

any marked success. The brave Devonshire Knight, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, one of Elizabeth's famous captains, and her half-brother, the chivalrous Sir Walter Raleigh, led the way in this enterprise, and were followed by Sir Francis Drake the distinguished naval commander, the high-souled Sir George Calvert, afterwards Lord Baltimore, and the great Lord Bacon. All of these distinguished men lent their aid in settling Newfoundland. The last named of them was so impressed with the value of its fisheries that he gave it as his opinion that "the seas around Newfoundland contained a richer treasure than the mines of Mexico and Peru," which view time has amply verified. Sir Humphrey Gilbert, provided with letters patent from Queen Elizabeth, landed at St. John's in August 1583, and took possession of the country in the Queen's name. In proceeding further to plant the flag of England on other shores which Cabot had discovered, he lost one of his vessels, and had to send another home with the sick. He had but two left, one of them named *The Squirrel*, of ten tons, which carried the Admiral's flag. He bravely refused to leave this tiny craft, as he might seem to be deserting his companions by doing so; and on the voyage home a fearful storm overtook him near the Azores. The other vessel, *The Golden Hind*, kept as near *The Squirrel* as possible; and when the tempest was at its height, the crew saw the gallant knight sitting calmly on deck with a book before him, and heard him cry to his companions, "Cheer up lads, we are as near to heaven by sea as by land." The curtains of night shrouded the little vessel from their sight, and she and her gallant crew sank into the watery abysses. So perished this brave old English gentleman, one of the noblest of those spirits who sought to extend the dominion of England in the western world. His memory will ever be cherished by the people of the land in whose service he lost his life. He never quailed before danger and never turned aside from the service of his sovereign. His object was a noble one—to plant colonies of Englishmen on these newly discovered shores. Had he succeeded, both Newfoundland and some part of the United States would then have been colonized. His failure arose from no fault of his, but from a succession of uncontrollable disasters. To Newfoundland, the untimely death of this brave, learned, christian knight and the failure of his enterprise was a great misfortune. He had fully appreciated the enormous value of its fisheries, and seems to have been thoroughly impressed with the idea that the right way of prosecuting those fisheries was by colonizing the country, and thus raising up a resident population who would combine agricultural pursuits with fishing. We shall afterwards see that it was a departure from this policy on the part of England, and a determination to make the Island a mere fishing station, to which those interested in the fisheries might resort in summer, that so seriously interfered with the settlement of the country and retarded its prosperity.

FIRST SETTLEMENT IN CONCEPTION BAY.

Although this first effort in colonizing the New World, in which Sir Humphrey Gilbert so gallantly led the way, was unsuccessful, the im-