

ORIGINAL COLONISATION OF CANADA.

From Sharon Turner's "History of Henry VIII.

As Canada has now become the most important relic of our North American possessions, and is daily increasing in its population, property, and commercial relations, and was first colonised in the reign of Henry VIII. it may gratify the reader to peruse the original instructions for the earliest settlement that was made upon it, from the European branch of the human race, as they were either dictated or approved by Francis I.

This region was existing unknown to all other parts of the globe, until the year 1508, when some Norman and Breton adventurers, seeking their fortune at sea, under one John Denys, of Normandy, accidentally roved near it. They did little more than inspect some of its coasts, but it became afterwards known to several of their countrymen, who went to fish near its shores, and whose reports about it at last interested Francis I. to desire that it should be more specially examined.

With this view, in the year 1534, he sent Jacques Cartier Mabuoin to reconnoitre the country, inspect its havens and ports, and by sailing up the great river which flowed from it, to learn all that he could collect of its soil, climate, and inhabitants. Cartier executed his commission with satisfactory diligence, and the information which he communicated on his return, determined the French king to establish a colony in the country, near its principal river, now called St. Lawrence, which is the largest stream of water in North America. This important river was then termed Canada, by the natives, and its name became transferred to the Country itself, though it was afterwards also called New France.

His expensive wars with the emperor prevented Francis I. from pursuing his plan of colonising Canada till the year 1538. But having at last agreed with Charles V. to establish a general truce between them for ten years, from the 18th June, 1538, he proceeded three months afterwards to the accomplishment of his colonial enterprise, and it is in the September of this year that the following official document occurs, for the outfit of the expedition to establish the first settlement in this territory of North America, which has now become such an important member of the foreign dominions of Great Britain.

"Memoir of the men and Provisions necessary for the Vessels which the King intends to send into Canada.

"To perform the voyage which the king our sovereign lord desires to have made to Canada, it must go, at the latest, in the middle of May, and must have the number of the persons and ships hereinafter mentioned, to be increased or lessened as M. le Connetable (the prime minister) shall think proper.

"It will be requisite to have, as well for guarding the ships that will remain there, as for the equipment of several boats, which will be wanted to go into the various streams and rivers, 120 mariners.

"Also forty men of war; harquebuziers.

"Also thirty carpenters, as well of ships as of houses and sawyers who work lengthways.

"Ten master masons, who can be assisted by those of the country who will serve them.

"Three men who can make lime.

"Three makers of tiles.

"Two coalmen to make charcoal.

"Four master farriers, each having a forge and two servants, with two locksmiths.

"Four smiths, to search and ascertain if there be any mine of iron, and to make forges and work iron there.

"To take, at least, six vine-dressers and six labourers.

"Three barbers, and each a servant.

"Two apothecaries, with each a servant, to examine and see the useful qualities of the herbs.

"A physician and a servant.

"Two goldsmiths who are lapidaries, with their necessary utensils, and each a servant.

"Two master tailors and two master hosiers, and each a servant.

"Two joiners and two servants, with their tools.

"Two master rope-makers and two servants, because there is hemp to make cordage.

"Four cannoneers, at least, and the men-of-war will make use of these men when need requires.

"Six churchmen, with all things necessary for Divine service; in all 276 men.

"To be victualled for two years at least; that if the ships that shall be sent there next year should not arrive, those now going may not want food.

"These victuals must be well made, and so good as to last all this time; and there must be some of the dry wines of Spain.

"These victuals may cost ten sols a month for each man, which for the 276 men, for 24 months, will amount to 33,120 livres.

"They must also be furnished with clothes, beds, coverings, and all other necessaries, for two or three years; and they must leave some money behind for their wives and children.

"Therefore they must be paid in advance for fifteen or sixteen months, and this will cost at least, one with the other, 100 sols a month.

"Ten tons of iron, which will cost fifty livres.

"Eight or ten prizes of salt, as well for the people of the country, who very much value it, as for those of the ships. This will cost in Brittany sixty sols for each prize.

"Four milliers yards of common linen, as well for the natives as for the ships.

"Three hundred pieces of crezeaus, for natives and ships.

"Also millstones, to make water-mills, wind-mills, and hand-mills.

"They must also carry out as many as possible of all manner and kinds of domestic beasts and birds, as well to do the work as to breed in the country; and all sorts of grains and seeds.

"For their passage there must be at least six ships, of not less than 110 tons, with two barks of forty-five or fifty tons each; these, with the smallest of the six ships, will remain there, and the other five will return as soon as they have landed the victuals and goods. For the return of these five, each must have twenty men over and above the aforesaid number. They may take in going and coming, and in staying there, five or six months, for which time they must be victualled; and be paid two months on going out, and the remainder on their return.

"There must be munitions of war to land for the forts; artillery arquebuzes a croc, pikes, halberts, lead, balls, powder, and other things.

"In the ships must be three boats, ready to put out when there, to go out on the streams and rivers.

"All sorts of nail-work, pitch, and tar for the ships.

"The six ships, being from 700 to 800 tons, will cost a crown per ton a month, for moorage; or about 900 crowns a month, and for the six months 4900 crowns.

"There must be also provided pay and victuals for 100 men, to bring back the shipping this year, who may be detained six months; which would amount to 1000 livres a month, and therefore for the six months 6000 livres.

"Made the . . . September, 1538.

I derive this curious paper from the collection of state letters made by Ribier, in 1666, and addressed by him to Colbert, the celebrated minister of Louis XIV. This counsellor of state describes Canada as then a vast country, uncultivated like a desert, and in most places uninhabited, except by demons and wild beasts."

It was in 1540 that this colonising expedition reached Canada, under the Sieur de Roberval, and in 1543 another fleet under his superintendance was sent to it, by the same intelligent monarch, Francis I., who seems not to have suffered either of his contemporaries, Charles V. or Henry VIII., to have surpassed him in his encouragement to every laudable undertaking which the intellect and spirit of the day were inclined to pursue.

For the Pearl.

PROPHECY FULFILLED.

PETRA.—No. 3.

"I have sworn by myself, saith the Lord, that Bozrah (the strong or fortified City) shall become a desolation, a reproach, and a waste, and a curse, and all the Cities thereof shall be perpetual waste. Lo I will make thee small among the Heathen, and despised among men. Thy terriblest hath deceived thee, and the pride of thy heart, oh thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rocks, that holdest the height of the hill; though thou shouldst make thy nest as high as the Eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the Lord."—JEREMIAH LXVI: 13, 16.

Mr. Stevens has observed that he could not generally distinguish the dwellings from the tombs in Petra; but this was not invariably the case. Some were certainly tombs, as the pits in which the dead were laid were clearly visible; but the houses had no similar excavations. Mr. S. describes one of these dwellings in form like the divans of the East, divided into divers apartments, with regular partitions. The second and third stories were not in fashion with the Edomites; there were no partitions within the chambers, but the rock was similar to that we have described as composing the entire stone rampart enclosing the venerable city. From its commanding site, and the high finish of the work, this had been the abode of a wealthy citizen. In front was a large table of rock, forming as it were a court of entrance, where probably the owner sat under the shades of evening, overlooking the assembly in the Theatre, or beyond upon the palaces and dwellings in the then populous city, the climate of which must have made Petra a charming place of residence. In the all-engrossing interest of this sublime scene this traveller hurried through the broken range of ruins, clambered the staircases, and made the entire circuit of Petra in a few hours, where an interest must have been excited impossible to describe. The traveller and his servant, who it seems followed his master's steps, though at first reluctant, were quite exhausted with fatigue. The shades of evening were collecting as they stood for the last time on the steps of the Theatre. Perfect as has been the fulfilment of the Prophecy against this devoted city, in no one particular has its truth been more awfully verified than in the complete extermination of the race of Edom; and while their enemies the Jews have been dispersed all over the earth, still retaining their peculiar polity, customs and religion; and though conversant with the people of all lands are still a separate nation, the Edomites have been cut off for ever, and not even one remains of the house of Esau, to disclose their awful doom. Thus is the Prophecy fulfilled: "Wisdom hath departed from Teman, and understanding

from the Mount of Esau," and its miserable Arabs cannot appreciate the august works of its former lords, who ruled over it in the days of its glory. In the summer the poor Arab cultivates the few valleys which are arable, and in the winter inhabits the tombs. His barbarian hands will mutilate the fine remains of art; and as he breaks to atoms the sculptured rocks, he vainly hopes to find hidden treasures. Stevens could have lingered for days on the steps of the Theatre, but the sheik hurried him away—so dangerous would it have been to have passed even one night in that most interesting city. Turning back, therefore, from the Theatre, the whole stupendous area of the city burst upon the sight at once, filled with crumbling masses of rock and stone—the excavated residences of a mighty people long since obliterated from the face of the earth—and surrounded (as before said) on all sides by vast masses of everlasting mountains, with sides smoothed by human art even to the summit, and many of the dwellings appeared utterly inaccessible, as is the case in Switzerland, Norway, and other rocky regions. The travellers now ascended the valley, and rising to the summit of the mighty rocky rampart at dark, they found a range of tombs in the suburbs of the city: here they spread their couches in a tomb of rock. Stevens observes that he had just then completed one of the most interesting days in his life; for the singular character of this august city—the uncommon beauty and preservation of its ruins—its remote antiquity—the denunciations of prophecy so signally verified—its long loss to the civilized world—and the dangers and hurried nature of the route, imparted a thrilling and almost fearful interest to the time and place, of which even an adequate idea can hardly be conveyed. In the morning, Mr. Stevens and his man Paul had determined, whilst the Arabs still slept, to ascend Mount Hor, where was the tomb of Aaron, by moonlight; but now they thought only of rest. The tombs were cut lengthwise in the rock like ovens, so that a body might be admitted with the feet foremost. Engravings are given both of the temples and tombs—the latter indeed resemble temples; but the most splendid engravings of Petra will be found in Laborde's Travels, lately published in Paris. By presents of much value Laborde and Linant prevailed on the avaricious Arabs to admit of their remaining some time at Petra, to enable them to finish these superb drawings, which will at once impart to the eye of taste as true a representation as possible of the transcendent grandeur, and chaste simplicity of the monuments of Petra. Mr. Stevens was satisfied that he had made a fortunate escape from the grinding extortions of the Arabs; his ascent to the tomb of Aaron was opposed on the pretence that Turks only visited it; but as the Arabs were aware that a sheep must be sacrificed, and afterwards eaten by the tribe, they consented, but assured Stevens that Mahommed was a greater man, and lived long before Aaron was born. Little did the wealthy Edomite imagine that his ashes would be scattered to the winds, and that an American stranger and a gang of Arabs, living thousands of miles distant, would be sleeping in his superb tomb, alike ignorant and careless of the quondam possessor of this august mausoleum.

A man rising from a tomb with his clothes on does not require much time to arrange his toilet—an ascent to the tomb of the Prophet Aaron, on the summit of Mount Hor, was now the object. This immense mountain towered aloft in awful dignity and majesty, bare and rugged to its very summit,—not a tree or even a shrub growing on its barren sides. For some distance they found the ascent rather easy, when they arrived at a precipitous gap, opening its terrific jaws almost from the very base of the venerable mountain. We stood on its brink and observed each other with wild amazement. We descended, and were more fortunate in our second effort; what had appeared at a distance slight undulations, we found on nearer approach great fissures presenting themselves in quick succession. We had to lay hold of the broken corners of the porous sandstones, which crumbled under our feet, and frequently put our lives in danger. Many times, after desperate exertion, we sat down utterly exhausted, and in despair for the result; but the distant glimpse of the whitened door of the tomb would revive our spirits and stimulate us to renew our efforts on the sides of that truly rugged mountain, so desolate, whose perilous ascent has been undertaken by so few enterprising travellers since the time when "Moses and Aaron ascended in the sight of all the congregation." The master and the man lay on the same rocky couch, encountering the same dangers, and inspired by the same hopes. These travellers ascended on the east side of the mountain, on which, resting to breathe, when half way up, they looked back on the high rampart of rock that walled the city of Petra, and on the outside of the rock they observed the facade of a beautiful temple, resembling in its prominent features the great temple before described, which was opposite the principal entrance of the city. Independent of its fine architecture, it would have been curious to have examined, and if possible discover, why it was constructed, standing alone outside of the venerable city, and apart from all the dwellings, sitting in sublime but solitary grandeur. This enquiry they were compelled to omit, and by climbing—and at times even lifting each other—the master and man, through the most persevering efforts, at length attained the bold and rocky summit of the majestic mountain; and before they had time for general observation, their attention was