

Anticosti when he gave them Cain for a heritage. However that may be, it is certain that while other wilds of the earth yield to man's conquest, these vast wastes remain ever void and empty. The Indians called the island Naticotte, the country of wailing,—and under the modern corruption of Anticosti, it has added to its terrible renown. Its whole history, from the day it was discovered by Jacques Cartier in 1534 to the present, is a record of human suffering. Here and there, however, there is a tale of heroism worthy of a nobler scene.

THE "LOCK OF HAIR" FRANC.

THOSE who deal in odd coins will be pleased to learn that in Paris the other day some of the "lock-of-hair" five franc pieces were sold at \$48 each. Immediately after the *coup d'état* Napoleon ordered the coinage of silver with his effigy; a die was prepared and a proof sent. On examining it closely he was dissatisfied with the curl of one lock of hair upon the temple and sent it back to the mint with directions to have the defect altered. The messenger reached the mint just as the director, taking silence to mean assent, had ordered the working men to begin striking off the five franc pieces. Before the order was countermanded a few pieces—twenty-three, the legend says—had been minted, and, as may naturally be supposed, these pieces *a la mèche* have a peculiar value for numismatists. Through a somewhat similar error, some British colonial postage stamps have a fabulous value. When their printing was ordered the stamps of the lower denomination were to be printed in blue and those of the higher denomination in red. A stupid pressman transposed his orders, and so it happened that a few sheets of red penny