

ant that it should be settled by the English, thus securing the valuable trade that had been developed. By which means also not only would the valuable fisheries be very greatly increased, but many other commodities of great commercial importance to England would be produced by the settlers. They therefore prayed for the grant of a portion of the country "never yet inhabited by any Christian people."

These "Articles" were submitted to the Master and Wardens of Trinity House, who, after carefully debating upon them on February 24, 1609, declared their opinion "that people may very well lyve there," and recommended that the prayer of the petition should be granted. Accordingly, on May 2, 1610, Letters Patent were granted to Henry, Earl of Northampton, Keeper of the Privy Seal; Sir Lawrence Tanfield, Chief Baron of the Exchequer; Sir John Dodderidge; Sir Francis Bacon, Solicitor General; John Slaney; Humphrey Slaney; John Guy; Philip Guy, and many others, incorporating them under the title of the "Company of Adventurers and Planters of the City of London and Bristol for the Colony or Plantation of Newfoundland." John Guy, a young and enterprising merchant of Bristol, and Humphrey Slaney, of London, were the leading spirits in the Company. They had been engaged in the fisheries in Newfoundland, and saw that if they were to be secured to the English nation, it was necessary to colonize the country. Purchase says that he had in his possession a tract written by Guy in 1609, urging the undertaking, but no copy of it is now extant. The Patent goes on to say: "Being desirous to establish a colony or colonies in the southern and eastern parts of Newfoundland, unto the coast and harbors whereof our subjects *for fifty years and upwards* yearly used to resort in no small numbers to fish, intending to secure the said trade of fishing for ever, We being well assured that the lands and countries adjoining said coasts where our subjects used to fish *remain so desolate of inhabitants* that scarce any one