

THE ISLANDS  
OF  
SAINT - PIERRE AND MIQUELON.

---

(Notes of a lecture given at the *Institut Canadien*, before the Quebec Geographical Society on the 29th April, 1880, by His Excellency Count of Premio-Real, Consul General for Spain.)

*Translated by Crawford Lindsay, chief English Translator, Legislative Assembly, Quebec.*

How many persons in Europe and in America, even amongst those who lay claim to a certain amount of knowledge, are ignorant of the very names of those little islands, lost to sight on the coast of Newfoundland, that colossus of which they are the humble attendants.

How many Frenchmen are there to whom their name is unknown, and in whose minds they give rise but to vague and hardly realized ideas: like unto the distant murmur of ocean waves which barely reaches the ears of those who dwell away from the sea-shore.

And yet these islets are the wreck of an immense empire, which once stretched from the Polar regions to the mouths of the Mississippi, the great Father of Waters. They once formed but an infinitesimal portion of that vast domain, which the sons of St. Louis made fruitful with their labor and hallowed with their blood but which, after having opened up to civilization, they allowed to be taken from them by a vigilant and practical adversary.