

open, by lease of 30 years, to public competition. The capital now made rapid progress, and though repeatedly destroyed by fire, has ever risen, like the phoenix, brighter and better from its ashes—houses of brick and stone multiplying as the old wooden erections disappeared, and wider streets and greater attention to cleanliness greatly improving the public health. The augmentation of population at last secured the repeal of laws against the cultivation of the soil. Even the merchants began at length to see that the fisheries would be best carried on by a fixed population, and the delusion of making these a nursery for seamen was finally exploded. The years 1816 and 1817 were memorable for fires that destroyed a large portion of St. John's, and caused an immense amount of suffering. But the spirit and energy of the people rose superior to their misfortunes and the town was speedily rebuilt. In 1824 the island was divided into three districts, and circuit courts instituted in each. In 1825 the first roads radiating from the capital to neighbouring settlements were laid down. In 1832 the colony obtained the boon of a Representative Government, similar to that of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The interests of Education were provided for. In 1846 a terrible fire destroyed three-fourths of the capital and an enormous amount of property. Once more the city rose from its ashes, improved and beautified. In 1855 the system of "Responsible Government" was inaugurated. In 1858 the first Atlantic Cable was landed at Bay of Bull's Arm, Trinity Bay. The census taken in 1869 shows the population of the island, along with Labrador, to be 146,536, of which 85,196 are Protestants and 61,040 Roman Catholics. In 1857 the population was 124,288, so that the increase has been 22,248 in twelve years, being about 18 1-2 per cent. during that period.

CONCLUSION.

From this rapid sketch of the history of Newfoundland it is, I think, clear that the people are deficient in none of these elements of character that are necessary in building up a State, and securing national progress. Under a system of wrongs, compared with which those inflicted on Ireland were mild, they never lost heart or hope, and never swerved from their loyalty. Their love to England, and their attachment to British institutions, are as warm and true to-day as ever. What Newfoundland might have been now, had it been dealt with as were the neighbouring colonies, it is vain to conjecture. No living man can be held accountable for the cruelties and wrongs of the past; and while we recount them, it is not to stir up resentments, but to point to them as warning beacons for the future, and as a ground of hope, now that their pressure is removed, for steady progress in the time to come. When we take into account that it is little more than a century since the administration of justice, in the most rudimentary shape, was introduced—that only eighty years have elapsed since the cessation of a religious intolerance that denied all privileges of worship to a large section of the population—that regular Courts of Law are not more than four score years of age—that but sixty years have