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"And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."—ST. MATTHEW XXIV, 14.

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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

NO. 5.—NEWFOUNDLAND.

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NEWFOUNDLAND, the oldest British colony, the nearest, too, of England's dependencies, is at the same time the least known, and perhaps the least valued of all. Yet her history dates back to the

time of Henry VII, when a Venetian, John Cabot, received Letters Patent from the king to make a voyage of discovery "amidst the regions of the far North."

About the Feast of St. John the Baptist, 1497, his son Sebastian with his crew of three hundred men in five vessels, had his *prima vista* of this Terra Nova, where the ocean's mighty power has eaten into its coasts so that massive and gigantic cliffs everywhere meet the eye.

This important discovery resulted in the king awarding a sum of money to the discoverers,—as we find the following item recorded in the King's Privy Purse expenses: "1497, Aug. 10. To hym that found the New Isle £10." Another entry runs as follows: "1505, Aug 25. To Clay's goying to Richmount with wyldc cattis and popyngays of the Newfoundland, for his costs 13s. 4d."

The island was chiefly resorted to by the Spaniards and Portuguese, who far outnumbered the

English in their prosecution of the cod fisheries, which have rendered the name of Newfoundland, to say nothing of its fogs, famous.

So abundant were the fish that by degrees shipwrecked mariners, as well as others, of their own free will remained in this far off, cold region, to make them the object of their daily toil.

However, very little was done for the colonization of the island until the time of Queen Elizabeth, when authority was given to the brave old Sir Humphrey Gilbert, who associated with him

his half-brother, Sir Walter Raleigh, "to discover and take possession of any remote, heathen, and barbarous lands not being actually possessed by any Christian prince or people."

The first expedition was a disastrous one, arising chiefly from internal defections and desertions amongst the men.

However, on 11th of June, 1683, the gallant band set sail from Cawsand Bay, reaching Newfoundland early in August of the same year.

The land was taken possession of in the name of the Queen by Sir Gilbert, and he made many grants among his followers. The principal conditions imposed were that the laws he enacted should be "as neere as conveniently may be agreeable to the forme of the laws and pollicy of England," and "That they be not against the true Christian faith or religion, now professed in the Church of England."

The return voyage proved most unfortunate and disastrous, for not only had the "Swallow" to be



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