

STORY OF METHODISM IN BONAVISTA DISTRICT

CHAPTER I.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE TOWN AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS.

"History makes haste to record great deeds, but often neglects good ones."—Hosea Ballou.

"O good sight!" shouted the Venetian sailors of the stout ship *Matthew*, commanded by that intrepid explorer, John Cabot the Italian, who sailed from historic Bristol under royal charter of Henry VII. to discover new lands. No wonder their hearts were glad on that memorable June 24th, 1497, when they saw the promontory now known as Cape Bonavista. Little did those Italian sailors, as they shouted in their native tongue, "Buona-vista," imagine that for centuries to come, the land which they then hailed with delight, after a long and tedious voyage; and the uninhabited land adjacent to the bright waters of that beautiful bay, would be the home of thousands, who in coming generations would glory in the euphonious name of Bonavista. When John Cabot sailed from Bristol under the sanction and patronage of Henry VII., he carried with him Letters Patent, or Royal Commission, to erect upon any land that he should fortunately discover, the Royal Standard of the English nations. When the brave sailors stepped ashore, the story goes, they hauled up their boats at a place now known by the name of Keels, which tradition emphasizes, took its name from the rubbing of the keels of the good ship *Matthew's* boats upon the rocks. Whether that be so or not, no one lives to contradict it. While the intrepid sailors' feet touched the land it was to them, terra-incognita, land unknown. But the greatest consideration to them was that it was New-found-land. The fabled story, or otherwise, says, that the happy discoverers moved on to another cove, now known as King's Cove and there raised the