

with some intermixture of North American Indians and Africans, and other elements in less proportion. These all brought with them various folk-tales, legends and superstitions, and as these different races remain in a large measure distinct, they retain them to a good degree still. As they mix with other races and become more educated, they may lose them, but often the intermixture tends to their wider extension. In the same way there arises an interchange of words and phrases, which form dialectic peculiarities more or less widely spread according to circumstances.

Recently my attention was directed to the folk-lore and folk-speech of Newfoundland. I had not more than begun to mingle with her people till I observed them using words in a sense different from what I had ever heard elsewhere. This was the case to some extent in the speech of the educated, in their law proceedings and in the public press, but was of course more marked among the uneducated. Among the latter particularly I found, in addition, words in use which were entirely new to me. Further intercourse convinced me that these peculiarities presented an interesting subject of study, and after some enquiry I prepared two papers, the first of which was read before the Montreal branch of the American Folk-lore Society, and published in the American Folk-lore Journal for January-March, 1895, and the other was read before that society at their late meeting and published in the same journal. It has been thought desirable that the results of my enquiries should be brought under the notice of Nova Scotian students, and I have therefore consented to condense my two papers into one adding such additional information as I have since received and to present it before the Institute of Science.

It may seem strange that I should have directed such particular attention to the dialectic forms of Newfoundland, where I was quite a stranger, while there remains a similar field in Nova Scotia quite uncultivated. But it was just because I was a stranger that my ear at once caught the sound of unusual words, or of words used in unusual senses, and I was led to these investigations. Equally interesting forms of speech are perhaps to be found in Nova Scotia, but they await the investigations perhaps of some stranger who may come to sojourn among us.

In explanation of the origin of these peculiarities it is to be kept in view that the most of the original settlers of Newfoundland came either