

on our premier Colony, for he has lived for the respectable space of forty five years on the Island, and people who are accustomed to consult the "Encyclopædia Britannica" are acquainted with his succinct and masterly article on the subject. The area of Newfoundland is one-fifth less than that of England, and lying, as it does, at the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, it has well been described as the stepping-stone between the Old World and the New. Its strategical importance is obvious, for it commands the St. Lawrence, and therefore the Dominion. Its fisheries laid the foundation, far back in the seventeenth century, of the maritime supremacy of England, but the waters which surround the tenth largest island in the world have been, in the metaphorical as well as the actual sense, troubled, for Spain and Portugal, and in more recent times the United States, have sent their fishermen to dispute with natives the harvest of the seas. Lord Salisbury once spoke of the "historic misfortunes" of Newfoundland, and the phrase was justified in the eyes of all political students. How far Newfoundland has stood in its own light is another matter, and one about which these pages are discreetly silent. Dr. Harvey's book, though written with enthusiasm, is valuable. We know not, indeed, where else to turn for so minute a picture of the actual conditions of life in that part of the world, or for so luminous a summary of the manifold activities of the people, and the resources by land as well as by sea which are within their grasp. We have not space to deal with a wide array of facts and statistics regarding the fisheries, which are, of course, the staple industry, and the same reason deters us from laying stress on the agricultural and mineral wealth of the Island. The book has its drawbacks, we admit, in the direction of partial statement; but when allowance is made for such limitations, enough remains in the way of new and minute information to make it worthy of notice as a convenient and able work of reference.

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It is not a little interesting, from the Imperial point of view, that the Queen's so-called Diamond Jubilee should have fallen in the four hundredth year since the discovery of our oldest Colony. It affords a reminder of the age of our Colonial Empire, the extent of which has been lately brought so strikingly before stay-at-homes. *Dr. Harvey has done well to issue this small but beautiful volume of Newfoundland, where Britain achieved her first success in maritime discovery, planted her first Colony, found a training ground for her seamen, and began her career of commercial greatness from the fisheries.* The story of Newfoundland has many peculiar claims to interest, and Dr. Harvey tells it well. He begins with John Cabot's adventurous and comparatively unnoticed voyage in the 'Matthew,' of Bristol, and does full justice to that mariner, whose great achievement has been too long eclipsed by that of Columbus. Of course it is not by any means clear that Newfoundland was really the first land sighted by John Cabot, but he discovered the island in which came to be planted our first Colony, although the mariners of Normandy and Brittany first became alive to the value of the fisheries. They were followed