

Labrador coast as far as Hamilton inlet, where he could have procured "snares for game and needles for net-making" from the Eskimo of that vicinity.

Sebastian Cabot, son of John Cabot, in his memorable voyage brought back with him "three savage men," who "were clothed in the beastes skinnnes and *ate raw flesh*, and spake such speech that no man could understand them"; these are undeniably Eskimo.

Curiously enough, Jacques Cartier does not mention meeting any Eskimo in the Strait of Belle Isle. Gosling¹ takes this as evidence that the Eskimo did not begin to frequent the Gulf of St. Lawrence until drawn thither by the desire to obtain iron tools and fishing gear from the Basque, French, and English fishermen; but the inference is not conclusive. It might have been an off year for Eskimo migration, due to disease or some religious taboo, as often happens, or Cartier might have simply missed the wandering bands. One thing is certain; when the French began settling on the coast in 1702 they found the Eskimo in considerable numbers on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, as far west as Mingan.

The first attempt to found a permanent settlement on the Labrador coast was by Courtemanche, about 1704, who established a fishing and trading post at Bay Philypeaux, now Bodore. His concession extended from Kegashet (now the Kegashka river) to Kessessasskiou (Hamilton inlet). Here, with a party of forty French-Canadian servants and thirty or forty Montagnais hunters, he lived the life of a grand seigneur, carrying on an extensive fishery, and trading with the natives. He was greatly annoyed by the Eskimo in the establishment of his fishing stations. During the winter, they tore down his stages, destroyed his nets, and stole his boats. He tried to make peace with them but was unsuccessful. The number of Eskimo in southern Labrador at this time must have been considerable. A contemporary anonymous author estimated them at 30,000.²

¹ Gosling, *Op. cit.*, pp. 165-166.

² This number is evidently an exaggeration. 3,000 would probably be nearer the actual number. Courtemanche writes that a band who visited him in 1716 numbered about 800. Palliser made peace at Chateau in 1765 with 400 Eskimo, which may be considered the survivors, at that date, of the southern bands.