

(c) COLSTON'S LETTER IN 1613.

We have not the actual text of this, but Purchas printed it in substance on p. 930 of the 1617 edition and also on p. 1880 of the 1625 edition.

William Colston describes the winter of 1612-13 as being more severe than that 1611-12. They had there Filberds, Fish, Makerels, Foxes, in the Winter: Partridges white in the Winter, in Summer somewhat like ours, but greater; they are much afraid of Rauens: they killed a Wolfe with a Mastiue and a Grey-hound. Nicolas Gure's wife was delivered of a lusty boy March 27. Then he described a voyage made by Guy and thirteen others in the *Indracour* and five in the *Shallop* in October 1612 to Sausage Harbour, Trinity Bay, where they found houses of Sauges which were nothing but poles set round and meeting in the top, ten foot broad, the fire in the midst, covered with Deereskins. They are of reasonable stature, beardlesse, and in some conditions like those which Sir M. Frobisher discovered, broad-faced, full-eyed, coloured on their faces and apparell with red Oaker. Their Boates of berke, as in Canada, twentie foote long, four and a halfe broad, not weighing a 100 weight, made in forme of a new Moone, which carry foure men, and are by them carried to all places of their remonings.

A few days later they met with the Natives; Whittington, Tipton, Guy himself, and Master Teage landed and bartered with them. All along the coast they carefully abstained from taking any of the furs evidently left by the natives for trade without leaving some trinket in exchange, thus carrying out the instructions given by the Company to Guy. [See also p. 133.]

There wintered 1612 fiftie foure men,

six women and two children. They killed there, Beares, Otters, Sables, sowed Wheat, Rye, Turneps, Coleworts. Their Winter till April 1613, was dry and cleere with some frost and snow.

Divers had the Scurvie, whereto their Turneps, there sowne, were an excellent remedie, no lesse then Cartiers Tree. April was worse then the middest of Winter by reason of East windes which came from the Islands of Ice, which the current bringeth at that time from the north.

Purchas continues: The same I have seene confirmed by a letter of Thomas Dermer, one of that Colonie dated at Cupers Cove, the ninth of September last, 1616. In other moneths, hee sayth, the Temperature is as England. He mentions Muske-Cats and Muske-Rats in those parts; the fertilitie of the soyle in producing Pease, Rye, Barly and Oates; probabilities of Metals, with promises of more full Relations hereafter.

From D. W. Prowse
A History of
Newfoundland.....