landed at it. Yours, A. B.

From the NORTH BRITON.

G THE NORTH BRITON, records in his last paper, a very remarkable anecdote, which he avers to be fact. He tells his readers, that some of the Messengers who were cast in some late verdicts, were strongly desired, (but peremptorily refused to do so,) to dispose of their effects and retire abroad, [where they were promised to be provided for] in order to save the damages awarded against them on the several actions for false imprisonment. He adds, that the spirited answer of one of the messengers deserves to be recorded: 'No (says he) rather than be so transported, I will stay and trust to the clemency of the plaintiffs.'