

mitted us to extract the substance of it for the information of our readers.

"In reference to population, I believe that as nearly as could be ascertained by the last census, the Inhabitants of the Island amount to about 100,000. They are widely scattered in Bays and Coves all round the Island. There are no settlements in the interior, which is barren and comfortless in the extreme. The Coast, generally speaking, is somewhat fertile and in many instances may, by industry be made tolerably productive, remarkable proofs of which are to be found for several miles inland; but the fishery is well known to be the staple commodity and in truth the only thing of value which could induce a settler to take up his abode on our shores. It is well observed by a late writer upon our statistics. "Of fish they *think*—of fish they *stink*—for fish they *live*—and for fish multitudes of them die!"

The population throughout the Island is about equally divided between Roman Catholics and Protestants, both parties until lately, sadly destitute of religious means of any description in the out-harbours and settlements—deplorably ignorant and painfully poor. To the Wesleyans they are mainly indebted for whatever little gospel light has been scattered among them. Now, however, more effort is made both by the Roman Catholic Bishop and the Episcopalian Diocesan and supply something in the shape of religious instruction. Would that the latter could be more happy in the choice of his agency!

In the town of St. John's, which may be considered the capital. The population consisting of about 14,000 is mainly Roman Catholic, I should think in the proportion of four to one. This is owing to the town being the centre of all the business of the Island and therefore affording a great field for labouring men, who are chiefly Irish Emigrants. There is in St. John's one large but very old Roman Catholic Chapel, and the Priests have their different station houses to which at appointed seasons they resort for confession, &c. They have recently commenced a very large stone building which is to be called a Cathedral, for which they have had great facilities afforded them by government. The plan is sumptuous, but is in no way of being speedily finished. The Roman Catholic Bishop being unpopular on account of his violent and one-sided political and Jesuitical movements. His people are taught to hold in hatred every thing in shape of Protestantism (except money) which is mainly in Protestant hands. The proportion of Protestants, as I have already hinted, is small in St. John's, and these are divided between the Bishop and two clergymen, in two Churches—

the one a large Congregation and the other very small; also the Wesleyans and ourselves, which two latter bodies may be said to rank about equally in number.

The state of society is intelligent and good in St. John's. I hesitate not to say far superior to most places of similar dimensions and numbers to be found at home, but among the poor neglected settlers in the out-harbours and coves it is *bad*, almost barbarous in habits and manners, to say the least 100 years behind any other community, professedly civilized, with which I am acquainted. Until the Charter was given to us by the late King William, confessedly experimental, and amounting to universal suffrage, we were throughout a comparatively happy, quiet and loyal people—but no sooner was that principle brought into operation than the Priests sought opportunity to trample upon Protestant rights, to vituperate from their altars, and to carry every thing their own way at the hustings. This gave rise to many cruelties and hostilities. Discord took the place of a proverbial unanimity and for more than eight years, we have scarcely known what peace is until the suspension of the Charter the last 12 months. It now comes to us in a modified way by royal authority and forthwith we are again to have another struggle, with I fear but as little success as before.

The out-harbours, where thickly populated, have had their corresponding share of agitation and trouble.

From long experience and close observation, I am persuaded that were the people generally left to their own feelings—unbiased by priestcraft in politics and religion, they would be the most united, benevolent and peaceable creatures under the sun. A greater disposition to these amiable characteristics I never met with. From all parties, without exception, I have found the greatest kindness towards myself and people. Thus much, my dear sir, for our condition *social, political and religious*, except that I forgot to say that the Wesleyans have several places of worship on the Island, but their principal stand for number, in any given spot, is at Carborear, a populous town in Conception Bay, where they have a very large and superior place of worship well filled—where however our Diocesan Bishops is following them as in many other places with a determined zeal which would be better employed in other parts, at this moment absolutely destitute of religious instruction.

I now come more immediately to ourselves, our old place of worship, (with the exception of our Episcopal Church in St. John's) is, I believe, the oldest on the Island. The Congregational, or as it was originally called "The Protestant