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CAPE BRETON.

[The illustrations in this article are from the very handsome edition of "*Cape Breton Illustrated*," published by William Briggs, Toronto, by whose courtesy we are enabled to present them to our readers.]

"During the heroic age of the Northmen, they not only swept down upon the soft and fertile plains of the South, but pushed their adventurous colonies far north into the regions of snow and ice. They battled with the icy waves of the north as with the effeminate races of the Roman empire and conquered both." They occupied Iceland and colonized Greenland and Labrador. It is probable that the first Europeans who set foot upon Cape Breton were Norsemen.

Some four hundred years after, in 1497, John Cabot visited Cape Breton. In the following year, Sebastian Cabot coasted along the shores of America from Hudson's Bay to the Delaware. He is said to have first given the name of "Baccalaos" to these parts. It is said "he

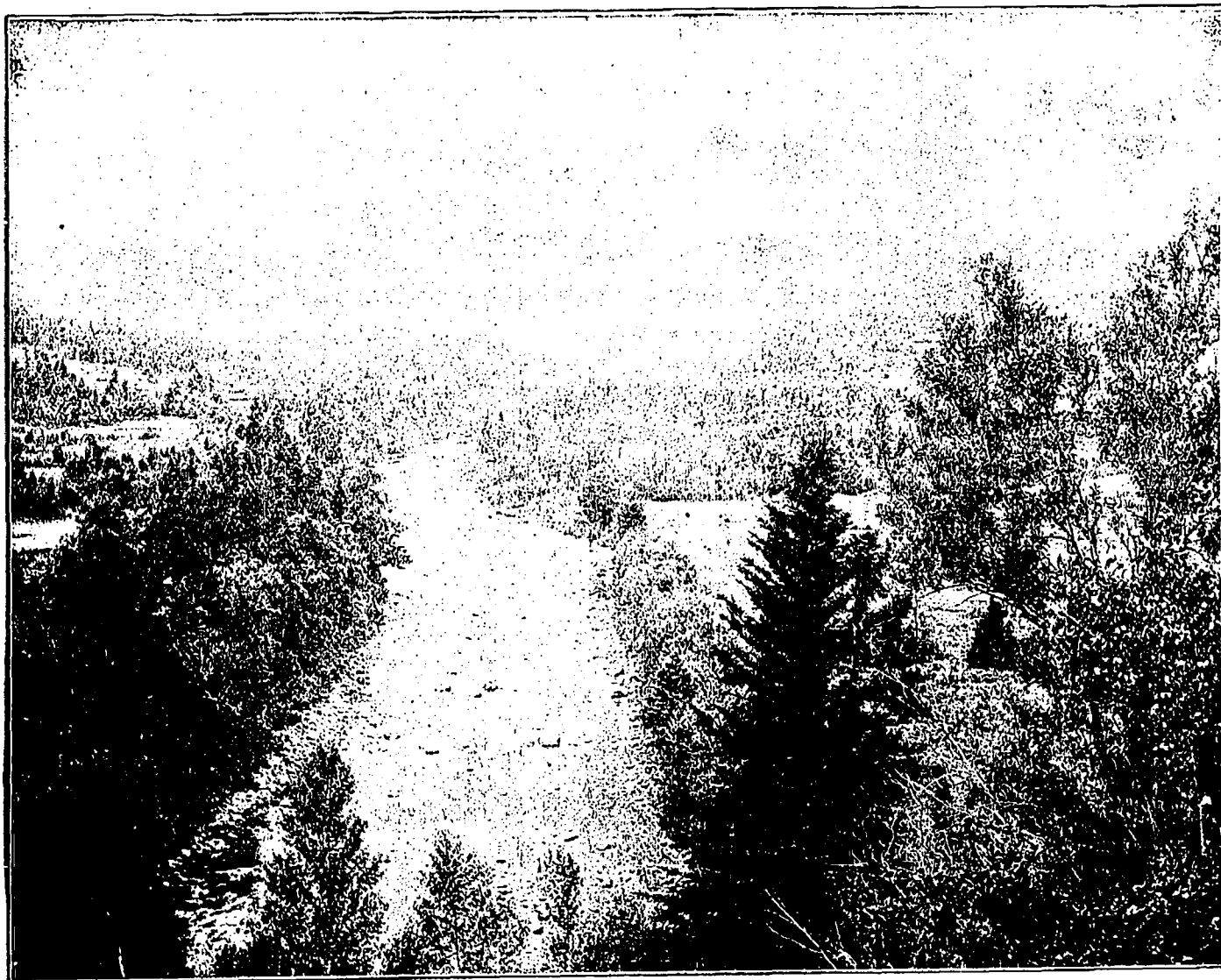
named these lands Baccalaos because in the seas there about he found such an immense multitude of large fish, like tunnies, called baccalaos by the natives, that they actually impeded the navigation of his ships." Peter Martyr says: "The Brytons and Frenche men are accustomed to take fish on the coastes of these landes, where is found great plenty of tunnies which the inhabitants caul baccalaos, whereof the land was so named." We thus see that the codfish has in these regions an ancient and an honorable name. He is the most reputable aristocrat in America, if there be any repute in antiquity, so that the title, "codfish aristocracy," is no mean designation. Spaniard, Portuguese, French, English, Canadian and Yankee have fought and wrangled and disputed about him all in turn; and the disputing is not done yet.

Cape Breton is usually shown on our maps as an island at the eastern end of Nova Scotia from which it is separated by the Straits of Canso. Actually it consists of a number of islands, while there are a number of peninsulas out of which even more islands could readily be

made, if occasion called for them. The southern and central portions, comparatively low and undulating, are cut up by numerous bays, channels and lakes of ocean water. The northern part is a peninsula presenting a plateau of 500 to 1,000 feet high, some ranges of hills on top of this, numerous streams cutting deep gorges, and bold picturesque shores along the Atlantic and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. As a rule the hill tops and high lands are covered with forest and the sloping shore at the water edge of the sea and the lakes are occupied by a strip of farms. The island is divided into two portions by its interior waters and a canal at St. Peter's.

Water, fresh and salt, has been distributed very liberally, and to this Cape Breton owes much of its charm of picturesque beauty. The land, too, does its share as a part of the beautiful picture. Of the more than two and a half

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LION'S HEAD, NORTH RIVER.—From *Cape Breton Illustrated*.