

in the glorious inheritance acquired for Spain by the Genoese mariner. In England the wars of the Roses were now at an end the regal pretensions of York and Lancaster were united in the person of Henry the 7th by his marriage, the ancient aristocracy of the land had almost perished, the crown, as always happens after a civil war, was strengthened, and the people weary of bloodshed, resigned in a great measure their liberties into the hands of the Tudor Sovereigns, and only looked for repose. The Italians almost monopolized the American discoveries, and two brothers of the name of Cabota, Venetians, resided in Bristol; they offered their services to Henry 7th to make discoveries in the Northern Ocean, and find perhaps a passage to India by that route; the offer was accepted, and on the 20th of June, 1497. Sebastian Cabota, or as his name was anglicised, Cabot, discovered Newfoundland, and gave the name of Bona Vista, happy sight, or view, to the Cape he first sighted, which Italian appellation it retains to the present day. He returned the same year and brought with him three of the Natives of the Island, a race which has now been cruelly exterminated. I here pause to say a few words of the Aborigines of the country. It was supposed at first that this interesting people were the descendants of the Northmen of whom I have spoken; the science of Ethnology however proves this not to be the fact—the skulls of these people showed them to belong to the American or Mongolian race, and not to the Caucasian of which the Northmen were a branch; a semi-civilised people may become savage, but never so change the form of the cranium as to acquire the characteristics of another race, until entirely absorbed by generations of intermarriage. It may be that a little of the Northern blood mixed in the aboriginal stream, but all traces of it were soon lost. We know they called themselves Beothks, that they painted themselves with red ochre, as the Britons of old with woad, and hence they were called by the settlers Red Indians. They were clothed in robes of skin, their arms were the bow and arrow and spear, like those of all uncivilised nations. They lived by hunting and preserved the flesh of the deer by bucanning. They made enormous fences such as are used in Ceylon to entrap elephants, sometimes extending as far as 30 miles and converging to a point where the deer in their migrations were obliged to pass, thus they were enabled to kill large quantities which served them for food and raiment. Their huts are represented as comfortable, and capable of lodging several families. Of their religion we know nothing, but something like a carved human head is said to have been found in one of their houses, which would lead us to believe that they practised a species of idolatry. A Florentine writer, Buceccai, in 1560, in