

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

NOTES FROM NEWFOUNDLAND—II.

On a bright morning in October last the Allan steamship "Hibernian," Captain Wylie, left the Cunard wharf at Halifax amidst the waving of handkerchiefs, and took gracefully to the smooth waters of the harbour. In a few minutes the citizens were apprised of this fact by the firing of two guns which distinguish this line of boats from those of other lines. The passengers, though few, were of a representative character, from a distinguished prelate of the R. C. Church down to the irrepressible insurance agent, of whom we had three on board, besides lawyers, doctors, students, officers and contractors.

We had the Right Rev. Dr. Macdonald, of Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, who, from his simplicity of manners and genial disposition, was quite a favourite with the passengers. We had a disciple of Esculapius from Yankee land who, from the cut of his features, one would conclude was bent on going through the Newfoundlanders if he could. We had a gentleman of the long robe who stood six feet four inches, and is said to have the highest intellect on the Island. We were hoping that his extreme longitude is not an indication of the length of his legal arguments; but not the least interesting of the little crowd were two student lads going to Edinburgh to prosecute their studies. The boys belonged to Halifax, N. S., and when some one ignorantly referred to them as Americans, they quickly repudiated the soft impeachment and said they were Nova Scotians.

A little episode occurred here which will bear narration. Two insurance agents were talking when a stranger came forward, who, on being introduced, pulled along a card out of his pocket on which was the picture of the corpse of a man who had been talked to death by an insurance agent. At this one of the agents grew most indignant and hurling back the intended insult with indignation, stated most emphatically that he never had done such a thing, as he had only been a few years in the business and up till that time had not had a chance.

Nothing else of interest happened until we approached the "Narrows" where the scenery is bold and attractive, and where we took on a pilot who quickly run us into the harbour.

The wharves of St. John's present a lively appearance. They were literally covered with barrels of flour, pork, and produce generally, all admitted at low duties. A large proportion of this produce comes from Canada. The duty on flour, of which about 500,000 barrels are imported annually, is only twenty-five cents per barrel. A large number of horses and carts are employed in transferring the freight to the city. Codfish is one of the staples of the colony's trade which this year has been very prosperous, as was evidenced by the large quantities of fish being handled. On some wharves as many as 200 hands were employed in carrying and packing. It is estimated that this year there will be over a million of quintals handled, the average of which may be taken at \$4 each, and of this quantity one firm alone will handle from two to three hundred quintals. When the fish is brought in by the planters or "out-harbour" men as they are called, it is culled and divided into three quantities, which are shipped to France, Spain, Portugal and the Brazils, where as an article of food it is held in high reputation.

THE SEAL FISHERY

is also a source of immense wealth to the colony, and is being carried on to a large extent. I heard of one cargo this year which consisted of over fourteen thousand seals and the fat of the cargo amounted to over 700 tons, the value of which was over \$90,000. The seals are found on the ice on the Labrador coast, where they are skinned, the fat and skins being secured, the balance of the carcase is left. To give an idea of the extent of the operations in this line I may say that there are from fourteen to eighteen ships dispatched every spring to the seal fishing.

THE NEW DOCK.

The work on this enterprise is being pushed forward rapidly, and will be completed in about two years. The contractors are a New York firm, who, it is said, understand their business thoroughly. The dock will be wooden, and capable of admitting the largest vessel. The contract is over half a million of dollars, and

when finished will be leased for ten years at \$15,000 a year.

THE RAILWAY,

the first in the colony, is making good progress. Fifty miles between St. John's and Harbour Grace are in operation, and is confidently expected that by the first of the New Year the road will be completed to Harbour Grace. There are some 430 men at work which means a good pay roll every week. The superintendent of the road is Mr. H. T. Smith, whose management of the line has, I understand, given general satisfaction to the public, besides being profitable to the stockholders. As a railroad in this region is somewhat of a novelty and as it passes through a territory possessing fine scenery, large numbers of the citizens of St. John's take advantage of it to visit rural districts to which heretofore they had not easy access.

Your correspondent was one of a select party of picnickers who made a little excursion by the morning train. The day passed pleasantly and we enjoyed the trip very much, the scenery round the coast is the finest of its class that could be imagined. On the home journey when nearing the city we discovered that some crank had placed a plank on the rails with the object of wrecking the train. Fortunately the obstruction was noticed in time and the danger avoided. As this was the third accident which the writer escaped he was set down for a kind of Jonah (not political), and a consultation was held to consider the propriety of casting him overboard.

THE NEW ROPE WALK,

the first in Newfoundland, was started this year by one of the most successful and enterprising of St. John's merchants, Mr. Moses Monroe. The factory is situated about two miles out of the city, has a railway station at the works, and employs about 150 men. The quality of the rope is said to be equal to that made at Belfast where the supplies were formerly obtained, and the entire produce of the factory so far has been required for local wants. The business is under the direction of Mr. James Monroe, who has already given evidence of his superior skill in the management of the concern.

Mr. Moses Monroe, the proprietor, is brother of Mr. Monroe, Q.C., of Dublin, who shouldered the Conservative flag in county Monaghan in opposition to the Parnell candidate, and who also spoke on the same platform with Sir S. Parnell Northcote, on his late tour through the North of Ireland. Mr. Monroe, Q.C., is a distinguished Irish lawyer, and will no doubt at an early day find a seat in the House of Commons.

As a field for sport Newfoundland has few equals. Moose and deer hunting are followed on a large scale. While at Holyrood we met a couple of gentlemen returning from the woods with a fine stag about fourteen years old and weighing about 500 pounds. The first shot penetrated the liver, but the stag ran 300 yards when he was caught by a dog and brought to a stand still. Hares are to be found in great numbers. The abundance and variety of game attract sportsmen from all quarters.

The city of St. John's is set on a hill, and rises in terraces from the waters' edge, presenting a beautiful view from the harbour. Several fine buildings meet the eye, among others a Cathedral now being erected by the Episcopalians, the building has been in progress for three years and will require two years more to complete it. The architect, builder, and masons employed are all Englishmen. There has been no accident as yet at the building. The Bishops and clergy are active and industrious, and belong to what is known as the High Church party. Bishop Jones is in England at present for the benefit of his health, which has been rather precarious of late. There is much sympathy felt for him as well as for his amiable young wife.

PRESBYTERIANISM

is growing slowly but surely. There are only two congregations with mission stations in the colony. The number of Presbyterians is about 1,168. In St. John's there is a large and wealthy congregation under the pastorate of the Rev. L. G. Macneill, who creditably represents the interests of Presbyterianism in this outpost. The congregation held a very successful bazaar last summer to clear off a debt which remained on the church, and which realized over £1,900 sterling. The congregation are at present thinking of enlarging the church edifice, which is insufficient for the increasing attendance. There is no organ in the church but it is in contemplation to improve the

psalmody by the aid of an instrument, a proposal that appears to meet with general favour. As a Church we justly pride ourselves on the ability and power of the pulpit, but to some extent we have overlooked the importance of improving the psalmody, a neglect which heretofore has been the cause of a large number of our young people leaving the Church of their fathers and joining a Church with which in many respects they had no sympathy save in the matter of music alone. If we have the best preaching, and I think this will generally be conceded, I can see no reason why we should not have the best music. The Church has wisely supplied a hymn book, and congregations should see to it, that the music will be in harmony with the other services. The matter of praise is the only one in which Presbyterians can be said to be second to that of any other denomination.

RETURN TRIP.

After spending three weeks pleasantly in St. John's, I took passage by the "Hibernian" on her return from England. Having encountered very severe weather she was four days late in reaching Newfoundland, but arrived safely and sailed the following day after discharging 750 tons of freight. The passage to Halifax was smooth and of the usual monotonous kind, but for one incident. At nine o'clock in the evening of the first day had it not been for Captain Wylie, we would have run into a brigantine from Nova Scotia, and probably cut her in two. Collision, however, was avoided, and after a slight delay both vessels went on their way nothing the worse.

We reached Halifax on Thanksgiving day and were in good time for the services being held in the various churches. I went to Fort Massey Church, where I heard an excellent discourse from the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Burns, in which he eloquently reviewed the events of the year, and minutely pointed out the many causes for thankfulness which existed in this highly favoured land.

There was a large and enthusiastic meeting in the Brunswick Street Methodist Church on the occasion of the Luther celebration. The Church was packed to its utmost capacity, and on the platform were representatives of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist churches. The former were ably represented by the Rev. Drs. McGregor and Burns, and Revs. Messrs. Simpson and McPherson. The addresses were all eloquent and appropriate, and gave no uncertain sound as to the value of the Protestant principles secured to us by the reformation and firmly maintained by succeeding generations.

ANGLICAN MISSION.

The High Church or ritualistic party in Halifax were conducting a mission in three of their churches, two having allowed the Rev. Fathers, as they were styled to speak in their churches. These mission priests, as they like to be called, are apparently very devoted, but their dress and manner and doctrines savour so much of Rome that Evangelical Christians are disgusted. Even the Rev. Dr. Hill, of St. Paul's Church, which is the largest congregation in the body, refused to co-operate or allow them the use of his church. Dr. Hill deserves great credit for his firmness and outspoken defence of Reformation doctrines, especially as the Luther celebration was being held the same week.

At the inauguration of the mission in St. Luke's Church the Bishop with questionable taste referred to the two rectors who refused to join in the mission, or in other words refused to allow Romish doctrines to be preached from their pulpits. The conduct of the Bishop on this occasion gave serious offence to a large number of people who sympathized with the position taken by Dr. Hill and Rev. Mr. Winterbourne in frowning upon the "mission priests."

It is worse than folly for the Rev. Mr. Langtry, to make overtures of union to the Methodists or any other Evangelical Church so long as such practices are countenanced or permitted in the Anglican Church. I heard one of the rambling discourses of the "missioners" and must say that, apart from the erroneous views enunciated, Father Maturin's address would not do credit to a first year's student. The *Halifax Chronicle* reports that Mr. Maturin used the following language on the subject of confession and absolution, on which comment is unnecessary:—

Suppose the rector of this church expected a large crowd, and had himself to go away, and he gave the keys to a few persons with instructions to let in whom they pleased and to keep out whom they pleased. Now, suppose a few young men, having heard of the arrangement, were to say, "We