

trust that the right of pre-emption has been legally secured by the island and will not be surrendered.

THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO AND FROM EUROPE— *via* NEWFOUNDLAND.

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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 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 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