

DREARY LABRADOR.

It Is Pronounced the Most Worthless Part of the Whole World.

The result of the information secured during our few weeks' cruise leads me to believe that the portion of Labrador east of a line extending due north from the mouth of the St. Lawrence river to Hudson's Bay is the most worthless part of the whole world. Indeed, it is scarcely worth visiting even as a curiosity in sterility and desolation. In the 1,000 miles of coast upon which there is any pretense of population, the total number of resident human beings all told will not exceed 6,000 souls. This number includes all Indians of the Montagnais, Nasquapee and Esquimaux tribes. Estimating the peninsula as a quadrilateral with sides averaging 500 miles in length, a moderate computation, this would give an area of 160,000,000 acres; and just one human being to about 27,000 acres. That there is 100 acres of land capable of cultivation within this mighty expanse has been remorselessly disproved for over 350 years by the efforts of Jesuits and other missionaries, by those of Christianized Indians and by all settlers who have been lured upon these shores to starve and perish. It is possible that during two, and possibly three, months of the summer, 40,000 fishermen may be found off Labrador; 15,000 within the Gulf of St. Lawrence and 25,000 along the Atlantic Labrador shore. They are residents of the United States, of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Islands and Newfoundland. They have no interest here whatever, save to come and grab and go. There are not enough standing trees in all the Labrador district named, and that comprises all of the Labrador proper, available for building timber, to pay for transporting to any place and lighting the first fire in a single saw mill. All the frantic efforts of the Dominion Government to discover mineral deposits have been unavailing. What then does Labrador possess? An unmeasured and measureless reach of stone and ice, covered here and there with moss; again occasionally patched with stunted spruce; oftener for hundreds of miles scarred and blackened by burned spruce stumps, between which flinty rocks project like cruel spears; with countless impassable rivers plowing in ungovernable torrents through hideous gorges; 4,000 whites utterly unable to leave their prisonment or better their condition, living half of the year like beasts, and the other half little better; 2,000 Indians subsisting on salt fish and raw, with occasionally a bit of musty flour or meal; 300 or 400 Esquimaux dogs; any number of wolves and countless seals and fish. Now that is all there is to Labrador besides a climate of Greenland, and even the seals and fish do not exclusively belong to it, for they are a common product of the ocean, and as common to all other northeast shores. Any land so God-forsaken that the government possessing it can not survey it or procure any form of statistics is a veritable cast-away indeed. It is impossible to obtain statistics of even seals and fish. But from the known loss in naval and commercial expeditions, and the wreckage of coasting and fishers' vessels along the coasts, since Labrador was discovered, it would be a safe calculation that for every dollar in value of fish or fur secured upon the Labrador coast for the past four hundred years, an equal or greater actual loss by somebody has been sustained. And when the additional frightful loss of life has been taken into account, the inexpressible worthlessness of the entire peninsula may be to some extent conceived.—Cor. Springfield Republican.

THE COREAN APPETITE.

A Country Where Gluttony is a Mark of Great Distinction.

The Corean is the greatest eater in the world, and more than any other man in the world he lives to eat. The average man the country over eats anything he can get his teeth on, and he will take a dozen meals a day if he has a chance. I had sixteen chair-bearers on a trip which I took into the interior, and these bearers stopped at every village and at almost every house to rest and feed. They would dart off one by one into fields of turnips by the wayside, and for the next half-mile would go along eating raw turnips. The bigger a man's stomach is in Corea the more wealthy he is supposed to be, and you see pot-bellied youngsters everywhere you go. A Corean has a short sack, which comes down just below the middle of his waist, and his full baggy pantaloons are tied up under this. Some of the baby boys have outgrown the size of their jackets, and you see a belt of fat yellow skin between the ends of the pantaloons and the beginning of the coat. Some of the wealthy ones wear bustles over their abdomens, in order to increase the size of their fronts, and the King annually makes a present to those who have audience with him. He sent a lot of provisions to the American Generals a few days after they

arrived in Corea to reorganize the army, and there is no lack of good things in the palace. The Corean country produces good meat, and the Coreans are greater meat eaters than, either the Chinese or Japanese. All nations of the East which have a large number of Buddhists among them are, to a great extent, non-consumers of meat. The Buddhists believe that their ancestors are trotting around inside the feathers and under the fur and hair of the animal creation, and they believe it is a sin to take animal life. According to the theory of transmigration of souls a man may be chewing up the choicest bit of his great grandfather's body when he masticates a tenderloin steak, and the tenderest wing of this year's spring chicken may have trotted around under the animation of his grandmother's soul. To people of delicate sensibilities, possessed of that faith which moves mountains, such gastronomic remembrance would spoil their feast. It is for this reason that the Burmese and Siamese eat so little meat, and it is largely due to this that you find but little meat consumed in the greater part of India.—F. G. Carpenter, in Omaha Bee.

"PETROLEUM," says a correspondent in Notes and Queries, "was known, and even refined, long before it was used in lamps. A Frenchman is said to have spent years in vain endeavors to construct a lamp in which the new oil would burn without smoking. Accident helped him at last. Vexed by failure, he had drained his wine-flask—a long-necked, thin bottle, like oil-flasks—and set it down on the table so hard as to break the glass bottom. He then chanced to catch it up and hold it over the flame of his smoking lamp. The smoke ceased, and he saw that what he sought was found."

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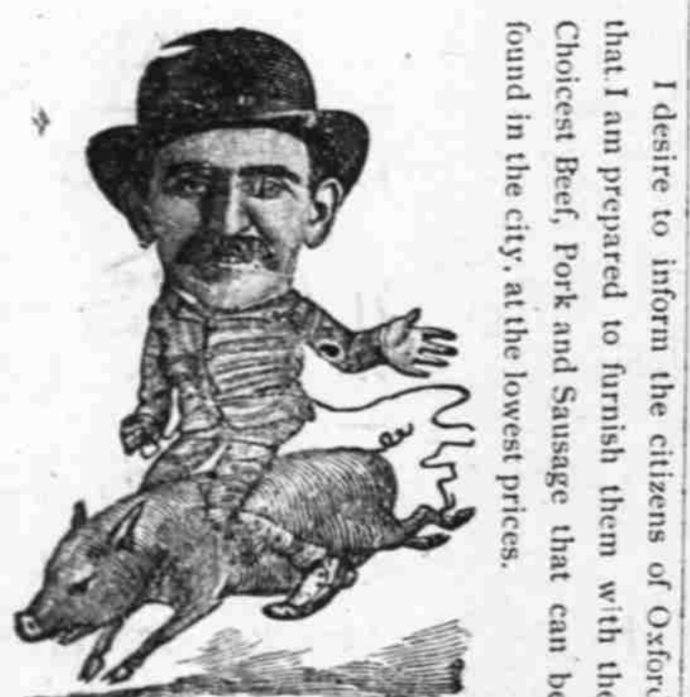
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I will sell at public auction in front of the courthouse in Oxford, Monday, Jan. 27, 1890, the desirable dwelling house and lot on High St., adjoining lots owned by R. J. Mitchell, R. J. Aiken and L. Thomas. The house is commodious, well built and contains seven rooms. Terms, one-half cash and balance in six and twelve months.
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Barber Shop. Will have a full complement of competent assistants in a few days. Will spare no efforts to give my customers complete satisfaction.

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The firm of Griffin, Glenn & Co. has been this day dissolved by mutual consent, James McLean withdrawing from the partnership. The business will be continued by W. G. Griffin and W. B. Glenn under the firm name of Griffin & Glenn, who will collect all accounts and settle all debts.

W. G. GRIFFIN.
W. B. GLENN.
JAS. MCLEAN.

December 1st, 1889

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