

SIR HUMPHREY GILBERT,  
FIRST COLONISER OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

(By our Newfoundland Correspondent.)

In my last communication I gave some account of Sebastian Cabot, the discoverer of Newfoundland. I propose to follow it up with a slight sketch of a few other famous men connected with Newfoundland in the olden time, beginning with Sir Humphrey Gilbert.

Passing over the eighty-six years which followed the discovery of the Island by Cabot, we come to the year 1583, or two hundred and eighty-nine years ago. On the 15th of August, in that year, there were lying in the harbour of St. John's thirty-six vessels belonging to various nations. A few of these were English, and the others Portuguese, Spanish and French. In addition to these, there were three English vessels which had arrived the day before, whose names were "The Delight," "The Golden Hind," and "The Swallow." Early on this morning, boats were lowered from these ships, and the commander and officers went ashore. Soon a goodly company had assembled on the beach, then lined by a few wooden huts of the rudest description, and "fish-flakes" for drying the cod. The rough inmates of these huts gathered round the company which had landed from the English ships; and the captains of the other vessels were there by special summons. A very curious and motley group that must have been—bronzed and swarthy Spaniards, Portuguese and French, contrasting strikingly with the more ponderous, ruddy Englishmen, and all in the picturesque costume of the sixteenth century. Presently a circle is formed round one commanding figure—a man of noble presence, wearing the richly slashed and laced doublet, velvet cloak, trunk hose, and gray hat and feather which constituted the dress of gentlemen in the days of Queen Elizabeth. This is no other than Sir Humphrey Gilbert, one of the gallant knights of Devonshire. He unrolls a parchment-scroll and proceeds to read the royal patent authorizing him to take possession of this Island, on behalf of his royal mistress, and exercise jurisdiction over it, and all other possessions of the Crown in these regions. Twig and sod are presented to him, and after the usual feudal style, he solemnly takes possession of Newfoundland in the name of Queen Elizabeth. The banner of England is hoisted on a pole, and the arms of England affixed to a wooden pillar; and then the English sailors present give three lusty cheers for England's Queen, which awake the echoes among the hills and quite startle the Spaniards and French, who don't know how to cheer, but signify, in their own fashion, their acquiescence in the ceremonial. In this way is the island taken possession of; the grant giving Sir Humphrey Gilbert jurisdiction for 200 leagues in every direction, so that the limits included Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, part of Labrador, as well as the islands of Newfoundland, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island—a right royal principality truly.

Who was this Sir Humphrey Gilbert, first coloniser of Newfoundland, who with some two hundred and fifty followers from Devonshire, had arrived with the view of making this western wilderness a home for Englishmen? He was a son of the famous Sir Otho Gilbert, of Compton Castle, Torbay. His mother was a Champernoun, of purest Norman descent, and could probably boast of having in her veins the blood of Courtneys, Emperors of Byzant. She bore her husband three brave sons, John, Humphrey and Adrian, who all proved to be men of remarkable ability and force of character, and all three were knighted by Elizabeth—a distinction which meant something from the hands of the great queen, who bestowed that dignity with singular frugality and discrimination, and only in recognition of distinguished genius and valour. In Elizabeth's days, the dignity of knight was the highest distinction that could be conferred on a warrior and a gentleman. On the death of Sir Otho Gilbert, his widow married Walter Raleigh, a gentleman of ancient blood, none older in the land, but impoverished, who was now living at Hayes, a farm in the parish of East Badleigh, Devonshire, which was the only wreck that remained of his estate. To her second husband the fair Champernoun bore a son, whose fame was destined to be world-wide, and who in a period more prolific of great men and great events than any other before or since, played a gallant part, and was also knighted as Sir Walter Raleigh by Elizabeth. If the law holds good that great men have always mothers above the common level, in regard to intellect and worth, then the mother of four such sons must have been a grand woman indeed, although no record of her personal character has been preserved. Thus Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Humphrey Gilbert were half brothers. Young Raleigh was brought up on the pleasant farm of Hayes; while Gilbert and his two brothers dwelt in the quaint and gloomy towers of Compton Castle, amid the apple orchards of Torbay. There still stand the ruins of this old castle, near Brixham, where William of Orange first set his foot on British soil. Amid the soft beauty of Torbay, within sight of the restless sea, in which he was destined to find a grave, the young Humphrey Gilbert grew up. Torbay has long been noted for its lovely scenery—its parks full of grand old oaks and chestnut trees and stately elms,—its rich, red fallow fields,—its apple orchards, bursting into flower as summer approached—its pebbly beach kissed by the waves, and its rounded hills gently sloping to the sea. Little do the inhabitants there know of the biting frosts and heavy snow storms with which we British Americans are so familiar; for in that favoured spot the flowers of autumn meet the flowers of spring, and the old year lingers smiling to twine a garland for the new. This was the beautiful home of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, first coloniser of Newfoundland; and here he grew in the simple and manly, yet high-bred ways of English gentlemen of the Elizabethan period.

Having come to man's estate, he embraced the profession of arms; fought bravely and won distinction in continental and Irish wars; and in his mature age, he and his still more distinguished half-brother, Sir Walter Raleigh, formed the design of colonising the Island of Newfoundland first of all, and then the neighbouring continent and islands. Hence it came that on the 5th August, 1583, he was standing on the beach of St. John's harbour. His design was grand, and worthy of a

heroic, patriotic nobleman. But how inscrutable to us are the ways of Providence! His expedition, so nobly planned and so ably conducted, met only with disappointment and finally disaster. He was the first to issue the laws by which the fisheries were for a long time afterwards regulated. He established the English laws, constitution and church government; made it penal for anyone to attempt anything prejudicial to the new dominion, and levied contributions on all fishing vessels. But the task of founding a colony on these rugged shores was no easy one, with the materials at hand. Among the adventurers on board his little squadron were some most unruly spirits, and not a few pirates who had been condemned to service in the fleet, by way of punishment. These were the cause of great trouble to the leader, fostering disaffection, desertion and mutiny. The prospect of wintering on such a bleak coast was most distasteful to such men, and they began to desert in all directions. Sickness, too, invaded the little company, and the Admiral embarked those suffering from disease for England, in the *Swallow*. Soon after he set out on a surveying expedition along the coast. One of his vessels, the *Delight*, struck on a shoal and became a wreck. Only the *Golden Hind* and the *Squirrel* now remained, and there was nothing for it but to return to England. Sir Humphrey was on board the *Squirrel*, a little nutshell of ten tons. He was urged to go on board the other ship, but his heroic answer was "no, I will not forsake my little company with whom I have passed through so many storms and perils." They reached the parallel of the Azores in safety; but there encountered a terrible storm which made the hearts of the bravest quail. Sir Humphrey alone retained his self-possession. Those on board the *Golden Hind* could see the gallant fearless knight sitting on the deck of his little barque, the Bible in his hand, and as they came within hail, his strong voice, full of cheerful courage, was heard across the angry billows ringing out those words that shall never be forgotten—"Cheer up, brother, we are as near heaven by sea as by land." The storm increased with the night; the black billows roared around the little vessels like hungry beasts of prey. Suddenly, towards midnight, the lights in the *Squirrel* disappeared; the little barque was seen no more, and Sir Humphrey Gilbert, scholar, soldier, discoverer, coloniser and philosopher, pious and heroic in life and in death, sank amid the dark waves of the Atlantic. In Longfellow's noble words:

He sat upon the deck,  
The Book was in his hand:  
"Do not fear, Heaven is as near,"  
He said "by water as by land."

In the first watch of the night  
Without a signal's sound,  
Out of the sea mysteriously  
The fleet of death rose all around.

Thus tragically perished one of the bravest adventurers, who in the glorious reign of Elizabeth led the way in planting those English Colonies which now dot the globe, and which, forming an outlet for a swarming population have extended the dominion, the arms and the commerce of England over all seas. To Newfoundland the death of Gilbert was an irreparable loss. Had he lived to see England again, he and Raleigh would, to a certainty, have renewed their efforts at colonization in this island; and profiting by past errors, would have planted here men of the right stamp. But his work on earth was finished, and this poor Colony had to struggle on as best it could, without such wise and noble helpers. Newfoundland has reason to cherish fondly the memory of the brave knight, for his name is one of the brightest in her annals. He had fully appreciated the enormous value of her fisheries; and rightly concluded that the proper way to prosecute those fisheries was by colonizing the country with Englishmen, and thus raising up a resident population, who would combine agricultural pursuits with fishing. Unfortunately, influenced by the narrow, short-sighted counsels of selfish, greedy men, England was led afterwards to depart from this truly national policy, and to aim at making the island a mere fishing station to which those interested in the fisheries might resort in summer to cure their fish. Interested persons represented the country to be a mere barren rock, on which fishermen might dry their nets and prepare their fish, but hopeless for all other purposes. The fisheries were believed to be the grand nursery of seamen for the navy. Colonization was prohibited under penalties. The fishing population were to return to England on the approach of each winter. No Governor was appointed; no laws were enforced, excepting the arbitrary decisions of "fishing admirals" as they were called, who were merely the first skippers who happened to make the ports in spring, and who were local despots for the time being. This was the stupid policy which, being followed for a century and a half, retarded the progress of the country, and repressed effectually the enterprise and energies of the people. If we are to-day behind the neighbouring provinces, the cause is to be traced to this monstrous policy which long made England be regarded here as a harsh, selfish step-mother to this, her most ancient colony. All these absurd and injurious enactments have long since been removed from the statute-book; and Newfoundland enjoys to-day the same privileges and liberties as the other North American colonies, and is now fairly started on the path of progress.

"Let the dead past bury its dead."

A clear and hopeful future now lies before her.

**CLERICAL INCOMES.**—An American paper notices that the highest-paid ministers in New York city are, in the Episcopal Church, Dr. Morgan Dix of Trinity, and Dr. Potter of Grace Church, each receiving \$12,000. Drs. Montgomery of the Incarnation, Morgan of St. Thomas, and Swope of Trinity Chapel, receive \$10,000 each. In the Presbyterian Church the salary of Dr. Spring is \$8000. Ten other clergymen receive \$5000 each; two \$8000; the remainder of the forty receive from \$1000 to \$4000. In the five Congregational Churches, the highest salary is \$6000. In the twenty Reform Dutch Churches the average is \$3000, and the highest \$8000. In the four Unitarian churches the highest paid is \$8000.—Dr. Bellows being the recipient. Mr. Hepworth, while connected with that denomination, received \$10,000. The Universalist churches are five in number, and the highest salary is received by Dr. Chapin, the sum being \$5000. The average is stated to be \$3000, for the whole body of ministers in New York, excluding Roman Catholic priests, the incomes of the latter averaging only about \$800.

FIELD AND FLOOD.

Guelph beat London on the 30th at cricket by four wickets. The celebrated "Milesian" was doctored at Decker Park the other day.

The Nova Scotia Provincial Rifle competition commenced at Bedford on the 27th ult.

The 87th Fusiliers defeated the Royal Artillery at cricket at Halifax on the 27th ult.

Mr. E. Daniels, the champion billiard player of Massachusetts, has been playing at St. John, N.B.

The race between the Shamrock Canoe Club of Ottawa and the Desert Indians for \$100 a side has been postponed.

The New Hamburg Maple Leaf Cricket Club were beaten on Saturday week by the Haysville club by seven wickets.

The Dominion Provincial Cup was won on Thursday week by the English Quebec Battalion, and is now their property.

Lochiel won the steeple chase race at Long Branch on the 29th. Distance, about three miles; time, 9 min. 14½ seconds.

The Junior Victorias of Bowmanville defeated the Dauntless Base-ball club of Toronto on the 26th by three runs.

It is proposed to have a boat race at Halifax, to include boats belonging to the Halifax Sailing Club and all others not over 22 feet keel.

The three mile scull race on the Hudson River on the 28th ult., was won by Dealey, who beat Englehart easily. Time: 23 min. 10 seconds.

The cricket match at Ottawa resulted as follows:—England, 201; Ottawa, 1st innings, 41; 2nd, 48; leaving the Englishmen winners in one innings by 112.

A game of base-ball was played at Milton on the 30th between the Maple Leaf Club of Hamilton, and the Sycamores of Milton, resulting in favour of the latter. Score, 23 to 33.

The *Turf, Field and Farm* of New York strongly advocates the disuse of the side-saddle for ladies, and say the opposite fashion will be introduced by the leading families next year.

A game of base-ball was played at London on the 28th for the championship of Canada between the Unions of Guelph and the Eckfords of London, which resulted in the defeat of the latter. Unions, 19; Eckfords, 18.

A closely contested cricket match, between the Toronto club and a mixed eleven of the Ontario and Young Ontario clubs of Whitby, was played at the latter place last week, resulting in favour of Whitby by five runs.

A cricket match was played at Stratford on the 28th between the Detroit and Stratford clubs, resulting in a victory for Stratford. Score: Stratford 1st innings, 152; Detroit 1st innings, 70; 2nd, 111, with nine wickets down. 61 was the highest individual score.

The match between the Red Stockings and the Montreal Base Ball club was won by the former. Scores 63 to 3. The Red Stockings also defeated, on the 26th, 27th and 28th respectively, the Independents of Dundas, the Ottawa Club, and the Pastimes of Ogdensburg.

The *Kingston Whig* says:—The St. Lawrence Base Ball Club (the name should have been *Catawaqui* Club, in honour of Kingston's former title) are about to make their first tour. It was evident all along that they meant business, and we are not surprised at this early and bold step. They are first to attack the Guelph Club, the champions of Canada.

Two highly interesting games of billiards were played at Hamilton last week. The first was a French carom game between Mr. J. Dion, of Montreal, and Mr. Bennett, of Toronto. The game was 75 points up, and was won by Dion, his opponent making but 19. His highest run was 31. The next was an American game of 750 points up, Mr. Dion playing against Messrs. May, of Toronto, Egner and Phelan, of Hamilton. Dion won by 45 points, his greatest run being 213.

**A NOVEL BREAKFAST PARTY.**—The members of the Dover Bathing Club partook of breakfast lately under rather novel circumstances. A floating table, decorated with flowers, was anchored in the bay, and upon it were laid out cups of hot coffee, eggs, bread-and-butter, &c. About twenty members of the club then entered the water, swam to the table, and drank their coffee, &c., the conditions being that no one was to touch the table itself. This necessitated a good knowledge of the art of "treading water" and there was plenty of fun for quite half an hour, when the repast was finished.

**THE ENGLISH CRICKETERS.**—The following is the official programme of the movements of the English Cricketers:—

Toronto—A week from September 1st to 7th (Saturday.) Two matches, an excursion on Lake Couchiching, &c. On Saturday evening to London—Play at London on Monday and Tuesday, September 9th and 10th. Thence on Wednesday to Hamilton—Thursday and Friday, 12th and 13th. Niagara Falls—Saturday and Sunday. Thence on Monday 16th to New York—Play there Wednesday and Thursday, 18th and 19th, leaving in time to play at Philadelphia on Saturday, 21st. They leave Philadelphia for Boston. Thence to Quebec to sail for home on Saturday, 28th.

**LACROSSE MATCHES.**—The first twelve of the Dakota Lacrosse Club of Toronto, left here Monday morning for Woodstock, to play a friendly game with the Mohawks of that place. The Dakota came off victorious, taking three straight games. Time: 4 min., 4½ min., and 37 min. The ball was put through the first game by F. Sullivan, second by C. Donnelly. Some very good play was shown on both sides, but the Dakotas proved to be too much for their opponents. A return match will be played in Toronto about the latter end of September. The Tecumseh Club have given a good account of themselves during the last few days. On Saturday they played on the Cricket Ground with the Young Shamrocks, and beat them in three straight games, winning the flags presented by the Toronto Club. On Monday morning, in a match in the Queen's Park, they took three straight games from the Victorias; and in the afternoon they served the Union the same way. In seven of these nine games the ball was put through by Spotton, and in the other two by Dexter. The playing of Hooke and McLean in all the games was specially good.—*Globe*, Wednesday, Aug. 23.

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