

THE HISTORY OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

CHAPTER I.

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THE island of Newfoundland is situated east of the Gulf and River St. Lawrence, which separate it from the American continent on its western side, its north being bounded by the Straits of Belle Isle, which are about from ten to twenty miles wide, its eastern and southern shores being washed by the waters of the Atlantic. It lies between the latitudes of $46^{\circ} 37'$ and $51^{\circ} 40'$ North, and the longitudes of $52^{\circ} 41'$ and $59^{\circ} 31'$ West.

The discovery of this large island has been variously stated, both as to time and person; but the following account, taken from a work by Mr. St. John (formerly of this country, but now of the United States, and whose historical researches have always been favourably viewed), may, perhaps, be considered as approaching pretty near to certainty.

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