

CABOT'S VOYAGES.

By John De Baptist.

SALE BY JOHN DE BAPTIST.

I have now a few words to say regarding my own particular opinion. I believe I am the only person who has fixed upon Cape St. John as the landfall. I may say that this is not, strictly speaking, a new theory. It is included in the theory of the North-east coast of Newfoundland. It is only a question of a very few miles between it and Bonavista, an absolute trifling distance when the whole breadth of the Atlantic ocean is considered. Cape St. John is a high and prominent headland, forming the northern point of Notre Dame Bay. It has received some importance in modern times from being the point fixed on by the treaty of Utrecht (1713) as the limit of the French fishing rights. The southeast point of what is known as the "French Shore." It is situated exactly on the parallel of 50° North Latitude. The line runs right through the bill of the Cape on the map. It is in longitude 56° 27' west, being thus just two degrees and a half, or about one hundred miles farther west than Bonavista. Hence Bonavista is a more important and prominent point for vessels coming from the eastwards. Hence it is, that although I believe Cabot first made land at Cape St. John, yet he afterwards fixed on the point now called Bonavista, as the signal point for voyagers from Europe, and to take a departure from on going eastwards. I am sure that John Cabot took special and particular bearings of this point. I believe it to be the point of which Socrates is speaking, when he says Cabot made certain signal marks (presert cert signa), and I feel confident that if we could find John Cabot's map, we should see this point (now called Bonavista) distinctly marked, and its latitude clearly and correctly given. Yet all this would not shake my belief in the view of his first having had sight of land at Cape St. John a few miles farther north.

FRONT OF ST. JOHN DE BAPTIST.

My reasons are briefly stated: firstly, the name. If there is one fact clearly handed down by tradition, it is that Cabot struck land on the coast of St. John the Baptist, June 24th, and gave the name of the saint to the land first seen. The name of St. John is to be seen at this point from the very earliest maps in our possession—Hiero, (1427), just thirty years after Cabot, and it is there to day. It is true that Cabot gave the name St. John, not to the mainland, but to an island off the shore; but it is quite a customary thing for names to be transferred from islands to the mainland opposite, and vice versa. It was thus that Prince Edward Island received, by mistake, as I stated before the name of St. John. It had been given by Cartier (1534) to a cape on Newfoundland shore, near Cape Anguille, and was transferred first to the Magdalen Islands opposite, and finally from these to the island afterwards (in 1719) called Prince Edward, after the visit of Edward, duke of Kent.

The island seen off the coast by Cabot is described on the Cabot map as a "large island"—"una ysla grande." There is no island off Cape Bonavista to correspond to this description. There are only some small islands or rocks, namely, Gull Island, Green Island, Stone Island, The Spillers, &c.; but not far from Cape St. John is the large island which bears to this day the remarkable name of "New-World-Island." The very name by which Cabot's New Land or New Isles, or New Found Isle, was frequently known. And quite near to this is the other large island which bears to-day the name of Pogo—a name found constantly on all the old maps.

Finally: in relation to the voyage of Verazano, which I mentioned before as having taken place in 1499, only twenty-six years after Cabot, it is stated in the chronicle that he came to the land formerly (in 1497) discovered by Cabot, which is in latitude 50°. That is, as I have shown above, the exact latitude of Cape St. John. Thus, then, taking the name and the latitude into account, I believe this point to have been the landfall; at all events, it shows that at that early period the tradition was in favor of Cape St. John, as the site of the landfall.

SIGNAL STATION AND OBSERVATORY.

In conclusion, I would say that I regard the idea of a Signal Station and Observatory on the site of the block house, as a most suitable memorial for the Cabot quarter-centenary. There can be no doubt that this country occupies the most important position—geographically, historically, and commercially—on the face of the globe. It is a half-way station on the great Atlantic highway, a thousand miles nearer to Europe than any other place in America. It is most important for astronomical, geodetical, and submarine observations; it is the landing-place of the great inter-continental cables; it is the jewel-clasp which binds the electric ring that encircles the zone of the earth; it is the starting point of the great exploration parties to the North Pole; and I have no doubt, that immediately upon the completion of our great railway sys-

tem, all these advantages will be acknowledged by the world. Some people seem to think that the proposed Cabot celebration is but a mere puerile and senseless demonstration; but such is not the case. We should, by this demonstration, beseeching to ourselves our merited place among the nations. A grand astronomical and meteorological station, and Signal Hill, connected by telephons with all the important points of the Island—Cape Spear, Cape Race, Cape Ray, Cape Norman, and Cape Bauld; and by telegraph and cable with all the principal sports and scientific centers in the world! Such a project would be no mere childish pageant, but would raise us at once to a high and important position. I have not the slightest doubt that in this matter we were properly and (let me say) unanimously set forth and supported by our people, we would receive immediate and generous assistance from outside countries. So much is its importance, as an observing station, already valued by America, that even now our small and insignificant observatory is, I mistake not, liberally subsidized by the Smithsonian Institute, and there can be no doubt that our newly proposed Cabot observatory, erected according to the latest and improved designs, and equipped with the best approved instruments and apparatus, would be liberally and eagerly supported by the government of America, and England, also, might hold forth a friendly hand towards us, and thus make some restitution for all she owes us on account of Treaty restrictions. The new observatory would be ornamental as well as useful. It would be a centre of practical study, of astronomy, of meteorology, and kindred sciences, for the youth of our various colleges and educational institutions, who would thereby be able to have practical experiments of the theoretical lectures received in their academical halls. It should also be adorned with a lofty and massive tower of our native granite, surmounting which would arise a colossal statue of Cabot, our discoverer add our patron, who would stretch out his protecting arm over our city and our coast; while from his brow should radiate a beacon bright, whose electric rays would flash across the bosom of the ocean, would be a guiding star to the approaching ship, over the tempest tossed billows to the haven of safety, and at the same time would enlighten the hearts of our people with noble aspirations, and fill with sentiments of patriotism and national pride, the minds of our countrymen for centuries to come.

(THE END.)

Obituary.

JAMES FARREL OF BARRIE. On Friday, 28th of May, the people of Barrie and especially the Catholic community were shocked and grieved beyond expression by the intelligence of the fatal accident near Huron Falls in which James Farrel was the victim.

Mr. Farrel was repairer of cars at this station, to which he had gone some ten days before, in the discharge of his duties, and while standing on a flat car, next to the engine, was (when for shunting purposes the rest of the halft train was moved from the van) a sudden jerk from the detached part of the train caused him to fall on the track, which resulted in his death.

His remains were at once brought to Barrie. His funeral took place on Sunday afternoon from St. Mary's Church to the Catholic Cemetery. It was one of the largest funerals ever seen in Barrie. About 200 G. T. R. employes attended in a body and led the funeral procession. They carried the C. M. B. A., over 50 in number, and of whom the deceased was a member.

The services at the church were conducted by Rev. Father Sweeney, who preached a most touching, eloquent and appropriate sermon.

Mr. Farrel was married nearly two years ago to Miss Cavanagh, daughter of Mr. P. Cavanagh of this parish. His grief-stricken young widow, who has been left with a child ten months old, has the heartfelt sympathy of the entire community.

No wonder that his devoted young wife is prostrated and that her family to whom he was a brother are grieved. Yet as St. Paul says: "They should not grieve like those who have no hope." His life is not all in vain. Farrel has acted from the conviction of one who realized in his life this principle. He and his wife were mouthy communicants. Even when he had been attending to his duties on Saturday night and even on Sunday morning he would not on any account miss Mass on Sunday. All honor to the family to which he belongs and to the parents that brought him up, for these are the only consolations that remain to them now.

Will people take a lesson from his life and from his death? That a lesson for the railway employes, who are so frequently, nay continually, in imminent danger! How many even of the members of the C. M. B. A. are true to their religious and society principles? Who amongst them are fitting for a sudden death? His death though sudden was not unprepared. His exemplary life, actuated by religious faith, was the best guarantee of this. Will his sudden death teach to railway employes and to all those who are careless about their salvation the lesson which it is calculated to teach? This short but imperfect notice is offered as a tribute to his memory and as a public expression of heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved widow, his parents and friends, by his pastor.

I have known him well, admired his sterling qualities of head and heart, his religious faith and fervent piety, which were as fresh and untainted on the day of his death as they were on the day on which he left his good parents in Ireland. Requiescat in pace. J. J. EGAN.

Honoring the Dead.

On Sunday the various divisions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians assembled in Red Lion Hall, Yonge street, and marched in procession to St. Michael's Cemetery. This is now an annual custom of the Hibernians, who pay tribute to the memory of their departed brethren by throwing flowers on their graves and offering prayers for their souls eternal rest. The cemetery was crowded, not by the Hibernians alone, but by others who came to mourn and pray for loved ones who are gone for ever. It was most pleasing to see those strangers joining with the Hibernians on banded knee and giving fervent utterance to the responses as Rev. Father Dollard read the prayers for the dead. A solemn yet cheering scene it was—one of those beautiful traits of the Irish, whose kindred, though it dwell still live in the deepest recesses of their hearts.

The graves visited by the Hibernians were those of Mousignor Rooney, Michael Murphy, Matthew Steedy, James McCarty, Michael Heffernan, Francis Sumner, John Shibley, John Kavanagh, Owen C. Joyce, Mortagh Moriarty, Patrick Muldoon, James Kelly, Richard Kees, Michael M'Mahon, William McCurry, Joseph Burke, John Flynn, John Grogan, Martin McMillan. May their souls rest in peace.

E. B. A.

ST. PETER'S BRANCH NO. 21, PETERBORO. The following resolutions were unanimously passed at the last regular meeting, May 27th:

Resolved—That we the members of the above branch do tender to our worthy President and family our heartfelt sympathy and condolence in this the hour of their sad affliction and pray that the Giver of all good may enable them to bear with Christian fortitude the loss they have sustained; and be it further

Resolved—That a copy of this resolution be sent to our worthy President spread on the minutes of last meeting, and a copy sent to the official organ for publication.

JOHN HANRAHAN, Rec. Sec.

Catholic Order Foresters.

The regular meeting of St. Leo Court, No. 581, was held in their hall, corner of Queen and McCaul streets, on last Wednesday evening and was well attended. Among the visiting brethren present were District Deputies J. Caderact and J. Mander. Two new members were balloted for, and several applications for membership were received. A communication was received inviting its members to attend the Sunday, June 13th, for Musical Vespers, and the new organ which has recently been completed for the Church will also be blessed. The invitation was unanimously accepted and all members notified to attend. It was also decided to take part in the celebration on June 22nd in honor of the Queen's Jubilee. Short addresses were then delivered by District Deputies J. Mander and J. Caderact, complimenting the court on their increase in membership and also on the expeditious manner in which they transact their business.

J. J. NIGHTINGALE, C.R.

A THANK OFFERING.

A CLERGYMAN WRITES ON BEHALF OF GRATEFUL PEOPLE.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Restored Their Health and They Wish Other Sufferers to Know It—A Letter that Will Bring Hope to Many—No Other Medicine Cures Such Voluntary Pains.

The following letter written by the Rev. Wm. Lawson, Methodist minister at Richibucto, N. B., attests in the strongest manner the merits of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and a personal of it will suggest why this great medicine is so popular throughout thousands of homes throughout the Dominion—it cures when other medicines fail.

Richibucto, N. B., April 26th, 1897. Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.

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Here you have three members of a family restored to health by the use of your medicine, and you would almost covet their good health and genial ways largely resulting from such health. They wish you to freely use those facts to help other sufferers, and I am able as their pastor to certify to the facts above stated.

Sincerely yours, Wm. Lawson, Methodist Minister.

Pill Clothes. The good pill has a good coat. The pill coat serves two purposes: it protects the pill, and it is soft to the sensitive palate. Some coats are too brittle and won't dissolve, and the pills they cover will irritate the system, harmless as a broad pill. Others are too light, and permit the speedy disintegration of the pill. After 30 years' experience, Ayer's Cathartic Pills have been found to be the best. They are made in the laboratory. It's a good pill, with a good coat. Ask your druggist for Ayer's Cathartic Pills.

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LATEST MARKETS. TORONTO, June 8, 1897. Very little grain was offered on the street this morning. Wheat—Easy; one load selling at 76c for red, and 61c for goose. Oats—Steady, 300 bushels selling at 24c to 26c. Hay and Straw—Supply light, 10 loads of hay selling at \$11 to \$12, and 2 loads of straw at \$7. Spencian Pens. THE STANDARD AMERICAN BRAND, Made in Birmingham, England, for over forty years. Samples for trial on receipt of return postage. SPENCERIAN CO., 490 Broomfield Street, NEW YORK. BOECKH'S BRUSHES AND BROOMS. Sental. A. McLEARN, DENTIST, 245 YONGE ST. FIRST. Class \$10 sets teeth for \$5. 860 PARLIAMENT ST.

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