

ment to restrain the barbarities of the settlers. The earliest official notice of the aborigines is in the form of a proclamation by the Governor, bearing date of 1760. This proclamation seems to have been repeated on the accession of each new Governor. The document sets forth that His Majesty had been informed that his subjects in Newfoundland 'do treat the savages with the greatest inhumanity, and frequently destroy them without the least provocation or remorse. In order, therefore, to put a stop to such inhuman barbarity, and that the perpetration of such atrocious crimes might be brought to due punishment, His Majesty enjoined and required all his subjects to live in unity and brotherly-kindness with the native savages,' and further enjoined all magistrates to 'apprehend persons guilty of murdering the native Indians, and send them to England for trial.' Owing to the scattered nature of the settlements, and the lawless habits of the early trappers and fishermen, these proclamations were vain. But a short time afterwards the only traces that were visible of the unfortunate Beoths were a few grassy mounds, decaying deer-fences and ruined wigwams.

"An interesting feature in the Beothic character was their great reverence for their dead. Cormack, the earliest explorer of the interior of Newfoundland, tells us that there were among them four modes of burial, which varied with the rank of the deceased.

"Their wigwams were well and firmly built. They were generally conical, framed with poles and covered with birch rind, which was overlaid in the manner of tiles, and firmly secured in its place by means of external poles. They were quickly erected, but, albeit, with such care and thoroughness that they have been known to stand for thirty years.

"The Beoths are said to have been about five feet ten inches in height, with black coarse hair and a complexion somewhat lighter than that of the North American Indians generally. There is nothing to prove that they possessed any form of religious worship, if we except a few carved wooden images which were discovered in a tomb by Mr. Cormack; but these may have been mere representations or memorials of the persons interred within the tombs. The Florentine writer, before mentioned, states plainly that they worshipped the heavenly bodies.

"The only Indians now to be found in Newfoundland are the Mic-Mac, who have formed a colony on the west coast, whence they prosecute their hunting and fishing. They are much sought as guides, by sportsmen and naturalists who visit Newfoundland during the months of summer and the early autumn. They came originally from Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, are a fine race, of noble presence, many of them, specially the women, being handsome. They have been civilized and Christianized by missionaries of the Roman Church. They own large flocks of sheep, which find congenial pasturage on the fertile banks of the river. In nearly all other respects they live as do their British neighbours."