

## CHAPTER I.

### The Early Inhabitants of Newfoundland.

Of course we all know that Newfoundland is an island close to the North American Continent. It is quite possible that at one time long, long years ago it was a part of the continent, just as the British Isles were once a part of the European Continent. Before the Europeans colonized North America, it was peopled in all but the extreme North by numerous tribes called Indians and in the extreme North by brown people called Esquimaux or Eskimos. The Northern parts of Newfoundland may have been peopled at one time by Eskimos, but it seems pretty certain that at the time of John Cabot's discovery it was peopled by a distinct type of Indians called Beothucks and that it had been so peopled for many years before. It is, however, very difficult to put together a trustworthy and particular account of the Beothucks. Many learned men have studied the subject and have failed to find out enough about them to build up a history of them. No one can find out for certain where they came from in the beginning, and it is no easy task to discover exactly how they disappeared, for disappear