

# MINERAL RESOURCES OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

---

BY JAMES P. HOWLEY, F.G.S.,

DIRECTOR OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

---

ST. JOHN'S, N.F., May, 1892.

As a mineral producing country, Newfoundland has only sprung into notoriety within the past quarter of a century. Previous to that date, in fact, from its very earliest history, there appears to have been a vague suspicion of its containing rich mineral treasures, for we find that Sir Humphrey Gilbert, who took possession of the island in the name of Queen Elizabeth, in 1583, had with him a mining expert, a native of Saxony, whom Sir Humphrey despatched upon a mining exploration along the coast. He is said to have gathered many specimens of ore, supposed to be rich in copper, iron, lead, silver, &c. To quote from the narrative of the voyage: "One Daniel, a native of Saxony, a very expert miner and assayer, brought to the General a piece of ore, of which he said that he would stake his life that it contained a considerable quantity of silver."

Sir Humphrey was greatly elated at the prospect of rich mineral wealth in his newly-acquired possession; but fearing lest the numerous Basque and Portuguese fishermen present should get wind of the