

**NEWFOUNDLAND, ITS CLIMATE,
GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION,
RESOURCES, ETC.,. AND
BENARES,
THE SACRED CITY OF THE HINDUS**

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Newfoundland, Its Climate, Geographical Position, Resources, Etc., and benares, the sacred city of the hindus by Heber Budden

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—THE—

SACRED CITY OF THE HINDUS.

TWO LECTURES DELIVERED BEFORE THE Y. M. C. A.,

—BY—

HEBER BUDDEN,

QUEBEC.

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A BRIEF SKETCH
OF THE
ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND,
ITS
CLIMATE, RESOURCES, GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, &c.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

IN presenting to your notice this evening, a brief description of the Island of Newfoundland, I do not wish to take credit for anything of a literary character, but merely to string together such facts as have been gathered from a residence in that Island during a number of years, with such extracts as I found necessary from different authors who have written on the above subject. If I shall be the means of enlightening even one individual, I shall consider myself amply repaid for my trouble, as really so little is known concerning this noble Island, that one would imagine it existed somewhere in the South Seas, instead of being within three days' sail of the port of Quebec. I shall commence by telling you that Newfoundland is situated east of the Gulf and River Saint 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 great 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. It is the nearest to Europe of any part of America, the distance from St. John's to Port Valentia, on the West Coast of Ireland,

being 1,656 miles. Bouchette states its extreme length measured on a curve, from Cape Race to Grignet Bay, at 419 miles; its extreme width, from Cape Ray to Cape Bonavista, at about 300 miles; and its circuit at little short of 1,000 miles. Its area comprises about 36,000 square miles. The discovery of this large Island has been ascribed to different persons, but I believe it cannot be disputed that it is due to John Cabot, a Venetian, who fell in with that portion of the coast called Bonavista, while on a voyage of discovery, on the 24th June, 1497, and without making any stay here, coasted along the Continent of America, until he found himself in 38° North, when being short of provisions, he returned to England, taking with him from Prince Edward Island (then called St. John) three of the aborigines. Of course it will be necessary to be very brief in all these particulars, for time will not permit of my enlarging on them. I may state that Cabot gave it the name of Bacalaos, being the Indian name for codfish. In 1534 Jacques Cartier arrived at Cape Bonavista, and on his return to France, was most favorably received. About this time several attempts were made to colonize Newfoundland. "Master Robert Home, a merchant of London, with divers other gentlemen," sailed in 1536, thinking to winter there; but the crew were nearly starved to death, and compelled to resort to the most loathsome expedients, and would have perished had they not met with a French ship laden with provisions, which they seized and brought to England. Henry VIII, of England, satisfied the French claims for indemnity, by paying for the seized vessel. Europeans, when they first began to form their fishing establishments, found on the Coast a considerable number of natives belonging to a particular tribe of Red Indians. This color, which they exhibited still more decidedly than the races on the Continent, is ascribed to the use of a vegetable juice, with which their whole body was anointed, but it has been pretty well established that it was a species of red ochre which

they used. A quantity of the latter material was found in nearly all their wigwams, so that no doubt their color may be ascribed to the last mentioned article. Their intercourse for sometime, as indeed usually happens, was friendly, and they mixed familiarly with the strangers, aiding them in those pursuits which were congenial to their own habits; soon, however, quarrels arose, and as they were an exceedingly jealous people, there may have been cause for this passion being aroused by the incautiousness of the whites, who, in their turn, accused the red men of stealing the materials for the fishery and even its produce. The settlers, who were generally men of fierce tempers, and armed with powerful weapons, carried on the contest in a manner peculiarly ruthless, hunting and shooting the natives like deer. It is recorded that several attempts had been made to open up a friendly intercourse with these tribes, and in 1760 under Governor Wall, an attempt was made by one Scott and others, which was attended with signal failure for both were killed together with their companions. In 1827, we find that an institution called the Boethic, from a native appellation of the people, had been formed with a view of again trying the possibility of opening a friendly intercourse, should any of the tribe be found remaining. To forward the humane intentions of this body, McCormack, who on a former occasion had visited the interior, set out this year with a party of Micmac Indians, and ascending the River Exploits, crossed the country to the head of White Bay. At about half way thither, at a portage called the Indian path, he found vestiges of a family who had evidently been there in the spring or summer of the preceding year. They had possessed two canoes, had left a spear shaft 18 feet long, with fragments of boats and dresses, and had stripped a number of the birch and spruce trees of their rinds, the inner part of which they used for food. Further on he came to the remains of a village consisting of eight to ten Wigwams, each

capable of containing six to twenty persons. There were pits to preserve the stores, and the relics of a vapor bath. On the banks of a beautiful sheet of water called Red Indian Lake, several clusters of huts were found, but all had been deserted. There was a canoe twenty feet long which appeared to have been driven on shore. Wood repositories for the dead were framed with great care, the bodies wrapped in skins, with which were a variety of small images, models of canoes, arms, and culinary utensils. The party ascended the River Exploits, continuing to find similar traces of habitations, but long abandoned. There were fences to entrap deer extending in a continuous line at least thirty miles, which must have required some five hundred men to keep them in repair, but all is now relinquished and gone to ruin. Thus ended this philanthropic search prosecuted at the expense of that benevolent society, began with hope and expectation and ending in disappointment. There was another tribe of Indians occupying different parts of the interior called Micmacs or hunting Indians. Their sole study seemed to be the destruction of birds and beasts, whose cries they imitated with superior skill, and on whose flesh they existed. These exhibited a considerable mixture of French blood, and had been converted to a form of the Roman Catholic Religion, and were visited by a priest of that persuasion, at the different settlements, once every summer. I should have stated that Mr. McCormack had already crossed the Island in 1822, and his journal is of such an interesting nature that I cannot forbear making a few extracts from it. His route lay through the central portion of the Island, from Trinity Bay on the east, to St. George's Bay on the west coast, as he considered this to be the direction in which the natural characteristics of the interior were likely to be most decidedly exhibited. Having secured the services of an Indian as companion and made all necessary preparations for such an arduous undertaking, he embarked at

St. John's for Trinity Bay on the 30th August. After having travelled some ten days without anything worth recording having happened, he says "On looking back towards the sea-coast, the scene was magnificent. We discovered that under the cover of the forest, we had been uniformly ascending ever since we left the salt water, and then soon arrived at the summit of what we saw to be a great mountain ridge that seems to serve as a barrier between the sea and the interior. The black dense forest through which we had pilgrimaged presented a novel picture, appearing spotted with bright yellow marshes, and a few glassy lakes in its bosom, some of which we had passed close by without seeing them. In the westward, to our inexpressible delight, the interior broke in sublimity before us. What a contrast did this present to the conjectures entertained of Newfoundland! The hitherto mysterious interior lay unfolded before us—a boundless scene—a vast basin. The eye strides again and again over a succession of northerly and southerly ranges of green plains, marbled with woods and lakes of every form and extent, a picture of all the luxurious scenes of national cultivation receding into invisibleness. The imagination hovers in the distance, and clings involuntarily to the undulating horizon of vapor in the far west, until it is lost. A new world seemed to invite us onward, or rather we claimed the dominion, and were impatient to proceed to take possession. Fancy carried us swiftly across the Island. Obstacles of every kind were dispelled and despised; primitiveness, omnipotence, and tranquillity were stamped upon every thing so forcibly, that the mind was hurled back thousands of years, and the man left denuded of the mental fabric which a knowledge of ages of human experience and of time may have reared within him. But to look around us before we advance. The great external features of the eastern portion of the main body of the island are seen from these commanding heights. Overland communication between the