

who during four centuries have been the place-name fathers of the country, on a large scale. It would be to tell of the Browns, the Smiths, the Joneses, the Robinsons and all the other individuals who became "men of light and leading" in a thousand Canadian communities, whose virtues are perpetuated in the Smithvilles, the Bell's Corners, the Bellevieux Coves, the Baker's settlements, etc., and who, by their superior energy or by accidental environment, have given their names to many of our Post Offices. I made a count of these and found that there are over 500 post offices in the country whose names correspond to those of the Post Masters actually ministering to the demands of the several communities for epistolary correspondence and for the ever-welcome family newspapers.

Such stories of the place-name fathers, great and small, would be replete with interest to young and to old alike, each having its full share of moving incident by sea and by land, by flood or by field.

With Cabot, on board the *Matthew*, we would have to scout along the shores of north-east Canada, now cautiously entering unknown straits, now exultingly sailing into broad and deep harbours, disturbed by many storms of wind, but happily undisturbed by the vapourings of a HARRISSE or the disquisitions of a Dawson on the landfall question. With Basques and Portugese we would have to visit almost surreptitiously (modern fishermen-like), rivers such as the St. Lawrence and Miramichi, and follow porpoise and whale far up their courses. With Cartier we would have to venture through the gloomy portals of the Saguenay and pass through the forest-lined waters of the great river, giving names to frowning cliffs, heated bays, luxuriant islands and glorious promontories. With Vancouver we would have to wander, on board the "Discovery" or the "Chatham," amidst the floods and mazes of the Straits of Georgia—now sweeping on under full sail, now moving cautiously and heaving the lead at every point, and now making preliminary explorations in cutter and rowboat, watching the water for hidden rocks and shoals and the land for ambushed natives. With Wm. Baffin or John Davis, or Martin Frobisher* or Henry Hudson or Luke Fox or George Back or Capt. Dease or Edward Perry or John Franklin or Francis McClintock or Thos. Simpson, we would

*Whose tomb in St. Giles Church was threatened by the great fire in London, Nov. 1897.