

CHAPTER II.

BETTER DAYS AND IMPROVED CONDITIONS.

"Hard times come again no more."

By the year 1713, better times had come to Bonavista. Good Queen Anne had entered into rest and the first of the Hanoverian Kings, George I., had ascended the throne. England and France were reconciled, trade flourished and the inhabitants enjoyed the "piping times of peace." The tramp of the French soldiers was heard no more and the war whoop of the Indians was a thing of the past. There was now a considerable population of permanent settlers, although for a time the English authorities considered the Colony unfit for human habitation. The fishing industry of that day was considerable. There were 46 fishing ships which came out year by year, 162 boats, 195 bye-boats, and 28 inhabitant's boats, in all 691 boats of all sizes. Two years later shows a phenomenal increase for there were 108 ships for fishing, 376 boats, 197 bye-boats and 468 inhabitant's boats, or 1149 in all, and the catch reported for that year by the large fishing ships was 89,662 qtls., and by the inhabitants' boats 35,331 qtls for the Colony.

Twenty years later the Colony was mapped out into fishing districts and Bonavista had first place in the six sections: Bonavista, Trinity, Carbonear, St. John's, Feryland and Placentia. Bonavista standing first in the classification was presumably of greatest importance as a fishing centre. Bonavista was the wealthiest section of the island and must have had a considerable population during the closing years of the seventeenth century. The first settlers were of good old English stock, and good stock it was, judging from the splendid physique of their present day descendants, of which there are no finer specimens of physical manhood in the Colony.

In 1677 Bonavista had a male population of 159, and the whole population of Newfoundland was 1893. Twenty years later