

"Effigies absoluti Domini Provinciarum Terræ Mariæ et Avalonia."

About every headland, and in every bay of Newfoundland, we find associations of the famous adventurers, who first made the island known to the world. The Cabots, Verazzani, Cortereal, Cartier, Frobisher, Drake, and others who have written their names in deep, indelible letters, over the face of the northern continent, visited it in turn, and gave to it many of the names which it still bears. Cape Bona Vista tells of the welcome glimpse of land after many weeks of struggling with the waves. The French have left their traces in Bonne Bay, Point Enragée, Bay Facheuse, Isles aux Morts, Cinq Cerfs Bay, and in numerous other places. Still, as in old times, the sails of the Breton and Norman hover around its coasts, and drag from the deep those riches which have made the waters that wash Prima Vista far more valuable to the world than the gold-bearing rocks of the Australian or the Pacific shores.

A narrow strait alone divides Newfoundland from a mountainous and barren territory, indented by small bays and watered by several rivers, which are broken by many cataracts, and are remarkable for picturesque gorges and cañons. The waters which wash its rugged shores have been for centuries the resort of fishermen of all nations, and many a fortune has there been won. Traditions ascribe the name of this region to La-Bradore, a Basque whaler from the kingdom of Navarre, who penetrated as far as the Bay, now bearing his name. But this is not the generally received origin of the name. On an old map, published at Rome, in 1508, it is called Terra Corterealis, from the fact that it was first discovered by Gaspar Cortereal, a Portuguese navigator; some eight years previously. Labrador—Laboratoris Terra—is undoubtedly so called from the fact that Cortereal stole from the country some fifty-seven natives, whom he described in a letter to the Venetian Ambassador at Lisbon, as

well fitted for slaves: "They are extremely fitted to endure labour, and will probably turn out the best slaves which have been discovered up to this time."

The name of Acadie was applied in old times to a wide and ill defined territory, comprising the present Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the State of Maine. We first find it mentioned in the charter given to De Monts, the first Seigneur of Acadie, by Henry of Navarre, in the year 1603. "We being of a long time, informed of the situation and condition of the lands and territories of *La Cadia*, moved above all things, with a singular zeal, and devout and constant resolution which we have taken, with the help and assistance of God, author, distributor, and protector of all kingdoms and estates, to cause the people, which do inhabit the country, men (at this present time) barbarous atheists, without faith or religion, to be converted to Christianity, and to the belief and profession of our faith and religion;" and a long narration of a similar style follows. Of the origin and meaning of the term, there can be no doubt: it comes from *akade*, which is an affix used by the Souriquois or Mic Macs, a branch of the Algonquin family,* to signify a place where

* The Algonquins traced their origin to the high and mountainous tract of lakes and cliffs which stretches from the source of the Uttawas River, quite to the entrance of the Saguenay, at Tadousac. They are referred to by the early French writers as *Montagnes* (the *Montagnais* in Labrador). They early came to be known as *Algomeequin*, and its contraction, *Algonquin*. Schoolcraft says, that this term has never been explained. *Agomag* and *Agomeeg* are terms denoting along, on, at the shore, and in this case meant the north shore. The plural inflections *ag* and *eeg* giving the term a personal form, impart a meaning which may be rendered, people of the opposite shore—in contradistinction to the Iroquois who dwell on the other side of the St. Lawrence and Lakes. The Iroquois also called them *Adirondacks*. This word means, he eats trees—evidently from the straits to which war parties of the nation were reduced in eating the bark of certain trees, while in ambush for the Iroquois in Western New York.