

nearly four times as great as that of Belgium, and which contains 12,000 square miles more than Scotland, should at this day be a *terra incognita*, especially when we remember that it is the most ancient of Britain's Colonial possessions, and lies nearest to her shores.

It would seem however, that the remarkable and commanding geographical position of the Island is destined to secure for it that attention which its natural attractions have hitherto failed to command. Nature has marked it as the proper terminus for those Atlantic Cables which are flashing intelligence between the Old World and the New, and which will be multiplied yearly as their benefits are felt more widely, and their expense lessened. Those already laid down emerge from the depths of ocean on the shores of Newfoundland; and it remains to be seen whether it is possible to find any other safe and workable route. Fortunately, the charter of the "New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company" secures to the Government of Newfoundland a right of pre-emption which enables it to purchase, for the cost of plant, the line which now crosses the Island, as well as the submarine cables, at the end of twenty years from the date of granting this charter. This period will terminate in 1874. In all probability, the Colony will then reclaim the exclusive right of landing cables on the Island, now vested in the Company named above, and thus end a monopoly which though necessary at the outset of trans-atlantic telegraphy, it would not be desirable to maintain, in view of international interests. It is not improbable that, in the future, the Island will thus become the great telegraphic station between America and the Old World, and that it will be the landing-place for the various cables that will span the Atlantic, and the ganglionic centre whence will stretch the nerves that unite the two hemispheres. Reaching out from the American continent within 1640 miles of the Irish coast, and having in its deep bays, whose arms stretch so far inland, safe recesses for the landing of cables, it possesses unrivalled facilities for oceanic telegraphy. Nor is this all. Nature has so smoothed the ocean bed between Newfoundland and Ireland, that the greater part of it is level as a bowling-green, and presents the safest and best of all resting-places for trans-atlantic cables. Once dropped into those serene depths, they are beyond the reach of danger. Professor Huxley says, in his "Lecture on a Piece of Chalk:"—"The result of all these