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Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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Communications.

ON THE REGIONS OF THE NORTH,

In connexion with the causes now in activity in destroying the Animal and Vegetable Kingdom, or Animate and Inanimate Nature, from all that is well authenticated.

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TO MOSES N. GRINNELL, MERCHANT, NEW YORK.*

Frobisher, however, undismayed by the appalling dangers he encountered, and the serious injury which his barque had sustained from the violent storms, pursued a north westerly course, and on the 20th of July he descried on the east of Labrador, a high promontory, which he named Queen Elizabeth's Foreland. He met with large quantities of ice along this coast, but within a few days it was all consumed and gone, either engulfed by some swift currents, or carried more to the southward. The intrepid commander then surveyed the coast in his boat, and about the latitude of 68 S, he discovered a large inlet, which he believed to divide the American Continent, and which he therefore called Frobisher's strait.

He saw many of the natives, and having tempted one of them to approach by holding out some trifling present, he seized the credulous savage as a trophy. He now, in the name of his sovereign, took possession of the country, which, on his return, was called the *Meta Incognita*; and, being anxious to obtain some token of christian possession, some of his company brought flowers, some green grass, and one brought a piece of black stone, much like to a sea eel in colour, which by the weight seemed to be some kind of metal or mineral. The season being now far advanced, Frobisher thought of returning. On the 1st of September he again came in sight of Greenland, but could not get near it on account of the vast quantities of ice. After conflicting with much stormy weather, he arrived safely at Harwich on the 2nd of October. The prospect which this voyage afforded of a North West passage afforded was certainly not very inviting, and perhaps no further search would have been made, had not a circumstance occurred which powerfully stimulated the passion for adventure. The black stone, which the sailor brought home, having been shown by his wife to an assayer, he persuaded her that it was a rich marcassite of gold. The hope of discovering a gold mine now operated like a miracle, and a large subscription, chiefly among the gentlemen about the court, was quickly raised, for prosecuting that most alluring object. Frobisher obtained command of the *Aid*, a Queen's ship of 200 tons burthen, and carrying 100 volunteers and sailors, to which he joined his two former barques. On the 26th May, 1577, he weighed anchor at Blackwall, and took his departure from Harwich on the 28th. On the 7th of June he touched at Orkney, and victualled his little squadron. There his gold miners, who appear always to have been as sanguine as their employers, pretended they had found a mine of silver. Next day he set sail with a merry wind, and soon met with drift wood and with English whalers, now on their return home. On the 4th of July he reached the latitude of 60 $\frac{1}{2}$, the coast of Rigeland or Greenland, defended by a frozen bulwark, and met with islands of ice, half a mile or more in compass, rising 30 or 40 fathoms above the surface, and yielding fresh water when melted—a proof that it was not formed in the sea. There his crew, instead of odiferous and fragrant smells of sweet gums, and the pleasant notes of musical birds, tasted the most boreal blasts, mixed with snow and hail, in the months of June and July, nothing inferior to an intemperate winter. After keeping along the shore four days, he found it impossible to effect a landing, and he therefore bore away for the Labrador, it blowing a fierce tempest. After passing through several floating islands of ice, Frobisher himself, from the maintop, descried land on the 7th of July. He entered his strait again, but could find no gold. Still intent, however, on taking possession of the country, he ascended with his men to the top of a high hill, where they made a column of cross stones, heaped up a good height, and solemnly sounded a trumpet, and said certain prayers, kneeling around the ensign, and honored the place with the name of Mount Warrick. The natives afterwards invited a parley, and a traffic by barter was soon established. But Frobisher, with all his religious pretensions, acted treacherously towards the poor savages. In attempting to surprise them, he roused their vengeance, and a hot affray ensued, which obliged the sailors

to fly to their boats; yet he succeeded in catching one man, and afterwards one woman and her child, and these captives conducted themselves on board the ship during the rest of the voyage with a propriety and modesty which might well have put their oppressors to the blush. The woman appeared so ugly to the sailors, that those ignorant and superstitious beings seriously suspected her to be the devil, till they found by inspection that her feet were not cloven.

Frobisher, taking with him a select party in two barques, penetrated into the country, and clambered over the frozen tracks and many mountains, in search of the supposed ore. In this excursion he met with the winter dwellings of the natives, resembling ovens, and commonly planted on the south side of some eminence, but sunk two fathoms in the ground, and strewed with moss, being enclosed with whales' jaws, instead of posts, and covered with seal skins, leaving only a small aperture. His company labored hard in digging the ore, with only five poor miners, and the help of a few gentlemen and soldiers. 200 tons of this precious earth were brought on board in the space of twenty days. On the 22nd of August they struck their tents, and firing a parting volley, they gladly embarked. Two days after the snow fell half a foot deep. They reached Milford Haven in the beginning of September. It need scarcely be observed that this ore, with which Frobisher, at so much risk and fatigue had loaded his ship, was like the black micaceous sand which the planters of Virginia sent home, totally worthless, and contained no metal whatever. But the absolute value of the gold mine was not immediately acknowledged; and the same active captain was again despatched the following year, but chiefly for the discovery of Cathay, or China, by the *Meta Incognita*. A wooden fort, capable of holding 100 men, was framed, to be carried out in separate pieces, and then put together. 12 private vessels joined him, to be loaded with the fancied ore, and the whole fleet rendezvoused on the 27th May, 1573, at Harwich. The Admiral (as he was then called) issued general orders, some of which are curious, and savour strongly of those times, when religion was so often debased by an association with piracy and plunder. The watch-word was given, "Before the world was God," and the countersign, "after God came Christ his son." The fleet sailed round by the West of England, and made Cape Clear, the southern point of Ireland, on the 6th of June; and after navigating the Atlantic fourteen days, during which it encountered a strong current setting from the south west, it reached the coast of Labrador. Here Frobisher and some other gentlemen landed, and took possession of the country in the name of his sovereign. He then proceeded on his voyage northwards, and soon met with floating ice and numerous troops of whales. On the last day of June, the *Salamander*, being under both her courses, happened to strike a great whale with her full stem, with such a blow that the ship stood still, and stirred neither backwards nor forwards; the whale thereat made a great and ugly noise, and cast up his body and tail, and so went under water. Two days after a dead whale, supposed to be the same monster, was seen floating on the water.

The weather now became so extremely foggy, that the fleet was with difficulty kept together, by constantly beating drums and sounding trumpets. On the 7th of July it encountered a furious storm from the south east, which collected and pressed round it innumerable shoals of ice. The poor sailors were quite worn out with anxiety and fatigue. During this dreadful besetment, one of the barques went down, but the rest of the fleet at length got clear of the ice and stood out to sea. It again bore up for the land, and approached, as was supposed, Mount Warrick, but the foggy weather prevented any observation or latitude being taken, and the coast appeared so much covered with snow that it could not with certainty be recognized by the most experienced pilots. From this state of perplexity and continual danger, a part of the fleet turned back, and directed their course homewards; but the commander still persevered in search of his Strait, and was followed at some distance by the rest of the ships. Near three weeks were thus spent in fruitless attempts, under a dense fog, and exposed among numerous islands to the action of currents and the hazards of drifting ice. On the 25th of July his squadron was assailed by a tremendous storm, and the next day the snow fell half a foot thick on the hatches, while it was so bitter cold that the men could hardly open their eyes, or handle the ropes and sails. At length the different vessels were joyfully re-assembled, having escaped incredible dangers. The sailors were so much discouraged that they began to murmur, and it required all the eloquence of Mr Walfall, the chaplain, (who, in the expectation of converting the

heathen, had left at home a kind wife and a good living) to compose their minds and dissuade them from breaking out in open mutiny. About the beginning of August, the miners and most of the crews landed, and set vigorously to work in digging black ore, and gathering pretty stones; but a part of the frame of the wooden fort having been wrecked, and the stores not being found sufficient for a twelve-months' provisions, it was resolved to abandon the design of leaving a garrison. After various adventures in the country, and some unprincipled attempts to entrap the poor natives, who had now grown more weary, the Holy Sacrament was, on the 30th of August, celebrated on shore with great devotion. Next day a general consultation being held respecting the expediency of any longer stay, the whole remaining fleet, with the precious cargo of black earth, took its departure for England, with the loss of 40 men.

Frobisher appears on this occasion to have rambled about the cluster of islands in the mouth of the entrance into Hudson's Bay; but his voyage proved very unfortunate, and greatly disappointed the golden dreams of the adventurers. We hear no more of that rich black earth, collected with so much toil and danger. Though the hopes of finding a gold mine on the coast of Labrador had completely failed, the prospect of discovering a N West passage to China was yet sufficiently alluring. Some gentlemen of the West of England, joined to a few London merchants, formed themselves into a society to resume the attempt of exploring that channel.

They chose for their commander John Davis, one of the best skilled and most humane of the early English navigators, who sailed from Dartmouth on the 7th of June, 1585, with the *Sunshine*, of London, a barque of 50 tons and 23 men, and the *Moonshine*, of Dartmouth, of only 35 tons and 19 men, some of them being musicians. From the 6th to the 18th of July he saw multitudes of whales, and on the 19th of that month he met with numerous islands of floating ice, which, by their continual attrition, created a disagreeable rustling noise. He filled his boat with the smaller pieces, which yielded excellent fresh water. Next day the fog dispersing, he descried the coast of Greenland, rising like a white sugar loaf, but he could not land on account of the ice, which formed a broad rampart. On the 29th of July he reached the latitude of 64 1/2, and the sea being there utterly void of ice, and very temperate, he anchored among a group of islands, one of which he ascended, and observed the natives screeching like wolves, but having desired his musicians to play some simple airs, he soon drew the savages near him, and while they capered and danced, he won their confidence by gentleness and attention. A brisk trade of barter was carried on, and the canoes crowded about the ships, and the utmost cordiality and ease prevailed. Great quantities of wood were seen among these islands, and the rocks appeared full of that shining mica which had tempted the avarice of Frobisher's employers. Davis advanced on the 1st of August to the latitude of 60 40, and found the coast clear of ice. There his men had various conflicts with white bears. When the fog was dispelled he landed, and saw sledges and large trained dogs with pricked eyes and long bushy tails. Despairing of any passage, he now resolved to turn back, and arrived without any remarkable occurrence at Dartmouth, on the 30th of September.

In the following year Davis was again despatched by the same company, a month earlier, with his two barques, and the addition of the *Mermaid*, a vessel of 120 tons. On the 15th of June he descried Greenland at the latitude of 60, but the coast was still inaccessible, being blocked up with ice to the distance of ten, and in some places, twenty or thirty leagues. After encountering much tempestuous weather, he saw land again in the latitude of 64, and approaching the shore, the natives pushed out to him in their canoes, shouting vehemently. These grateful creatures surrounded the *Mermaid*, embraced the captain and shouted for joy. More than a hundred canoes appeared at one time, loaded with skins of seals and stags, ptarmigans and partridges, salmon, cod, and other dried fish. On the 3d of July Davis manned one of his boats, and explored several inlets or sounds, attended by 50 canoes. The natives eagerly assisted his people in climbing over the rocks. These savages appeared to be of the Tartar race; they were of good stature, well proportioned in body, small slender hands and feet, with broad visages and small eyes, wide mouths, mostly unbarbed, and had very large lips. They were idolatrous, had stone images, and practised sorcery. After making a long oration, one of them kindled a sacred fire. Their priest took a piece of board, wherein was a hole half through; into that hole he put the end of a stick, like a bed staff, and wetting the end thereof in train oil, and in fashion of a tanner with a piece of leather with this motion did

very speedily produced fire. This he then collected on dry turf, and added various other things, to make a sacrifice, accompanied by many words and strange gestures. But Davis, to show his contempt of such practices, caused a sailor to kick the burning matter into the sea. He observed that those hardy savages lived almost constantly in their canoes, and that they lived on raw flesh, drank salt water, and ate grass and ice with delight. Their arms were darts, bows and arrows, and slings. They showed a disposition to petty theft, and his crew beginning to complain that lenity had only encouraged their insolence, he was obliged to make a show of employing severe measures.

[To be continued.]

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

"This is true liberty—when free-born men, having to advise the public—may speak free."
MILTON.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN,

The House of Assembly of this Province having terminated its official existence, you will shortly be called upon to exercise one of the dearest privileges of British Subjects—that of choosing men to make laws for the government and well-being of your country.

I am sure I need not point out to you the importance of the privilege, for it will be apparent to every one of you; and I think it will be equally apparent to every well-regulated mind, that posterity will hold us responsible for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in us by the constitution of our country; for all will admit the great truth "that every human being is morally bound, by a law of our Social condition, to leave the world somewhat better for his having lived in it." But if we do not make an effort to rescue our country from the grasp of its present rulers, I am afraid that posterity will not have that to say of us. Any person who will look with an unprejudiced eye upon the present position and prospects of this Province, will readily agree with me in this assertion.

To a right discharge of that duty, I think it necessary for every man to take a retrospective glance at the history of the country, and also at the course pursued by its various Legislatures. Every person who does so, will acknowledge that a more corrupt system of legislation, a more gross and dishonest expenditure, and a more glaring course of favouritism, was never inflicted upon any country, than has been practised in this noble but misgoverned Province, for the last thirteen or fourteen years.

As a proof of this, I would refer you to the Journals of the Assembly for any one year since Sir Archibald Campbell left the Province. Contrast the present deplorable state of the finances of the country with what they were when that brave old man retired from the government. Incredible as it may appear, but it is no less true, that when Sir John Harvey assumed the reins of power, the public chest contained at least £120,000; and we are now, through the wanton extravagance of the Legislature, that sum in debt. You will naturally ask, what has become of the money? for what purpose was such an enormous debt incurred? In answer, I would remind you, that during the term of his government, Sir John Harvey received the large sum of £35,000 (or thereabouts), partly as his salary, but by far the largest part was pocketed by him in exchange for the power and patronage of the Crown. You will also remember that when he left the Province, a corrupt and venal House of Assembly gave him £1,500 to purchase a service of plate. This was during the notorious *Reign of Harmony*. The Contingent Bills of the Assembly, which amounted to two or three hundred pounds during Sir Archibald's time, suddenly swelled to as many thousands.

Fellow Countrymen, the men who were looked up to at that time as the leaders of the Assembly, have held seats in that body ever since. Mr Wilmot, who was hand-and-glove with Sir John Harvey, is now Attorney General, with a seat in the Executive Council, and the acknowledged leader of the Government. John R. Partelow, the man who (if the uncontradicted statements of the public press are to be relied on) nearly ruined the Corporation of St John, and one of the most notorious time-servers and panderers in the Province, is Provincial Secretary, with a seat in the same body. How can the country thrive under such men? Will you again lend your aid to return as your Representatives men who will either support, or give only a lukewarm opposition to such a Government? I hope not. If you do, let us hear no more about the many evils under which we labor, for you will have shown yourselves undeserving of any thing else.

Fellow Countrymen, the remedy is in your own hands. I hope and trust you will apply it. God knows it is much needed. Some-

* Continued.