

THE following remarks upon the Red Indians of Newfoundland, by Mr. ELIAS MARETT, are contained in a letter to the PRESIDENT :

“ 213 GOWER-ST., ST. JOHN'S, N. F.,
October 15, 1865.

“ *My Dear Sir,—*

“ Sometime back on my meeting with you at Halifax, I had occasion to mention the discovery of a grave of one of the aborigines of Newfoundland, and also that I had visited the place and had withdrawn several of the relics, which I then described to you from memory, but which I had long before parted with. Since that time I recently met with an old friend, the Rev. M. Blackmore, Rural Dean of Conception Bay, who was the first visitor to the place, and who retains in his possession a number of curiosities collected by himself at the last resting place of the solitary Bœothick, or Red Man of Newfoundland.

“ I will now give you his own statement, and in his own words:—‘ They were found in the year 1847, on one of the Islands forming the Lower Burgeo group, called “ Rencontre.” This Island is uninhabited, and considerably elevated—difficult also of access in rough weather. It is in a great measure covered with broken fragments of rocks which have fallen from the heights. About half way up the mountain (if I may so term it), and in a hollow formed by a large piece of fallen rock, with every opening carefully closed by small pieces of the broken rock, we, that is I, and the men who had the evening previous discovered the cavity but who would not search into its contents until I came with them, found the bones of a human being wrapped closely round with birch rinds; on removing these rinds a quantity of gravel mixed with red ochre became visible, and on removing this we found the oblong pieces of carved bone, together with the flat circular stones, some glass beads, two iron hatchet heads, so rusty that we could pick them to pieces, a bone spear head, the handle of a knife with part of the blade still in it, also some flints designed for arrow heads—all these articles were together and had been placed apparently under or just before the head of the individual buried—all carefully enclosed in the rinds. The skull was that of a full grown male adult with a very flat crown and large projection behind; the place of interment was singularly wild, high up in a cliff overlooking a little cove facing the open sea, and only accessible on this side in very smooth water. It was discovered by a boy while gathering brushwood. This boy seeing a piece of wood projecting from the rock pulled at it to add it to his store, and so loosened the smaller rocks and found the cavity with its contents. He left the stick being too much frightened to take it home. The head of this stick which was about four inches in diameter was ornamented. There were four fragments of sticks, and they must I imagine, have formed a kind of canopy over the body. These relics certainly do not belong to the tribes of Indians at present sojourning in Newfoundland, for on shewing them to some Mic-Macs they at once gave me to understand that they belonged to one of the aborigines of the

Island, and that the owner must have been a great "witch," the word used by the Indian—who also informed me that by use of these oblong pieces of bone, the man could kill his enemies—their use from this it would appear was not ornament only, but a charm also.'

"Such is the account of my friend the Rev. Martin Blackmore, and as I was the next person to visit the place though some four years later, I must say that his report tallies in every respect with my own observation. The Indian's account also agrees perfectly with what was told me by Indians to whom I shewed some of the bones and arrows that I myself had collected in the same place. The presence of iron weapons is easily accounted for, as since the reign of Henry VII. the shores of Newfoundland have been visited by British seamen in pursuit of the cod-fishery, and collisions occasionally took place between the natives and the crews of the fishing-vessels—the fishermen, though not allowed to form settlements or raise buildings in the colony, except such as were absolutely necessary for the pursuit and curing of the fish, customarily left such things behind them as could not easily be transported at the close of each season, and the natives watching for the departure of the whites, invariably plundered their depots. The disappearance of the Red Indian of Newfoundland is only of recent date, and many persons now living have come into personal contact with members of the race. They are now all extinct, and the last representative of them (Mary March as she was named,) died some 35 or 40 years ago. She had been taken when a child and brought up in her captor's family as a servant, but had escaped at different times to visit the haunts of her departed race. Through the kindness of my friend Mr. Blackmore, I am enabled to send you the accompanying sketches which I have made from his collection. The lance or spear head of jasper is one found by myself.

"As I know you are much interested in the antiquities of North America, I hope the sketches will not be without interest to you. I must remark in conclusion that several of the bones are much decayed. An extra amount of work has interrupted the travelling which I had mapped out for myself, and my principal having been seriously indisposed has kept me almost a close prisoner,

"I remain dear Sir,

"Yours very faithfully

"ELIAS MARETT."

ON NORTH ATLANTIC STORMS.

BY J. L. HURDIS.

MANY years ago, when Redfield and Reid were only beginning their observations on storms, I happened to be a passenger on board a sailing ship, bound in the autumn of the year, from England to British North America. Weary with contending against westerly winds, in mid-Atlantic we were cheered by a fine breeze and promising clouds springing up in the S.E., and speculating on keeping the fair wind for some days at the least, when the skipper, a seaman of experience in those latitudes, chilled our hopes by stating that no reliance could be placed in these easterly winds, which were sure to veer to