

We were now fairly equipped for the remainder of the season, and pushed forward with renewed vigour. Noel Paul's Steady was reached on the 10th of October.

Having surveyed this beautiful stretch of the river upwards some seven miles to a large fall, we commenced the descent on the 16th and reached the main Exploits River on the 19th.

Here our season's field-work ended, having succeeded in connecting the work on both sides with that of previous years. Our journey down the Exploits River was performed with little delay, except at the portages, and a couple of days spent at Badger Brook to rest and repair canoes. We arrived at the mouth of the Exploits River on the 24th of October, and at Exploits Harbor on the 27th. At the latter place we were delayed several days awaiting a passage home; finally, we got aboard the S. S. Plover, and reached St. John's on November the 4th. Our crew, consisting of four Indians and two white men, behaved throughout the long toilsome and unusually backward season with praiseworthy energy and perseverance; and to Mr. Bayly I am indebted for the most valuable assistance in carrying out the topographical work, as well as in entering heartily into all the labor attendant on so arduous a trip across the interior wilds of this Island. He has now become quite expert in the use of the Transit and Micrometer Telescope, and performed all the river work of the season, which when plotted to scale, has proved the care and accuracy with which his bearings and measurements were taken.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

In his report for 1870, the late Alexander Murray, C.M.G., F.G.S., so fully described the physical, topographical, and geological features of the Bay East River Valley, that there is little to add in reference to this section of the country. It is one of the few well wooded valleys on the southern slope of the island, and though the timber is not of such large dimensions as on the Northern Slope, and is comparatively limited in extent, yet it is of the utmost importance to the inhabitants of Fortune, Connaigre, Hermitage and Bay D'Espoir. It is in fact the chief source from whence they obtain their supply of timber, for the ordinary purposes of the fisheries, and for fuel. The prevailing varieties of timber are spruce, fir, tamarack, white and yellow birch, and a fair