

law holds good that great men have always mothers above the common level, in regard to intellect and worth, then the mother of four such sons must have been a grand woman indeed, although no record of her personal character has been preserved. Thus Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Humphrey Gilbert were half brothers. Young Raleigh was brought up on the pleasant farm of Hayes; while Gilbert and his two brothers dwelt in the quaint, gloomy towers of Compton Castle, amid the apple orchards of Torbay. There still stands the ruins of this old castle, near Brixham, where William of Orange first set his foot on British soil. Amid the soft beauty of Torbay, within sight of the pestless sea, in which he was destined to find a grave, young Humphrey Gilbert grew up. Torbay has long been noted for its lovely scenery—its parks full of grand old oaks, chestnut trees and stately elms—its rich red fallow fields—its apple orchards bursting into flower as summer approaches—its pebbly beach kissed by the waves, and its rounded hills gently sloping to the sea. In that favored spot, the flowers of autumn meet the flowers of spring, and the old year lingers smiling to twine a garland for the new. This was the beautiful home of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, first colonizer of Newfoundland; and here he grew in the simple and manly but high bred ways of English gentlemen of the Elizabethan period.

Having come to man's estate he embraced the profession of arms, fought bravely and won distinction in Continental and Irish wars; and in his mature age he and his still more distinguished half-brother, Sir Walter Raleigh, formed the design of colonizing the island of Newfoundland, first of all, and then the neighboring continent and islands. Hence it came that on the 5th of August, 1583, he was standing on the beach of St. John's harbor. His design was grand, and worthy of a patriotic, heroic nobleman.

But how inscrutable to us are the ways of Providence? His expedition, so nobly planned and so ably conducted, met only with disappointment and finally disaster. He was the first to issue the laws by which the fisheries were for a long time afterwards regulated. He established the English laws, constitution and church government; made it penal for any one to attempt anything prejudicial to the new dominion; and levied contributions on all fishing vessels. But the task of founding a colony on the rugged shores of Newfoundland was no easy one with the materials at hand. Among the adventurers on board his little squadron were

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