

CANADIAN HISTORY NOTES.

CHAPTER I.

SKETCH TO END OF FRENCH PERIOD.

PERIOD OF DISCOVERY.

Although the **Norwegians** visited America at a very early period, the real discoverer of the "New World" was **Christopher Columbus**. On his return to Spain, the story of his notable voyage quickly spread to the various courts of Europe; and England, France, Portugal and Holland hastened to claim a share in the expected gains. Each chose its own **field**, and each had a different **object** in its work of colonization.

The Spaniards claimed the West Indies and the surrounding lands, and, cruelly oppressing the people, yearly sent home a treasury of **gold**.

The English colonists, who settled along the Atlantic seaboard, came to secure **a home and religious freedom**. They tilled the soil, made friends with the Indians, and soon were self-supporting.

The French selected Acadia and the valley of the St. Lawrence, and devoted their attention to **exploration, fur-trading and missionary work**. The earliest French discoverer was **Verazzani**,

Canada-1897