

NEWFOUNDLAND MEN.



ISAAC R. McNEILY.

ISAAC ROBERT McNEILY was born in Ballycastle, Antrim, Ireland, December 15, 1848, and came to Newfoundland in 1849. He was educated at the General Protestant Academy, St. John's, and studied law with his brother, Alexander J. W. McNeily. He was admitted to the bar in 1876, and immediately became a partner with his brother. With keen, bright powers of mind, a captivating address, an exalted idea of honor, and an energy and thoroughness in all that he undertook, he rapidly attained a very high position as a junior in the courts. He attached himself to the southern circuit of the supreme court, and over its large extent of 400 miles of coast, he was soon a well known and prominent personality. Genial, generous, and high spirited, he seemed to radiate a magnetic influence which affected every one with whom he came in contact, and which was recognized not only by his friends, but also by those whom the exigencies of professional life made his temporary opponents. His life of splendid promise was brought to a sudden and premature close on February 16, 1891. He fell a victim to the terrible epidemic of diphtheria which in that year brought sorrow to so many households in Newfoundland. From 1880 to 1889 Mr. McNeily was solicitor to the House of Assembly. He was also the first solicitor to the Municipal Council of St. John's. In the autumn of '89 he was a candidate in the interests of the Conservative party for the District of Harin, but notwithstanding his popularity he was defeated. It is idle to speculate upon the possibilities of a life like his; but it is easy to believe that, had he been spared, his force of character and his abilities would have made their impress upon the time. But "*Deus aliter visum est*," and those who knew and loved him can only look upon the memory of a life which seems to be incomplete and fragmentary; and yet one of those lives which, as some one has finely said, "like splinters of aromatic wood smell sweetest at the farther end."