

O F C A N A D A



CANADA is bounded on the North, with *Cortierialis*; on the South, with *New-Eng-lands* on the East, with the Main Ocean; the Countries lying on the West, either not yet discovered, or not perfectly known. So called from the River *Canada*, the greatest, not of this Province only, but of all this *Peninsula*. A River which hath its Fountain in the undiscovered parts of this Northern Tract: sometimes enlarged into great Lakes, and presently reduced to a narrower channell, with many great windings and *Reacher* in it. Having embosomed almost all the rest of the Rivers of this Countrey, it emptieth it self into the Great Bay of St. *Lawrence*, over against the Isle of *Assumption*; being at the mouth 40 Leagues in breadth, and 150 Fathom deep.

It is also called *Nova Francia* from the *French*, who following the tract of *Cabot*, and *Cortierialis*, made a further Discovery of these parts, and planted several Colonies in them. The businesse first undertaken by *Jaques Cartier*, An. 1534. received here gladly by the *Natives* with singing, dancing, and expressing much signe of joy: pursued by *Monsieur Roberval*, sent thither in the year 1542. by King *France* the first, not onely to discover the Countrey, but to plant some parts of it, who built there a fair Fortresse for his greater safety: followed therein by divers others of that Nation, in their several times.

The nature of the soil, and people, we shall best discover in the several parts of it; each differing from one another, and so not easily conformed to a general *Character*. Look we now onely on the principal Rivers of the whole, 1 *Canada*, of which before, 2 *Pemegonet* or *Norumbegue*, as some call it, of which more hereafter. 3 *Quimbeque* falling into the Ocean as the others do, 4 *Rio S. Johan*, ending its course in a large Bay called *Bay Francoise*, interposed betwixt *Nova Scotia* and the rest of this Countrey. 5 *Les trois Rivièrs*, which rising far north, and passing thorow two great Lakes, falleth into the *Canada*, 6 *Saguenay*, of the same Original Course, and Fall. A River of so strong a Current, that it suffreth not the Sea to flow up its Channel: so deep, that in many places it attaineth to 100 Fathoms; and though but narrow at the mouth, yet groweth it broader and broader upwards; and having received many lesser streams, looseth it self at last, where the other doth.

It containeth in it the several Regions of *Nova Francia*, specially so called, 2 *Nova Scotia*, 3 *Norumbegue*, and 4 the *Isles* adjoining.

1. **NOVA FRANCIA** specially so named, is situate on the South of *Cortierialis*, and on the North of the great River *Canada*, towards the East; but on both sides of it, in the Western and more in-land parts. The Countrey naturally full of Stags, Bears, Hares, *Martenes* and Foxes, whose flesh the People did eat raw (till more civilized) having first dried it either in the smoak or Sun, as they do their Fish. They have also store of Conies, Fowle and Fish great plenty; one Fish more memorable than the rest, which they call *Aduincl*, whose body and head is like that of a Grey-hound. But their greatest Jewels are their Chains of *Esfurgnie*; a shell-fish of the whitest colour, excellent for the stanching of blood: which they fashion into Beads and Bracelets, and so wear, or sell them. Not very plentiful of fruits, or fit for tillage; yet it becedeth some Corn, and of pulse good plenty. The Aire more cold than in other Countreies of like height, partly by reason of the greatnesse of the River, which being wholly of fresh water, and so large withall, chilleth the Aire on both sides of it; partly because of the abundance of Ice, and those hills of snow, which the north-winde passeth over in the way to this Countrey.

The People, when the *French* first discovered them, very rude and barbarous; few of them furnished with houses, but removing from one place to another, as their food decayed; and carrying all their goods with them (a thing easily done) upon those removes. Such as lived towards the Sea, or the greater Rivers, somewhat better housed. For in the day time they fish in their *Boats*, which they draw unto the Land at night, and turning them upside down, sleep under them. As ill appavelled as housed; for they went all naked, except a little piece of skin before their *Privities*. Some of them had their heads quite shaven, excepting one Bush of hair on the top of the Crown; which they suffered to grow to the length of an horses Tail, tied up with Leather-strings in a knot. Each man allowed his two or three wives apiece; and they so constant to their Husband, that they never marry after his death, but keep themselves continually in a mourning habit: a vizard as it were, made of grease and Coal-dust, which they spread over all their bodies. The women labour more than the men, both in fishing and husbandry; digging the ground insted of Ploughing, with certain pieces of wood, where they sow their *Maize* (a Plant of which they make their bread, in most parts of *America*.) *Idolaters* in general before the coming of the *French*, as they are most of them at this day, the *French* and others which have planted in these Northern parts, having added little more unto *Christianity*, than by the Colonies they brought with them. Yet in the midst of this darkness they saw so much light, as to believe that when they died they went immediately to the *Stars*; from thence conveyed to certain green and pleasant fields, full of flowers and fruits. Plain Evidence that they believed the immortality of the soul, and that there was some place appointed for reception of it.

The chief towns of it at that time, 1. *Hochelaga*, round in figure, compassed about with three Courses