

It will, therefore, be hardly necessary for me to say that, in the literary partnership involved in this history of Newfoundland, the Rev. M. Harvey contributes the largest share of authoritative work. For myself, I have brought into the collaboration a careful revision of facts and opinions, some special investigations of historical data, and such editorial skill, as is necessary, for the transformation of unsystematized MS. into the form and shape of a comprehensive and methodical record. I have to thank the courteous officials of the British Museum for their assistance in facilitating my examination of MSS., maps, and other documents that make up the curious chronicles of the discovery and early government of the oldest British colony. London is the centre of stored knowledge. In the production of this volume it has been found important to have one of its authors engaged within hail of the British Museum; while the other labored amidst the scenes to be described, a living witness of many of the facts hereinafter narrated. On his side, by the courtesy of Sir William Whiteway, the Premier of Newfoundland, Mr. Harvey has had full access to the archives of the local government; on mine I have had London as a Library of Reference.

It encouraged me greatly, in regard to the necessity and profit of our joint labors, when the first results of my inquiries about Newfoundland proved to be of a very limited character. I found the Island almost a *terra incognita* to the majority of the persons whom I should have supposed to be best acquainted with it. The latest history was issued in 1863,<sup>1</sup> and this, though an excellent work in itself, neither dealt with the fisheries, the agriculture, nor the mineral resources of the country; nor did it attempt to cover the unoccupied ground of topography; physical geography, and other features of the Island, necessary to a comprehensive treatment of the subject.

I do not offer these remarks as any reflection upon an admirable work, but only to emphasize the fact that its scope was limited, and that, even as an historical record, the chronicle ended with 1860; while to the last decade belongs the

<sup>1</sup> The "History of Newfoundland," by the Rev. Charles Pedley. London: Longmans, 1863.

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