

THE  
MARITIME MONTHLY.

*A Magazine of Literature, Science, and Art.*

---

VOL. I.

JUNE, 1873.

No. 6.

---

THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO AND FROM  
EUROPE—via NEWFOUNDLAND.

BY REV. M. HARVEY, ST. JOHN'S, N. F.

AT the present day, Newfoundland seems to be emerging from the traditionary fogs in which for ages it has been enveloped, and to be gradually rising into that importance to which its remarkable geographical position and fine natural resources fairly entitle it. It has long been noted for its cod and seal fisheries; and the silvery quarries of its surrounding seas have been wrought for centuries, without any symptoms of approaching exhaustion. Now, however, it is becoming known that its primitive rocks contain rich veins of copper, nickel and lead; that iron ore is to be found in proximity to a promising coal field, on the western coast; that marble and gypsum beds are extensively developed, and that great breadths of fertile land exist, capable of supporting many thousands of inhabitants in comfort. In addition to these substantial attractions, which are operating to draw attention to this fine Island, there is the charm of an unknown interior, which only one white man has ever yet crossed. What its vast savannas, occupied only by the bear, the wolf and the reindeer, may contain, of the valuable and the wonderful, no man knows. Its hills and plains and "forests primeval" are less known than those of any other portion of the New World. Only a narrow fringe round the coast has been yet explored and even that but imperfectly. It is not creditable to modern enterprise, that an Island whose area is