

MASSEY'S MAGAZINE

Vol. II.

JULY, 1896.

No. 1

THE PROSPECTIVE PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

BY M. HARVEY, LL.D.

ANCHORED off the eastern shores of the Dominion of Canada, but not yet included within its boundaries, lies the great Island of Newfoundland. Like a huge wedge, it almost closes up the entrance of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, leaving only two narrow

Gibraltar of this inland sea—and as a naval station would control the whole of the neighboring waters. Its unique and singularly commanding geographical position renders it of paramount importance as a prospective province of the Dominion, its acquisition completing and



HARBOR OF ST. JOHN'S AT SUNSET.

gateways at its northern and southern extremities, through which access is obtained to this important estuary. Or, we might compare it to a great triangular bastion, projected by the hand of nature into the North Atlantic for the defence of these shores. The power that possesses it holds the key of the St. Lawrence. Duly fortified at certain points it would become a place of immense strength—the

rounding off the whole, and safeguarding the entrance to its greatest artery.

Apart, however, from mere strategic considerations, the island, in itself, is valuable and important. Mere bulk always counts for a good deal, and in regard to size it ranks tenth among the islands of the globe, having an area of 42,000 square miles, its length and breadth being respectively 317 miles. It is one-