

PREFACE.

THE coronation time of a "Sailor King" seems a fitting occasion for the issue of a volume relating to Britain's Oldest Colony—the one, moreover, which saw the beginning of her greatness upon the seas. Our present gracious Sovereign visited Newfoundland twice, and was afforded each time ample evidences of the loyalty and devotion of its people to the British Crown, which will naturally be intensified among a maritime people, when their Monarch is one whose fidelity to his seafaring career has been conspicuous, and who can thus all the more appreciate the record of the most ancient and loyal Colony as the nursery of England's naval institutions.

The story of Newfoundland for four centuries is a chapter from the annals of England's growing empire upon the sea. Discovered in 1497, it was by 1511 well known throughout England and Western Europe. A century later, in 1610, the first permanent settlement on its shores was essayed by daring voyagers from Bristol. In yet another century, in 1714, the first George was crowned, following the Treaty of Utrecht, which wrested from the French the part of the Island they had come to occupy meanwhile. Almost a century again, in 1818, the Americans were granted fishing liberties on part of the seaboard. The coronation of the fifth George this