

certain sound in relation to the truth, that, though men may be influenced by historical testimony and by other lines of argument, yet a full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority of Jesus is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the word in men's hearts. But the persuasion is not the less on that account to be regarded as a reasonable persuasion, *i.e.*, a persuasion that rests on grounds which sound reason approves of. There is, in the first place, such a fitness between man's moral necessities, which the teaching of Jesus assumes, and the provision which it announces—the provision so fits into the necessities—that the fitness contributes the strongest evidence of the divinity of Christ's teaching, to the man who is able to see it, that is, to the man who is willing to do the will of God; while, of course, to another man, who cannot see this fitness, because of his want of the necessary qualification, it has no force or value. And, in the second place, the doctrine of Jesus, in giving to the man who is willing to do the will of God, at once a knowledge of sin and a power and success in his conflict with it, which all else fails to give, so approves itself to him as divine, that he becomes entrenched, as it were, in a stronghold of certainty from which nothing can dislodge him.

(To be continued.)

## NEWFOUNDLAND—THE ANCIENT COLONY.

### SAINT JOHN'S.

As there is so little known of this interesting island in Canada, I will give you a few lines on the subject. Besides I find that your paper circulates here, and there is also a wealthy flourishing Presbyterian congregation in Saint John's, which although isolated, is not the less important, and is a part of the great Presbyterian Church of Canada.

The name of the island does not indicate its age, for although it is called Newfoundland, we find that it is the oldest of the colonial possessions of Great Britain.

The island was discovered in the fifteenth century, and about a century afterwards was frequented by the Spaniards and French for its fisheries. In 1763 it was ceded to the English, and ever since to the present moment may be regarded as a thoroughly English settlement, and being so nigh to Great Britain many of the young people of both sexes go there to be educated.

Newfoundland is situated on the north-east side of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and whilst in Canada and other places it is looked upon as a literal Greenland, the temperature is not by any means extreme, seldom falling below zero in the winter, and seldom rising above seventy to eighty degrees in summer. There is a considerable rain fall, and often deep snow; streams are flooded, but on the whole the climate is mild and very healthy.

The area of the island is about 40,000 square miles and its population about 169,000. The chief industries are seal oil, seal skins, and copper ore, of which articles there are large exports, probably to the extent of \$5,000,000 a year. The agricultural interests are only of secondary importance, and little progress has been made, but I understand that even in this department at present there are signs of improvement. From its isolated position the resources of the country have not been developed. Even in this age of railway administration the sound of the whistle and the snorting of the steam horse were not heard until this year. After much opposition the present Government succeeded in raising a syndicate to build a line, which has been so far successful, that thirty-five miles of the line is now being operated, and it is to be hoped that by next July it will be completed to Harbour Grace, which is the second largest place on the island.

It will sound strange in Canadian ears to hear that the mercantile interests in Saint John's were arrayed against railway construction, for fear that it would be the means of breaking up a system of "barter" in trading, which has been long the custom here, and has been profitable to the merchants.

### THE GOVERNMENT

is administered by an Executive Council of fifteen members, and by a house of thirty-one members who are elected every four years. The general elections which have just closed resulted in the return of the Whiteway Government for the third time, which is

also regarded as a decided victory for the railway interests.

The Government are charged with having leanings towards confederation, which if true, or were they to make any move in this direction they could not hold office any length of time, as the feeling against Canada is very strong.

### THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

As is the custom in Canada the English Government appoint the Governor-General and the people pay him. The present governor is Sir F. Maxse, an English baronet of some prominence, and of more than local reputation. Sir F. Maxse was one of the famous "six hundred" whose gallant conduct historians will ever make classic and place side by side with the noblest deeds of England's greatest heroes.

### THE SETTLERS

were largely Irish, the rebellion in Ireland having caused a large emigration, and that too of a class who came with rather excited feelings, and who in a new country without any restraints were not much improved by the change. A number of the "baser sort" formed themselves into a league, similar to that which existed in Ireland when they left, and bound themselves by an oath to keep the secrets of the party, which at this time numbered about 470. Their intended victims were Protestants, and they had arranged to carry out their plans on a Sunday when the people would be in church, which was to have been either torn down or blown up; but these plans were happily frustrated, and to the lasting honour of the then Roman Catholic Bishop,

### RIGHT REV. DR. O'DONNELL,

be it stated, that, having heard of the intended massacre, he informed the military, whose timely interference prevented their wicked conspiracy from being carried out. Swift punishment followed. Many of them being tried by court martial were either hanged or shot. An account of these disgraceful transactions was given to the public at the time by Bishop O'Donnell, and is still preserved by the Government in the Repository in London. In recognition of the Bishop's services a pension of fifty pounds a year was granted to him for life, and in the annual estimates was referred to in the pithy sentence, "To Bishop O'Donnell for patriotic services."

### SAINT JOHN'S

Is the capital of the colony, and is the seat of Government. The city has a population of 30,000, and is situated on the slope of a hill which rises gradually from the harbour. The business of the city is chiefly done on two streets running the entire length of the city, being about a mile and a half in length. Water street is where the wholesale houses are, and a very large business is done. Some of the stores would compare favourably with Toronto or Montreal, whilst the stock of goods in some instances is probably larger than in either of the places named. The street is narrow, and at times is literally covered with horses and carts. The wharves also are lively places, more especially if two or three large steamers are loading or unloading their cargoes.

There is no Municipal Government here, or mayor or aldermen, and consequently no taxes, the city being governed by the Board of Works, whose administration gives general satisfaction. An excellent system of water works supplies the citizens with water in great abundance and without cost.

There are some fine buildings in the city, among which may be mentioned the Government House, the colonial offices or parliament buildings. The Presbyterian and Methodist churches, the Roman Catholic and English cathedrals are really splendid examples of church architecture. The latter is being enlarged at present, improvements have been going on for three years, and it is expected that it will require about the same time to finish it, the cost of the improvements will be in the neighbourhood of \$350,000, and it will be one of the finest church edifices in connection with this denomination in British North America.

St. John's has been destroyed by fire three times, yet it has made rapid progress, and is at present a handsome city with a large number of beautiful private residences situated outside the town.

The Asylum, four miles out of town, is a handsome structure, occupying a charming site, and surrounded by scenery beautiful as the eye ever rested on. There are about 200 inmates in the building which is kept in perfect order. It was erected in 1853 chiefly through the influence of Dr. Stubb, a native of Devon-

shire, England, who ably fills the position of Superintendent, and who in addition to his other qualifications has risen to eminence as a physician.

In the reconstruction of the city sufficient attention has not been given to architectural beauty. The streets seem to start from some point and run everywhere, through private lanes and yards until they reach a stone wall, when probably they stop and take a turn.

The city is very healthy, considering that there is a population of 30,000 and only six doctors, who half the time might even go fishing, and none of their patients seriously suffer in health. St. John's is reached by an Allan steamer fortnightly from Liverpool and Halifax, the distance from the former place being about 1,000 miles shorter than to New York. The run from Halifax occupying about forty-eight hours in fair weather, would, in the absence of that horrid thing called "sea sickness," which has baffled the skill of the most eminent physicians, be a most enjoyable trip. This coast has always been considered a dangerous one, especially in the neighbourhood of Cape Race, which is about fifty miles west of St. John's. There many ship-wrecks have taken place, and there many a jolly Jack Tar has gone down to a watery grave "unwept, unhonoured, and unsung." In the latter part of October the steamer "Herder" of the Hamburg line became a total wreck, but the passengers and a part of the cargo were saved and brought to this city next day. Considerable of the passengers' "valuables" were lost or carried away by a horde of ruffians who came thither to see what they could grab. A rather remarkable coincidence was that a lady passenger on our boat was wrecked fourteen years ago at the same place and in a boat belonging to the same line, but fortunately then, as now, all the passengers were saved.

When the boat passes Cape Race she is signalled by the hoisting of a flag, and is reported to the city, where her arrival is anxiously looked for, and which is announced by the firing of two guns. The harbour, one of the finest in the world, and, it is said, capable of containing the whole British fleet, is entered by passing through what is known as the "Narrows," only about 150 yards wide, the rocks rising on either side to the height of from five to seven hundred feet above the level of the sea, and when lit up by the brilliant rays of the setting sun, present a scene of indescribable beauty. The upper classes of society adhere closely to English customs, are educated, refined, and hospitable, while the rosy cheeks, healthy appearance, and stylish dresses of the St. John's ladies are alike the envy and admiration of visitors to the island. The population is largely from the south and west of Ireland, probably four to one, and the remainder principally English and Scotch. But all are warmly attached to their "Island home," which they delight to call "this Newfoundland of ours."

### PRESBYTERIANISM

is the latest born of the evangelical denominations, but, like the parent stock in Scotland, has made steady progress, and that, too, of a substantial kind. In 1842 St. Andrew's congregation was formed, and a call given to Rev. Donald Fraser, of Lunenburg, N.S. The first communion was held in 1844, and the congregation prospered till the disruption in Scotland, when a second congregation was formed, and a second church built in 1850. In 1876 the old Kirk was destroyed by fire, and about this time union had been freely talked of, but did not seem near. In October of the same year, however, a spark was seen one day on the spire of the Free Church which indicated fire, and in a short time the building was in flames, and speedily destroyed. These fiery trials were instrumental in bringing the people together again, and union was consummated. In September following a hearty and unanimous call was given to the Rev. L. G. Macneill, M.A., of Maitland, N. S., which was accepted, and accordingly Mr. Macneill was inducted about the close of the year. The services were held in the Athenaeum until the present edifice was opened for public worship in 1879. In the porch of the new church there is cut in the stonework, "The Burning Bush," the emblem of the Church of Scotland. The church, which cost about \$40,000, occupies a central site, and is built of pressed brick laid in cement and faced with white freestone imported from Scotland. Although when building it was thought the church would be much too large, it is now found inadequate to accommodate the congregation. There is not a pew to be rented, and on Sabbath last the edifice was completely filled.