

distinct people unlike, in some particulars, all the peoples of the world. If this be so, the study of them cannot fail to be interesting and it is most unfortunate that no trace of them can now be found: they have gone, so far as we know, right out of being,—this people who were the original inhabitants of our country.

The Cabots and many others who followed them to Newfoundland found them here. Gaspar Corte Real, one of the great navigators of Portugal, captured as many as fifty-seven of them and sent them to Portugal as slaves. While none of the early explorers tell us much of them, yet many of them have left behind them short descriptions of them. Some of their graves have been found, skeletons and implements have been unearthed, and, in this and other ways, students have been able to piece together some information of them.

It would seem that previous to and during the 15th century they roamed all over the country, leading the lives of hunters, and were many in number. Captain Buchan (of whom we shall read more particularly a little later) reported: "They are well formed, and appear extremely healthy and athletic, and of the medium stature, probably from five feet eight inches to five feet nine inches. Their features are more prominent than those of any of the Indian tribes that I have seen, and from what could be discovered through a lacker of oil and red ochre (or red earth) with which they besmear themselves, I was led to conclude them fairer than the generality of Indian complexion. Their dress consisted of a loose cossack, without sleeves, but puckered at the collar to prevent its falling off the shoulders, and made so long that when fastened up around the haunches it became triple, forming a good security against accidents happening to the abdomen. They also had leggings, moccasins and cuffs, the whole made of deer skin and worn with the hair next the body, the outside lackered with oil and red ochre, admirably adapted to repel the severity of the weather."

John Guy, who met and traded with them as early as 1612 at the head of Trinity Bay, says of them:

"They are of a reasonable stature, of an ordinary middle size. They go bare-headed, wearing their hair somewhat long but cut round; they have no beards; behind they have a great lock of hair platted with feathers, like a hawk's lure, with a feather in it standing upright by the crown of the head and a