

have sprung. Thirty-six years later (1671) they had expanded to 400 persons, divided into 67 families.

It was from these that the first settlement at Chignecto took place.

The first European who visited Chignecto, of whom we have any record, was Diego Homen a Portuguese settled at Venice. In 1558 he voyaged into the Bay of Fundy and made a map showing Chignecto Bay. It is probable that Portuguese and French fishermen cast their nets into these waters even before that date. Cartier and Boberval did not go so far South. Champlain sailed with De Monts into the Bay of Fundy in 1604. The next visitor of whom we have a record is Biencourt.

Jean de Biencourt with four Indians made the trip accompanied by Father Biard, a member of that Order, whose sons forced their way through trackless wastes of the vast solitudes of the west planting the cross and watering it with their blood.

Father Biard in his record of the trip says: "At Chignecto, there is a beautiful prairie as far as you can see. Several rivers discharge themselves into the Bay. The Indians number 60 or 80 souls, and they are not so vagabondish as others, because this spot is more retired and more abundant in chase for food. The country is for the most part agreeable and to my mind of great fertility if cultivated."

Caulfield writes to the Board of Trade in 1715 of Chignecto:

"A low lying country used mostly for raising black and white cattle. Were, in our necessity supplied with about 70 barrels of extraordinary good beef. The greatest resort for the Penobscot and St. John Indians, who barter to the French great quantities of furs and feathers for provisions. They have oxen and cows about 1000; sheep about 100; hogs about 800; corn to support their families (about 50). Computed at 6000 bushels."