

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM THIS ROOM

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THE EARLY RELATIONS BETWEEN NEWFOUNDLAND
AND THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

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In the English Channel, contiguous to the French coast, is a group of islands and rocks now known collectively as the Channel Islands, but in the olden days as the Norman Isles.¹ The principal ones are Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark. These islands are the only portion now remaining to England of that territory which formerly was known as the Dukedom of Normandy. The King of England is still held by the Channel Islanders to be Duke of Normandy.² The ancient history of these islands is most interesting, dating back to long before the Roman occupation of Gaul and the subsequent conquest of Albion.³ The largest island of the group is reminiscent of the Roman invasion of Britain by Claudius in 43 A. D., for at that time it was named Caesarea, which has been corrupted into Jersey, and several places in the island are still known by immemorial tradition as "Le Fort de Cesar," "La Petite Cesarie," etc. Near the manor of Dielament one sees the remains of an ancient work, in the known form of a Roman Camp.⁴

Although an appanage of the British Crown the people of these islands retain the old Norman laws; and the officials, with the exception of the Lieutenant Governor, bear the old Norman designations, and the laws are administered as in Norman days. The inhabitants retain many of the ancient customs, and nowhere in France will you hear more antique Norman spoken than in Jersey and Guernsey. One of the ancient usages still survives. When Rollo was Duke of Normandy, in order that peace and justice might be maintained in his duchy, his subjects were given the privilege that during his life, and after his death, whenever any of them were wronged or injured in their possessions they could obtain immediate aid by crying **Ha! Ro, Ha! Ro, a l'aide, mon prince, on me fait tort.** This cry may still occasionally be heard in the Channel Islands, and heed has to be paid to it according to the ancient laws.⁵

In former days and up to the nineteenth century, the people of these islands were great sea rovers. Many of them were engaged in the fisheries, and some traded to the Mediterranean and in the course of time followed the adventurous Portuguese down the coast of Africa and returned laden with spoil. As early as 1246 it is recorded that ships of Jersey and Guernsey were engaged in the fisheries at Ice-

1 Rev. Philip Falle: *An Account of the Island of Jersey*, 1837, p. 278.2 *Ibid.*, p. 15.3 John Patriarche Ahier: *L'Histoire de Jersey*, Jersey, 1852.4 *Ibid.*, p. 71.

5 Chron. de Normand, Chap. XXVI, Paris, 1711.

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