

*Forteau Bay*

Is almost an open roadstead, exposed to the south and south-east, but safe even with winds from those quarters, owing to its depth, and the protection it receives from the opposite coast of Newfoundland.

It is surrounded by table-lands of sandstone, covered with the usual moss, the dwarf spruce, birch bush, and some mountain ash. A salmon river of some size enters the sea at the head of the bay; seals, salmon, cod and remarkably fine herrings are very plentiful. The fishings are carried on with considerable profit by five establishments; four connected with Jersey, Poole and St. John's are in the bay, and the fifth is planted upon the eastern point; it belongs to a Mr. Grange, a wealthy colonist from Anchor Point, Newfoundland. Upwards of 400 people are employed by these various planters, but their catch this year has not been in proportion so good as that of their rivals of Red Bay. The resident agents and partners are Messrs. Ellis, employed by Mr. Bird, of Poole, and Laroux, a Jersey merchant, and agent for Mr. Outville, the most extensive planter on the coast of Labrador; he has, besides this, other establishments, one at Blanc Sablon, and supplies most of the minor rooms and resident fishermen with goods, clothes and stores, much to his own profit; Messrs. Young and Janveaux, and George de Heaune and David Janvers are the remainder.

There are nine fishing stations between Red Bay and Forteau, namely, Carrol Cove, East St. Modest, Black Bay, West St. Modest, Capstan Island, Lanc Diable, River Head of Lanc-a-Loup, and Lanc Amour; except at Lanc-a-Loup, where a Mr. Crockwell, of Tor Ouay, has a room: all these stations are fished by colonial fishermen, who send their produce to St. John's by vessels from that port, and to the Jersey houses in Forteau Bay and Blanc Sablon. These small stations employ about 220 men, and average a catch of 25,000 quintals throughout the year.

Cabbages and turnips are grown at every station for the summer consumption of the inhabitants.

Those who reside upon the coast during the winter shoot deer, partridges, ducks, geese, curlew and other wild fowl, amply sufficient for their support. They have, nevertheless, stores of pork, flour, tea and molasses, supplied by traders from Quebec, Halifax and St. John's.

Much of my time was occupied, during the ship's stay at Forteau, in settling innumerable disputes between the rival firms and fishermen, and in trying an action brought by Philip Landragan, of Carrol Cove, against Messrs. George de Heume and David Janvers, for having taken a schooner belonging to the former, under pretence of purchasing her, and having used her for nine months, and, in consequence of the Collector of Customs of St. John's declaring the register to be incorrect, returning her to the plaintiff, who accepted a bill for £.30 as an equivalent for her use, and for having boarded her after delivering her over, and taking out gear belonging to the vessel.

The above was a sample of many of their grievances; but there were two of a much greater description: the one against Mr. Ellis, of Forteau, as shown in the enclosed letter to his Excellency the Governor; the other case was brought before me by a man named Charles Dicker, a planter, resident on Grand Point, three miles west of Blanc Sablon, and a settler of 24 years, who, upon hearing a man-of-war was at Forteau, walked across the country to lay a charge against a stronger party for having torn up his seal and salmon nets, as, he asserted, they prevented his own catch being so great as it otherwise would be. The poor man was thus deprived of his season's profit, and probably his winter's subsistence. I was enabled, fortunately, to restore his rights to him.

*Blanc Sablon*

Is seven miles west of the western point of Forteau Bay. It is open to the eastward; nevertheless, the westerly winds are those most feared, as they throw in heavy cross swells between Wood and Greenly Islands, and vessels are not unfrequently driven on shore by them.

It is the principal fishing station on the Labrador Coast. There are four Jersey establishments; two belonging to Messrs. Philip de Ouitville (under the charge of Thomas le Roux), Philip Bray and Lebrock. There are upwards of 300 inhabitants during the season, and only four families reside during the

winter.