

HISTORY OF CANADA.

In giving a synopsis of the history of the Dominion, the events that have taken place in the different Provinces are so unconnected, that it is necessary to divide it in its earlier stages into two headings, the History of Canada, and the History of Acadia. We commence with the former.

The earliest account we have of any part of Canada is in 1497, 1497 when England commissioned Sebastian Cabot and others to extend the discoveries of Columbus in America ; in the following year he arrived on the east coast of Labrador. In the next year, he discovered Newfoundland, which he named St. Johns, having landed there on St. John's day, and other sections of North America. To the mainland he gave the name of Prima-Vista. Three 1501 years later Cortereal, a Portuguese, visited the same coast, but not being heard from, he was succeeded by his brother Michael, who sailed in search of him, but no accounts of either ever reached Europe, although the king of Portugal fitted out an expedition to search for them. In an old map published in 1508, the Labrador Coast is called *Terra Corterealis*, and the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence was long known by the name of the gulf of the Two Brothers.

In 1523, Giovanni Verrazzani, a Florentine navigator of great 1523 skill and celebrity, sailed, by the command of Francis 1st. of France, along the coast of America as far as Newfoundland. Of his fate nothing definite is known, though there is a tradition that the River St. Lawrence was the scene of his death, and that he and his crew were massacred and devoured by the natives.

In 1534, Jacques Cartier, under the auspices of France, explored 1534 the North-East Coast carefully, passed through the Straits of Belle-isle, traversed the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and arrived in the Bay of Chaleur, so called by him, in July. He thence proceeded to Gaspé Bay, where he erected a cross, 30 feet in height, with a shield, bearing the three fleur-de-lis of France, thus taking possession in the name of Francis 1st. Coasting along the shores of