

of this attempt, which was successful, though during it very many of the Indians who accompanied Mr. Gisborne died of privation and fatigue, showed that for once the wild and sterile nature of an almost unknown interior had not been exaggerated. The island beyond the actual coast line was found to be a mere swamp—cold, raw, utterly wild, and almost destitute of either animals or trees.

On such an island there was, of course, very little for the royal party to see, except in the actual town of St. John's, which had made an amount of preparations in the way of arches and evergreens, such as no one had expected. This festive exhibition would no doubt have been worth seeing, but for the rain, which, as throughout the voyage, accompanied His Royal Highness to this his first landing-place, and poured in such torrents that for some hours the disembarkation had to be postponed. Of what took place at this visit to St. John's there is really so little to record that, but as a link in the narrative of the progress, it might almost be omitted entirely. A few things, however, are worthy of mention, one being that the cod fish caught at Newfoundland, when fresh, is as tasteless as water and as unpalatable as cotton wool. It is only when salted (the only condition in which it is exported) that it becomes even tolerably good; and, fortunately for the value of the fisheries, the cod of Newfoundland bears salting better than any other species known. Another fact discovered during the royal visit demands especial notice, as it was subsequently much commented on, and formed, if anything could form, a sort of foundation for the monstrous superstructure of false reports which were designedly circulated among the Orangemen of Upper Canada. The Protestants and Roman Catholics of Newfoundland are pretty equal in number, and

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