

south-eastern coast of Labrador, in the neighbourhood of Battle Harbour, disappeared. This tradition seems to derive some colourable support from the testimony of the late Dr. Mullock, of St. John's, Newfoundland. He says : 'I have slight reason to think that a remnant of these people survive in the interior of Labrador. A person told me there some time ago that a party of Montaquais Indians saw at some distance (about fifty miles from the sea coast), a party of strange Indians, clothed in long robes or cassocks of skins, who fled from them. They lost sight of them in a little time, but on coming up to their tracks they were surprised to see the length of their strides, which proved them to be of a large race, and neither Mic-Mac, Montaquais nor Eskimos.' From this incident, he concludes : 'I believe that these were the remains of the Beoths nation ; and, as they never saw either a white or red man but as enemies, it is not to be wondered at that they fled. Such is the only trace I can find of the Beoths.'

"Mention is made of them by Cabot, the discoverer of Newfoundland, and also by Jacques Cartier, in the fifteenth century, and by a Florentine writer in the sixteenth century. They tell us that the Beoths wore the skins of wild beasts for clothing, and that the 'women went straighter than the men,' (whatever that may mean) with their waists girded. That they tied their hair on the top of their head like a wreath of hay, and put a wooden pin, or any other thing instead of a nail, and with them they bound birds' feathers. A much fuller account is given of these interesting people by a certain Captain Richard Whitbourne, who visited Newfoundland in the seventeenth century. He says : 'The natural inhabitants of the country, as they were but few in number, so are they something of a rude and savage people, having neither knowledge of God nor living under any kind of civil government. In their habits, customs and manners, they resemble the Canadian Indians, as they constructed canoes with the bark of birch trees, which they sew very artificially and close together, and overlay every seam with turpentine. They sew the rinds of spruce trees, round and deep in proportion, like a brass kettle, to boil their meat in.'

"Like most other Indian tribes, the Beothics seem to have spent all their time in hunting and fishing ; and we may well believe, judging from the quantity of fish and game it possesses at the present time, Newfoundland must have been a paradise to the rude red men.

"Early in the present century, but a short time before their extinction, a few individuals of the Beothic tribe were captured by explorers in the interior and taken to the capital. But, after spending a brief time there, they either returned to their tribe, or, as was most generally the case, succumbed to the ravages of consumption. About that time, too, but when too late, several proclamations were issued by the British Govern-