



ST. JOHN'S HARBOR.

created a home for themselves in spite of difficulties, opposition and oppression. The battle of freedom was fought and won here by determined, much-enduring men, though it was a bloodless conflict, and the struggle was carried on against heavy odds.

So far from fostering and aiding the colony in its early days, England's conduct towards it was marked by neglect, and not infrequently by cruelty and oppression. Indeed, no colony of the British Empire ever received such harsh and unnatural treatment from the Imperial Mother. Lord Salisbury summed it up in a sentence, when he said, that "for centuries it had been the sport of historic misfortunes." It would have been nearer the mark had he said "the victim of historic wrongs and oppressions." Its fishing industries were handed over to a party of English monopolists, who used them for their own aggrandizement and bent all their energies to prevent the colonization of the island, and keep it as a mere fishing station. Laws were passed by the parliament of England forbidding, under heavy penalties, the people to cultivate the soil or build houses. They were to

fish here in the summer and go home for the winter. It was not till near the beginning of the present century that these cruel laws were repealed. The people were left to the tender mercies of rough fishing admirals and surrogates and every means used to drive them from their adopted country. Then, by Imperial treaties, the better half of their island home was torn from them and virtually handed over to the French—an arrangement which has done more to retard the progress of the colony than all other causes combined, and it is one that still continues. That the people held their ground, met wrong and oppression with indomitable patience and endurance, and finally won self-government and constitutional rights and liberties, is proof sufficient that there were among them many "village Hampdens," and that they possessed the right stuff out of which freemen are made. These days of oppression have long since passed away; but it is time that the great Mother of Colonies made some reparation for the wrongs of the past, by holding out the helping hand to the eldest born of her colonial progeny.

When Newfoundland takes her place