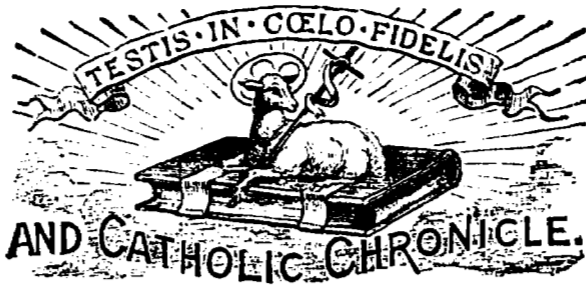


The True

SUPPLEMENT TO



Witness

MONTREAL, JANUARY 20, 1892.

CABOT.

THE POINTS WHERE HE LANDED.

The Claims of Newfoundland and Labrador as regards the 1st and 2nd Voyages—Hudson's Straits Visited.

When Columbus was making charts of the world as a means of livelihood he dreamed of a country which he thought was a prolongation of the eastern shore of Asia. He lived to discover the land of his dreams but it was not a continuation of Asia. It was a new continent, stretching north and south from the Arctic to the Antarctic Circles. In like manner that other discoverer of renown, John Cabot, found another land than that which he expected. From over the waters of the great undiscovered seas there came to Cabot a vision of a country in which were blowing spicy breezes, and where silk, Brazil wood, gold and precious gems were in profusion. In his first voyage, 1497, he sought the land of his dream. The object of his second voyage, a year later had for its end the same. In these voyages Cabot discovered a land which gave him a conspicuous place as a discoverer. His discoveries, like most great events, have caused considerable controversy. This is in part due to the lack of facility or failure to appreciate the importance of such events by the chroniclers of the period in question.

In the Magazine of American History, the Right Rev. M. F. Howley, D.D., F.A.S., has undertaken to settle the question as to the landfall of Cabot. There is much in the article that is argumentative, the writer having made the assertion in the opening paragraph that he proposed to establish his point before he let go. He has certainly done so to his satisfaction, at least. Dr. Howley is a Newfoundlander, and as he says in the tradition which has been held from time immemorial that "Bonavista, happy sight," was the landfall. And from that point of land a proceeds to establish his claim that somewhere in that section, on the coast of Newfoundland, John Cabot ran up the standards of England and of Venice or St. Mark. Leaving to the author his own well-arranged arguments, it is only necessary to present the story of voyages of an Italian who came so near getting the crown that rests on the brow of Columbus. The patent or commission of Henry VII. to

JOHN CABOT

and his three sons, Louis, Sebastian and Sanctus, is dated March 5, 1495, old style. The expedition did not set out at once, for even in those days there were quarrels between nations. Spain, so slow to give encouragement to its own enterprising discoverers, had, through its Ambassador at the English court, instigated intrigues by which the sailing of a Cabot expedition was delayed until the following year. The first Cabot expedition, consisting of one small ship, the "Matthew," left Bristol May 3, 1497. It consisted of eighteen men, and was commanded by John Cabot. As stated in a preceding paragraph, chronicles were not very full in those days but uncertain. That all accounts of the first voyage of Cabot are meagre. Enough is known, and this is in accord with the article by Dr. Howley, to state with certainty that Cabot sailed east from Bristol, rounded the southeast coast of Ireland, bent to the north, and after a few days left the north in his right hand and began to sail west. His voyage consumed three months' time. On the return there was living in London a Venetian merchant, Lorenzo Biscagnolo, who wrote to his brothers in Venice that "our countryman," meaning Cabot, had returned from a voyage, and that 700 leagues west he had discovered land. A letter from Don Raimondo Sordani, envoy of the Duke of Milan at the court of Henry VII. of England, was written about the same time as the one referred to above. The envoy was well acquainted with the Cabots. Raimondi wrote: "Some months since his Majesty sent a Venetian who is a great navigator and who has great skill in discovering new isles. He has returned safe and sound after having discovered two isles, very large and fertile. He places the discovery of the new land at 400 leagues from the west coast of Ireland. There are conflicting statements respecting this voyage, or the result of it, but all accounts agree that the first discovered on the voyage was that which now appears on the maps as Cape Farewell, on the lower points of Greenland. This being a bleak and barren spot, also a headland, Cabot believed there was

AN OPEN OCEAN

still to the westward. He pushed on some three hundred leagues and again discovered land. This must have been either Labrador or Newfoundland. Dr. Howley is quite sure that the land was Newfoundland. It was discovered June 2, and was called by Cabot, St. John. The day of discovery was on St. John's day. From all the data obtainable, they are in support of the landfall of the first voyage, being on the east coast of Newfoundland. Old maps which are not regarded as accurate as one could wish, are also in support of this claim. The Discoverer returned by the same course. In 1498 the second voyage was made and we have something more tangible about that. In it we have some allusions to latitude which did not appear in the first account. It is agreed that Cabot in his second expedition had in view the same object that prompted him in the first, that was to find a passage to Cipango and Cathay, the imaginary land

of spices, of the silk and Brazil wood, of the gold and precious gems. Hence he made for the same place at which he discovered land on the previous voyage. This is made indisputable by a letter from Raimondi of Dec. 10, 1497, in which occur these words: "He (meaning Cabot) intends starting from the point already occupied the previous year, to go farther toward the east (meaning the west), coasting along all the time." This second expedition started on the beginning of May, 1498. It consisted of six vessels and 300 men. From all descriptions of the adventures of this second expedition, encountering large quantities of ice, days that were almost perpetual, the nights being very bright, the conclusion is inevitable that Cabot in his second voyage went very far north, near the seventieth degree of latitude. Raimondi, one of the writers of that voyage, says Cabot went as far north as 67°. Another writer, Gomara, wrote: "They went beyond or above

THE CAPE OF LABRADOR

that is, Cape Chidley or Chudley, and even went farther than that—to the

Fortune, Cortereal, Fuego, Aveo, or Bird Island, Bonavista, Bonaventure, Buccalaos, Bay of Conception, St. Francis, Cape Spear, Fermeuse, Renouse, Cape Race (or De Rasso), St. Mary's, Cape Pine, Bay Despoir; and after these, coming to the island of Cape Breton, we have St. Paul's, Cape Smoky (Fumoso), Cape Breton, etc. As these names occur on those early maps shortly after Cabot's discovery, so do they exist to-day. There is no vestige of Prima Vista, no suspicion of a knowledge of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, or the island of St. John (Prince Edward Island), so that until stronger proof be forthcoming it would be unreasonable, on such a doubtful one as this supposed map of Cabot, to upset the traditions which have been held unbroken for so many centuries, and which are founded on the most authentic records in our possession.

Important to Rich Men.

A rich man holds his wealth simply as a trustee between his maker and humanity. Unless he wants to become the slave of his money he must give it freely

HORRIBLE MASSACRE

OF CHRISTIANS IN CHINA.

Native Fanatics in Insurrection Attack and Murder Missionaries and Christians Promiscuously.

Readers of the daily newspapers have recently been shocked at the accounts which have been published of the massacre of Christians in China by a band of native fanatics. At first the news received was of a very meagre character; and its authenticity was doubted. Now, however, it turns out that the terrible intelligence was only too true, as the following official despatch from the British minister will show:

"A revolt has broken out in the west of Jehol, which is situated near the Great Wall. It is being carried on by brigands, who have always been very numerous in the southern portion of the province of

country, ruthlessly massacring priests and nuns wherever they find them. At the demand of England, the Chinese Government has undertaken to adopt measures to secure protection to Europeans resident in the empire.

A Mother's Prayer.

There was a young soldier in the French army who, when he went to war, had most earnestly asked for the prayers of his mother. It was the last request he made her when he left home, and every letter she received from him was sure to express this same pious desire: "Do not forget to pray for me." She did not forget to do what he asked, but prayed for him morning and evening. One Wednesday afternoon his mother had it most strongly impressed upon her mind—she could not tell why or how, but so it was—that her son was in great danger, and that she ought to pray for him at once. And accordingly she did so; and went on praying for him, still having the same feeling for more than an hour. In process of time she had a letter from her

LA GRIPPE

AND HOW TO ESCAPE IT.

A Timely Article That May Save Many an Ache as Well as Doctor's Bills.

Deaths from La Grippe are occasionally recorded, and the idea is quite prevalent that it often threatens life. Alone there is not much danger from it except where the recuperative powers are low, as in individuals prostrated by other diseases, or in childhood and old age. Under better conditions, when death results it can almost always be attributed to other and graver diseases that occur during its course.

PNEUMONIA FOLLOWS IN THE WAKE.

Pneumonia is one of the most serious of these complications, and it would seem as though the relationships between it and La Grippe was a near one. It is doubtful, however, if they are even distantly related. Why, then, are they so often associated? This question has never been satisfactorily answered. Pneumonia, like La Grippe, is probably a germ disease. Moreover, certain investigators have found that what are accepted by many to be the germs of pneumonia abound in an atmosphere with the germs that they have thought to be those of La Grippe. If this is so, the frequent grave complication is easily accounted for. Hence, in the presence of an epidemic like La Grippe, when a host of powerful germs are floating about, it becomes all persons to look well to their means of defense, and strengthen them in every possible way.

The first important step is to see that all the vital organs are in condition to do their work easily and promptly. Commencing with the stomach, more than likely it will be found that this organ has been somewhat overtaxed, and if so, the most of others will be more or less sluggish. The remedy is easy; reduce the quantity of food and take only what is necessary to maintain health and strength. Restrict the diet, also, to substances that are nourishing and easy digestible.

Open also all the waste avenues, and in this way relieve the more or less congested organs and quicken their functional activity. If constipation exists, a laxative—as Hunyadi water—should be taken every morning, on rising, in half a pint of hot water.

EXERCISE AND PURE AIR.

Nothing can favor and strengthen nature's means of defense against disease more than exercise in pure air; therefore a brisk walk of from two to four miles should be taken each day; and as a matter of fact, so potent is this measure, when the disease is coming on it can often be aborted by a walk in heavy clothing, prolonged until a free perspiration has been produced.

The living, working and sleeping rooms should be kept well ventilated, for if the air breathed is impure the blood for the time being must inevitably be more or less impure, and the tone and resistance of the body lowered in consequence.

It should be borne in mind that the skin is not merely a covering for the body, but is an organ of vital importance; and unless it is kept in order, good health is simply impossible. Frequent bathing and friction with a coarse towel or flannel should be the rule. As a means of prevention, tepid sponge baths are better than full baths; and they should be taken just before retiring.

If the skin is chilled it is crippled for a time; hence, in order to prevent this accident, it should be covered with woolen undergarments. As to the outer clothing, that should be the lightest possible, consistent with comfort; then exercise will be encouraged, whereas an excess of coverings must interfere with it.

Chilling of the feet is another danger which cannot be too strongly emphasized, for it is one of the influences that most frequently invite the occurrence of La Grippe as well as all other acute diseases of the air passages. Thick woollen stockings, thick boots, with thick soles, and walking exercise are the surest preventives against it.

A word as to alcoholic stimulants. They have been often prescribed in La Grippe, and not unnaturally, the idea is quite general that they are efficient preventives. Far from such happy effect, they render one much more liable to this disease, because of the depression which is inevitable after their use.

In these few simple hints are embodied the measures that are the greatest assistance to nature in warding off La Grippe. They are certainly easily employed, and those who try them may feel assured that they have done their best to strengthen their defenses, and that they will make a good fight if attacked.

Considering the fact that complications, in the form of grave diseases, are liable to occur during La Grippe, also, that that even in mild attacks there is often very much prostration and nervous shock, that leaves the victim greatly debilitated for a long time, it is obvious that the proper treatment should be applied early in every case. Also that such treatment should be entrusted to a physician. This is the only wise and safe course for the victims of the disease to pursue.

Magistrate: What are your means of support? Prisoner facetiously: Well, last night the policeman, was, your worship.

Flossie looking up from her history: Well, what I don't understand about Columbus discovering America is how he knew it was America when he'd never seen it before.



MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS IN CHINA.

sixty-seventh degree toward the pole into Hudson's Strait." It is stated that encountering so much floating ice the men in the expedition became disoriented and Cabot was obliged to put about and return to Baccalaos, the place of landfall, either Labrador or Newfoundland. Thence he coasted along southwardly and westwardly as far as Cuba until, as Peter Martyr says, he reached the latitude of the Straits of Hercules (Gibraltar), and he went so far as to have the Island of Cuba on his left hand, whence he returned to England. The author of the article in question is certain from all data within his reach, and it must be confessed that there appears to be a good deal of it, that had Cabot coasted northward on his second voyage he would have discovered the Gulf of St. Lawrence and gone up the St. Lawrence River, thus robbing Jacques Cartier of the glory he achieved later. In conclusion, the assertion that Cabot's landfall was somewhere on the east coast of Newfoundland, about latitude 49 or 50, is substantiated by the great number of names, occurring in the exact order that is given on the earliest maps; as for example, Labrador,

until he feels that there is some sacrifice in the giving. My observation for a great many years has led me to have a strong opinion on that subject. It is for the good of the man himself that he should look at the subject from this point of view. I do not believe there is much philanthropy or charity in providing that your money shall be given after death, when you are unable to hold it. Better give of your means as you go along through life, leaving of your wealth to others who after your will, in the exercise of their stewardship, follow the same course.—Dr. Willis Jones.

Applicant: Did you advertise for an engraver. Jeweller: What experience? Applicant: I've engraved more people than any other undertaker in the West-End.

The Apostles who lived with Our Lord continually, and who were imbued with His spirit, are recorded to have had asked only two spiritual things of Him—prayer and faith. "Increase our faith," and "Teach us to pray." How much is implied in this!—Faber.

Potehill, and who are, in the present uprising unquestionably supported by the secret societies, and probably also by the Mahomedan Chinese of Mongolia. It is stated that the insurrection has attained considerable proportions, that two or three large cities have been taken, that several hundred natives, several of whom were Christians, have been massacred. There is, however, no confirmation, as yet, of the report that Europeans have been butchered. Six thousand soldiers, under the command of the principal officer of the province, have been sent by the Government to put down the revolt; and they will succeed in this object. Sensational reports are being circulated every day, but up to the present they do not appear to be founded on fact. There is a British gunboat at Tien Tsin, and another at Ichang. Up to the time of writing there has been received no disquieting news from the Yang Tse region.

Later despatches announce that the rebels have been completely routed, and that Manchuria has been proclaimed in a state of siege. Small bands of them, however, are advancing through the

son, stating that on that very day, at the same hour, he had been in the extremity of danger; he had been picked out to serve in the forlorn hope of the French army in the battle of Bullfala. Soldiers who stood on the right and left of him were shot down—many of them; his own cap had been shot away, and his trousers were nearly torn to pieces with splinters of flint hit up out of the ground by spent bullets; but he himself was not in the least injured—had not even received a scratch.

Since the Italian Government took possession of Rome twenty-eight churches and chapels have been torn down, and twenty others converted to secular purposes. During the same period no less than thirty churches have been destroyed in Palermo. And yet there are Catholics who think the Pope has nothing to complain of!

God regards the motive and not the action. It is not the importance of the action that He considers, but the excellence of the intention which prompts it.—St. Gregory the Great.