

Indians are thinly scattered over the interior. The exports, which are chiefly through Newfoundland, are codfish, salmon, seal and whale oil and furs. Once the country was rich in fur bearing animals and cariboo or reindeer, but these are now greatly reduced in numbers. Of the eastern side hardly anything is known beyond the coast which has been carefully surveyed by Capt. Bayfield. Before his day it was on this bleak and dangerous coast that the great navigator, Captain Cook, first displayed those talents as a marine surveyor which gained for him the patronage of Sir Hugh Palliser, and drew public attention to his extraordinary enterprise. His charts of Newfoundland, Labrador, and the Straits of Belleisle are, to this day, a convincing proof of his fidelity, genius and discernment.

The Indians who inhabit the interior of Labrador are all tribes of the once great Algonquin race, whose domains extended, before the arrival of the "pale-faces," from the Rocky Mountains to Newfoundland, and from Labrador to the Carolinas. The aborigines of Newfoundland belonged to this wide spread race of red men. The Montagnais, or Mountaineers as they are commonly called, occupied the country along the lower St. Lawrence and the Gulf: the Scoffis, Naskapees and Mistassini are the Algonquins of Labrador proper, and coterminous with the Esquimaux. The Mountaineers, or "Hunting Indians" of Labrador, once formed a "great nation," and could bring into the field a thousand warriors to repel the incursions of the Esquimaux with whom they were constantly at war, and for whom they have still a bitter hatred and contempt.

They are slothful when not excited by war or the chase, cruel, revengeful and superstitious. Nearly all of them, like the Micmacs of Nova Scotia, profess the Roman Catholic faith; but they have imbibed little of the spirit of Christianity. They bring down furs to the settlements on the coast, and exchange them for ammunition and clothing. In the use of firearms they are very expert; but they are frequently compelled, by a scarcity of ammunition, to recur for support to their original

weapons, the bow and arrow, and with these they can kill a flying partridge at forty yards distance. Their canoes are made of birch-bark, and their sledges of a thin birch board, shod with slips of bone. The Mountaineers draw their own sledges, as their dogs are but small and used only for the purpose of hunting.

The Esquimaux of Labrador live almost entirely by fishing. They are partially Christianized and civilized through the praiseworthy exertions of Moravian missionaries. They exchange furs, oil and whalebone for ammunition, guns and clothing at the European settlements. They are mild, hospitable and honest. They are well provided with a peculiar breed of dogs, voracious and fierce, and so like wolves that they might easily be mistaken for these animals. In winter the Esquimaux travel with these dogs over the snow at the rate of from six to ten miles an hour; each sledge is drawn by ten or twelve dogs yoked two and two, a pair of the most sagacious being placed in front as leaders, and the whole guided by a long whip, without reins, the lash extending to the foremost dogs. Their huts are, in winter, embanked with turf and moss, excepting a small casement of oiled seal skin at the top. Without any fire but a lamp, these inhabitants are as warm as an oven. The passionate attachment of the Esquimaux to their frozen seas and icy plains is wonderful. They infinitely prefer their storm-beaten shores to the gentle waves and cerulean skies of more temperate regions. It is clear that they are a totally different race from the Red Indians of America. The Esquimaux are stunted in stature and essentially Mongolian in physiognomy, having a flattened nose, prominent profile and copper-colored skin. It is remarkable that the Esquimaux is the only family common to the Old World and the New.

During the brief Labrador summer the whole coast, for five hundred miles north of the Straits of Belleisle, swarms with fishermen from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and the United States. They are engaged in the capture and cure of cod, salmon and herring. The total value of these fisheries is not less than a million sterling. Most