

THE HISTORY OF CANADIAN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES.

BY JOHN READE.



COLONISTS have, in all times been accustomed to call their new homes after the scenes where their early years were spent. Of this mode of nomenclature, we have numerous instances in the settlements made by the Greeks and Romans, as well as in the colonies of England, and other modern European nations. The name, in such cases, was a tender bond of union with the mother country, besides possessing a considerable historical value.

In many cases, a place took the name of its discoverer, as Hudson's Bay, Vancouver's Island ; in others, it was called after some event or personage of which the day and month of its discovery bore record ; as the St. Lawrence, first seen on the 9th day of August ; the St. John's river, New Brunswick, discovered on the 24th of June ; or, it was named from the weather, or some other transitory circumstance impressing the discoverers on first seeing it, as Cape of Storms, Baie des Chaleurs ; or from some sovereign or other great personage directing the party of exploration ; or, in honor of some person of distinction wholly unconnected with it—as Virginia, Baltimore, Queen Charlotte's Island, Rupert's Land. The natural configuration, or the first object which attracted observation, or some commodity evidently abundant, or some obviously marked characteristic, were also frequently productive of names, as Bay Ronde, Cap Cod, Mosquito Bar, Mariposa (California " Butterfly "), Pearl Island, Serpent's Mouth, Tierra del Feugo (land of fire—volcanic), Blue Mountains, Isle of Desolation, Isle of Bacchus (the Isle of Orleans, first so called from its vine productiveness), Puntas Arenas (Sandy Point), Florida, &c. Biblical,