

as before was noted, and lay in such shoals upon the Coasts, that the Bears caught them with their claws & drew them on land. The Government at that time by Kings, before whom the people in the most formal expressions of duty and reverence used to rub their Noses, or stroke their foreheads: which if the King observed, or accepted of, and meant to grace the party which had so adored him, he turned his head to his left shoulder, as a mark of favour.

The first Discoverers of this Countrey (but not known then to be an Island) were the two *Cabots*, *John*, and his son *Sebastian*, employed herein by *Henry* the 7th. 1497. as before was noted. The business being laid aside at his coming back, was afterwards revived by *Thorn* and *Eliot*, two of *Bristol*: who taking a more perfect view of it than was took by the *Cabots*, ascribed to themselves the discovery of it, and animated King *Henry* the 8. unto the enterprize: which was done *An*. 1527. but with ill success. In the mean time the *Normans*, *Portugals*, and *Britons* of *France* had resorted to it; and changed the names which by the *English* had been given to the Bayes and Promontories. But the *English* would not so relinquish their pretensions to the *Premier Seisin*. And therefore in the year 1583. Sir *Humphrey Gilbert* took possession of it in the name of the Queen of *England*, interdicted all other Nations the use of fishing, and intended to have settled there an *English* Colony. But being wracked in his return, the sending of the Colony was discontinued till the year 1608. when undertook by *John Guy* a Merchant of *Bristol*, who most successfully performed it: the Colony so prospering in a little time, that they had Wheat, Rye, Turneps, Coleworts, of their own sowing; some probability of Metals, a certainty of *Sables*, *Musk*, and other precious Commodities, besides their fishing; though that the great occasion of their settling there. Such plenty is there found of Ling and Cod-fish, all about the Coasts, that ordinarily our men take 200. or 300 of them within four hours space; which they convey from hence to all parts of *Europe*.



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