

of the Hudson's Bay Company, finding their way during the summer to Mingan, one of the leading posts, where they meet the Roman Catholic priest, under whose control they are, religiously, and receiving absolution from him, set forth again on their hunting expedition. Very few Esquimaux are found in this part of Labrador. They are not seen in any number until we reach the Moravian Mission stations, some three or four hundred miles to the north. The people of the coast are mostly of English or French Canadian descent, the former prevailing more at the eastward and the latter at the westward of our Mission station. English emigrants—some from the island of Jersey and some from Newfoundland, as well as from England itself—have come out and settled for the purpose of carrying on the fisheries. Cod, salmon, seals (and in some parts of the coast, herring) are taken. The cod-fisheries, however, are the support of the majority of the people, and if these fail, privation and suffering are pretty sure to ensue. The people live along the shore—often on the islands skirting it—in summer so as to carry on their fisheries, and in winter move to more sheltered positions up the rivers or bays, where fuel can be more easily obtained, and some protection can be found from the severe storms and cold. The houses are built of logs sawed in two and placed upright, with the rough side out. These form the walls; the roof is of smaller sticks or of poles for rafters, thatched with birch-bark and covered with "sods." The seams are caulked with moss, a floor put in; and with a partition or two, and an immense Canadian "double-stove" in the centre, you have the typical Labrador house. Some, however, have frame houses, and are roomy and comfortable. In addition to their houses, they have a "fishing-stage"—a building running out into the water, supported by a framework of logs, where they split, and salt, and pack away their fish, previous to drying it. So much time is required by their fishing to make it at all profitable,