

HISTORY OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

According to what may be called tradition, rather than history, the shores of North America were visited as early as the 10th century by parties of Norsemen, some of whom settled in what is now the State of Massachusetts, but were eventually either killed or expelled by the natives. The earliest authentic record of the landing of Europeans on these shores is that of John and Sebastian Cabot, two navigators sent out by Henry VII. of England, who reached some part of the coast of Labrador on the 21st of June, 1497, and two or three days afterwards discovered the Island of Newfoundland.

A little later a Florentine named Amerigo Vespucci visited the New World, and wrote an account of his travels; and it is from his name the continent is called America. Columbus did not reach the mainland until 1498, one year after the landing of the Cabots, who may justly claim the discovery of America.

In 1517 Sebastian Cabot made another voyage, and succeeded in making his way into what is now called Hudson's Bay, but exploration of the mainland was not made until the expedition of Jacques Cartier in 1534, who landed in the neighborhood of Miramichi Bay on the 4th of July of that year, from which date Canadian history may properly be said to begin.

EARLY INHABITANTS.

Who the earliest inhabitants of the land thus discovered were is not clear, but it is known that the North American Indians were not the first to inhabit this continent, as many remains exist of a more civilized race. These, for want of a more definite name, are called the Mound-Builders. Heaps of earth of curious shapes are found all over North America (many of them in the neighborhood of Lake Superior), and these "mounds," as they are called, contain the bones of men, and other animals, stone axes, copper tools and other articles, made with great skill and taste. Whence these clever and industrious people came is unknown, but it is thought they were originally from the South of Asia:

"A race that long has passed away,
A disciplined and populous race,
Heaped with long toll the earth, while yet
the Greek

Was hewing the Pentellicus to forms
Of symmetry, and rearing on its rock
The glittering Parthenon."

NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS.

The Mound-Builders were followed by a fiercer and ruder people, who cared for little but hunting and fishing, making war and roaming the forest. The principal tribes of these Indians, so called by Columbus (who supposed he had landed on India), were the Algonquins, the Hurons and the Five Nations, or Iroquois. These tribes took a prominent and eventful part in the battles for prestige which took place in later years between the French and English.

COLONIZATION OF CANADA.

It was not until the year 1603, nearly fifty years after the landing and unsuccessful attempt at colonization by the French, under Jacques Cartier, that Samuel De Champlain, a distinguished naval officer, and Pontgrave, a St. Malo merchant, were sent out by the French to open a trade in furs with the Indians, and at the same time to civilize and convert them to Christianity.

Their success in this attempt, and subsequent events of importance in Canadian history, are, in a work of this kind, best narrated in condensed form and chronological order.

1605—Founding of Port Royal (Annapolis)—Acadia (derived from an Indian word "Cadie," a place of abundance), by the Baron de Poutrincourt.

1608—Second visit of Champlain—Founding of Quebec, the first permanent settlement in Canada. The name is said to be an Indian one, "Kebec," a strait; 28 settlers wintered there, including Champlain.

1611—Establishment of a trading post at Hochelaga.

1613—St. John's, Newfoundland, founded.

1615—Champlain sailed up the Ottawa River, crossed Lake Nipissing, and descended French River into Georgian Bay and Lake Huron, returning by Lake Ontario.

1620—Population of Quebec, 60 persons.

1629—In July of this year Quebec was captured by the English, under Sir Henry Kirke; 117 persons wintered there.

1632—Canada ceded to France by the St. Germain-en-Laye treaty.

1635—Death of Champlain at Quebec.

1642—May 18, Ville Marie (Montreal) founded by Maisonneuve.

1642-1667—These years were prolific of frequent and serious wars between the French and the Iroquois Indians.

1670—Hudson Bay Company founded.

1673—Count de Frontenac appointed Governor. Population 6,705. Cataraqui (Kingston) founded.

1690—Capture of Port Royal by Sir William Phipps.

1692—Population of New France, 12,431.

1713—Treaty of Utrecht, by which Hudson's Bay and adjacent territory, Nova Scotia (Acadia), and Newfoundland, were ceded to the English.

1720—Population of New France, 24,434.

1739—Population of New France, 42,701.

1745—Louisburg, Cape Breton, taken by the English.

1748—Restoration of Louisburg, in exchange for Madras, India, by the peace treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

1752—Issue of the Halifax Gazette, the first paper published in Canada.

1755—Expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia.

1758—July 26: Final capture of Louisburg by the English.

1759—The final struggle (in what is known as the Seven Years' War) for supremacy in Canada, between the French and English, commenced in 1756, but the series of events enumerated below, occurred in 1759.