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THE

Nova-Scotia Magazine,

For August, 1789.

EXTRACTS RELATIVE TO THE HISTORY OF BRITISH AMERICA.

ACCOUNT OF CANADA :^a

Chiefly from the Abbé Raynal.

FRANCIS I. had sent out Verazani,^b a Florentine, in 1523, who only took a view of the island of Newfoundland, and some coasts of the continent; but made no stay there.

Eleven years after, James Cartier, a skilful navigator of St. Malo, resumed the projects of Verazani. The two nations, which had at first landed in America, exclaimed against the injustice of treading in their footsteps. *What!* said Francis I. *pleasantly, shall the kings of Spain and Portugal quietly divide all America between them, without suffering me to take a share as their brother? I would fain see the article of Adam's will that bequeaths that vast inheritance to them.* Cartier proceeded farther than his predecessor. He went up the river St. Lawrence; but, after having bartered some European commo-

ditities with the savages for some of their furs, he re-embarked for France; where an undertaking, which seemed to have been entered upon merely from imitation, was neglected from levity.

It happened fortunately that the Normans, the Britons, and the Biscayans, continued to carry on the cod-fishery on the great sand-bank along the coasts of Newfoundland, and in all the adjacent latitudes. These intrepid and experienced men served as pilots to the adventurers who, since the year 1598, have attempted to settle colonies in those desert regions. None of those first settlements prospered, because they were all under the direction of exclusive companies, which had neither abilities to chuse the best situation, nor a sufficient stock to wait for their returns. One mo-

^a Canada. The original of the name is uncertain; some say it was named from Monsieur Cane, who early sailed into that river: If so, O caprice! why should so obscure a man (his voyage is not even mentioned in history) give name to New-France, as it is called? Douglass's Summary of the British settlements in North America. Vol. 1. p. 91. Ed. 1760.

^b Verazani, a Florentine, in the King of France's service (Francis I. was an active prince), coasted along the east side of North America, and went ashore in several places; according to the humour of those times, took a nominal possession for France, from 37 D. the mouth of Chesapeake-Bay; to 50 D. N. lat. the mouth of the river St. Lawrence, so called, because first discovered on that saint's day; he sailed up the river St. Lawrence. Two ships

from England sailed up that river, anno 1527. J. Cartier, a native of St. Malo, made two voyages to this river, anno 1534 and 1535, he proceeded so far as Montreal, and called the country New-France. Anno 1542, Roberval from Rochelle carried thither a few people to settle; they did not continue their settlements. Secretary Walsingham of England, being informed of an opening south of Newfoundland, fitted out Sir Humphrey Gilbert; he sailed up St. Lawrence river, and took possession for the crown of England. Anno 1604, Henry IV. of France made further discoveries in L'Acadie, now Nova-Scotia; and in Canada or New-France he planted a colony which subsists to this day, 1747; may it not subsist long; it is a nuisance to our North-American settlements; delenda est Cathago. Ibid.