

westward where codfish were numerous, and that their discovery was kept to themselves for over two years. It was also asserted that a ship belonging to DuMoulin was in the harbour of St. John's in 1500. Now it is a remarkable coincidence that on the northeast of the island of Jersey, St John's Bay, Petit Port and Bouley Bay are contiguous and that here in Newfoundland we have St. John's Bay, Petty Harbour and Bay Bulls, or Boulee Bay as it is written on all the early charts. I leave you to draw your own conclusions as to where the name was derived.

That St. John's was an important harbour in the early days of its discovery is evident from the number of distinguished visitors who have been recorded as visiting it, and the frequent appeal to arms, for its retention by England or France.

It was here in 1542 that Jacques Cartier, who had waited for nearly two years at Hochelga (Montreal) for his Seigneur, unexpectedly found Roberval with three ships full of men, women and children, and it was here that Roberval tried every persuasion to retain him in his company.

In 1578 Whitbourne visited here and later in 1583.

Here Sir Humphrey Gilbert, in 1583 took possession of the harbor and surrounding country in the name of Queen Elizabeth, making a great display and levying toll upon all the vessels then in the port. This was indeed a notable day for St John's. Sir Humphrey Gilbert had under his command a fleet of four vessels; the "Delight" of one hundred and twenty tons, of which he had command, the "Golden Hind" of forty tons, Edward Hayes, own-

er and captain; the "Swallow" of forty tons, Maurice Brown, captain and the "Squirrel" of ten tons, Mr. Wm. Andrew, Captain. On board this fleet were about two hundred and sixty men. On the 14th. of August, of the year before mentioned, the fleet, which had separated in a fog, met the little "Squirrel" in St. John's Bay, the latter had been denied admittance to the harbor and lay outside. According to Hakluyt, the harbour was occupied by thirty six vessels of different nations, but according to Dr. Foster, there was a much larger number of which a large proportion were Portuguese. Sir Humphrey prepared to force a passage and informed the people within the harbour that he was empowered to take possession of the place, and would do so. Their answer being for peace, the ships then entered, and on the following day, the 5th. August, he erected a tent within sight of all the ships, summoned the English and foreign merchants to attend, and in their presence caused the Commission under the Great Seal of England to be publicly read, and took possession of the adjacent lands in the name of Queen Elizabeth of England.

It is not definitely recorded whether there existed at that time any dwelling houses in St. John's, but it is well known that stages, storehouses and flakes existed, for on several occasions disputes had arisen with respect to ownership, and in 1582 Sir Thomas Hampshire was sent to Newfoundland with five ships, authorized "to secure every master of a fishing crew the property of that fishing room which he made the object of his choice, as long as he kept it employed for the use of the fishery." When peace