

PHYSIOGRAPHY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

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Everything points to the conclusion that the earth must have been contracting in its central parts, for its present skin is so wrinkled and folded that it must be looked upon as the original covering of a larger sphere. These wrinklins naturally show a parallelness such as we would expect according to this hypothesis. The Province of Nova Scotia is at present the crest of a low ridge rising (at some points about 2,000 feet) above the Atlantic for a length of about 370 miles, with an average width of about sixty miles. This ridge, interrupted by the Strait of Causo, falls suddenly from a height of over a thousand feet above the water at Cape North to as much below in Cabot's Straits before it reappears in Newfoundland beyond. The submarine valley separating this ridge from the more elevated ridges forming the mainland is seen in the Bay of Fundy, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the Strait of Belle Isle. When the crinkled surfaces of the continents rise too high above the general level of the surface of the globe, the tremendous pressure causes them to sink, with the inevitable bulging out of another part of the surface to the same extent. From such causes the various wrinkles of the earth's surface are constantly either rising or falling for vast periods of years, the higher the rise the nearer

Grand Master for the time being laid the forest and the sea under contribution, and the table was constantly furnished with the most delicate and well-seasoned game, and the sweetest, as well as the choicest, varieties of fish. The frequent change of office and the ingenuity displayed, offered at every repast, either in the viands or mode of cooking, something new and tempting to the appetite. At each meal a ceremony becoming the dignity of the order was strictly observed. At a given signal the whole company marched into the dining-hall, the Grand Master at the head, with his napkin over his shoulder, his staff of office in his hand, and the glittering collar of the order about his neck, while the other members bore each in his hand a dish loaded and smoking with some part of the delicious repast. A ceremony of a somewhat similar character was observed at the bringing in of the fruit. At the close of the day, when the last meal had been served and grace had been said, the master formally completed his official duty by placing the collar of the order upon the neck of his successor, at the same time presenting to him a cup of wine, in which the two drank to each other's health and happiness. These ceremonies were generally witnessed by thirty or forty savages, men, women, boys and girls, who gazed in respectful admiration, not to say awe, upon this exhibition of European civilization. When Membertou, the venerable chief of the tribe, or other sagamores were present, they were invited to a seat at the table, while bread was gratuitously distributed to the rest."—*Voyages of Samuel de Champlain.*