

sometimes fished up by the French bankers; for the French, as we know, follow the bank fishery to a great extent, and those who have been in the habit of crossing the Banks, on their voyage to Europe, must have been surprised to see the number of French ships riding at anchor by their hempen cables, better adapted than chains for the continual and short pitch of that sea, and the hardy fishermen passing along in their large boats, hauling their bultows—the most ruinous mode of fishing ever practised. The bank fishery, as you all know, is confined to the French and Americans as we cannot compete with their bounties and there is not a single British ship on the banks. It is a dreary locality, the almost constant fog and drizzling rain, the doleful sound of the fog horn or the ships guns calling their crews, the troubled ocean, the ships rolling almost under the waves, steadied by their main or trysails in addition to their moorings; all these make an impression on a stranger the first time he passes the Banks in summer which he never after forgets. From this also most persons receive an erroneous idea of the climate of the island, which they imagine to be the same as that on the Banks, and coming themselves from the cloudy though genial atmosphere of England or Ireland, cannot believe that we are all the time enjoying a clear, bright sky, beautiful as that of Italy, and breathing an air dry and pure, never felt in the humid region of the Gulf stream. What an awful climate, they will say, you have in Newfoundland; how can you live there without the sun in a continual fog? Have you been there, you ask them? No! they say; but we have crossed the Banks of Newfoundland.—How surprised they are then when you tell them that for ten months at least in the year all the fog and damp of the banks goes over to their side and descends in rain there with the south-westerly winds, while we never have the benefit of it unless when what we call the out winds blow. In fact, the geography of America is very little known, even by intelligent writers at home, and the mistakes made in our leading periodicals are frequently very amusing. I received a letter from a most intelligent friend of mine some time since, in which he speaks of the hyperborean region of Newfoundland; in my reply, I dated my letter from St. John's, N. lat. $47^{\circ} 30'$, and I directed it to Mr. So and So, N. lat. 52° . The summer here is remarkable for fog, on the southern and south-western coast especially, not on the northern or eastern side; the reason of this is the more northerly set of the gulf stream in summer. During the winter months the northern or arctic current is stronger and pushes the equator-