

leges of a Colony, and to secure to it such an administration of justice as would permit the seeds of civilization to take root. A mixed population was allowed to form as I have described, but instead of putting forth efforts to render them a civilized and orderly people, by promoting the interests of education and religion, and securing the enforcement of just laws, the chief object was to prevent an increase of settlers and to lessen the number of those who had rooted themselves in the soil. It is not wonderful that the state of society resulting from all this was deplorable in many respects; and that disorder, immorality and crime should be often rife. Indeed the wonder is that under such a state of things as we have been describing, social order, even in its most rudimentary shape, could be preserved; or that the country could be tolerable to those who loved the decencies and proprieties of life and valued religious teaching. In fact, had there not been among the early settlers and those who afterwards took up their abode in the country, a very considerable proportion of moral and religious men—of those who constitute the strength and stability of a state and are the “salt” of society, utter lawlessness and moral corruption would have been the result. Without almost any provision for education, and with very few religious instructors, this hardly-used people managed to cherish the good seed brought with them from other lands, and, in happier times, it grew up and brought forth fruit. Vigour of character and solid worth could not have been wanting among the members of a community who fought and won the battle under such disadvantages.

RECENT HISTORY.

Failing space compels me to pass lightly over the more recent portion of the history of this colony. During the long wars which followed the outbreak of the French Revolution, Newfoundland attained to an immense and unprecedented prosperity. All competitors in the fisheries were swept from the seas; the markets of Europe were exclusively in the hands of the merchants of the country; the seasons were, on the whole, remarkably favourable for the prosecution of the fisheries, and the value of fish trebled. Wages rose to a high figure, and emigrants flocked to the country. In 1814 nearly 7,000 persons arrived in Newfoundland. The laws against colonization could not be rigidly enforced with such an influx of population. The inhabitants were now found to number 80,000 souls; in 1804 they were estimated at 20,000. Ameliorating measures were introduced; a post-office was established in 1805; and in the following year the first newspaper, “*The Royal Gazette*,” was printed. Strenuous efforts were made to supply the spiritual wants of the Protestant portion of the population, and Roman Catholics were not less zealous. In 1805, Newfoundland was annexed to the newly-created bishopric of Nova Scotia, and in 1839 was constituted a separate see. Wesleyan Methodism was introduced as early as 1786, and attained a vigorous growth. In 1811, the restriction against the erection of houses was removed; and the shores of St. John's harbour were divided into building and water lots, and thrown