

37° N. lon 65° W. All the territory included between a straight line drawn from Blanc Sablon to Cape Chudleigh belongs to this district, and is under the jurisdiction of the Government of Newfoundland. The length of the curved line along the coast between these two points is not less than 740 miles. The northern part of the coast from Cape Chudleigh to Cape Webuck, is the proper home of the Esquimaux. This tribe of Indians are said to have received that name which means "eaters of raw flesh" from the other Indians their neighbours.— They call themselves "Innuits,"—*men*,—and the rest of mankind *Kablunat* "inferior beings." The Esquimaux are thought to be only a single tribe of a race which is scattered over the whole coast from Greenland, round Baffin's Bay as far as Behring's Straits. The several tribes speak different dialects of the same language which has received the common name of *Karalit*. A hundred years ago the Esquimaux lived in the deepest darkness, practising all the crimes of heathenism, but by self denying labours of the Moravian Brethren, upwards of 1100 of the 1500 of the tribe, have been brought under instruction, many of whom seem to have felt the power of the truth. Their mission was undertaken in 1769. Since that time they have established 4 settlements Hopedale, Nain, Okkak, and Hebron, at which there is a total of 128 houses, 244 families, and 1163 individuals of the Esquimaux tribe. Nain and Okkak have each 4 missionaries, Hebron and Hopedale 3 each. The total number of the Moravian brethren on the coast is 28. The spiritual oversight therefore of this extensive district is entirely in the hands of these devoted Moravians.

THE FISHING GROUND.

That part of the Labrador coast, extending from Cape Harrison lat. 84° 54' N. to Blanc Sablon a distance of about 280 miles, is one vast fishing ground. The mainland, along the whole of the Atlantic coast, is defended by a breast work of islands which break the fury of the ocean. These islands seem to be almost innumerable, and in many cases form excellent harbours. The number of these harbours is incredible. I have been told that within the above mentioned

limits there are not less than 250 places where boats can ride safely, and an old Captain, who has been on the coast 23 years, gave me the names of 100, in which vessels of considerable size, can enter with facility, and find anchorage and shelter. During the winter season there are comparatively few people upon this part of the coast. No accurate census has been taken, but in 1857, Mr. PRENDERGAST, Superintendent of Fisheries, gave as a proximate number, inhabiting a district nearly coinciding with that which we have defined, 1650; of whom he reckoned 1331 Protestants, and 319 Catholics. In 1864 Judge Sweetland gives the number as 2000. In the summer time however, the population is vastly greater. Immense numbers from Newfoundland flock to Labrador towards the last of June, and remain there during the whole of the fishing season which lasts three or four months.— In each of the harbours, rude houses and fishing stages are erected, and when fish are abundant, they present a scene of bustling activity. It is impossible to state with accuracy the number of persons who have a temporary home upon this coast. At each of the harbours there is a population ranging from 20 to 100 souls, and it has been estimated that there are not fewer than 20,000 or 30,000 persons engaged in the prosecution of the shore fishery alone. Besides these, there is a large number of men in vessels, called green fish catchers, who come from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and the States. I was told that not less than 1000 sail passed through between Indian Island and the mainland, on their way north during the past season. These vessels had at the very least an average of ten men on board, so that in all there were 10,000 of a floating population besides those living upon the coast. It is thought that from a third to a half of these people belong to the Roman Catholic Church. The rest adhere to the different Protestant denominations, but in what proportion is unknown. The most of those with whom I came in contact, were either Episcopalians or Wesleyans.— But to their honour it may be recorded, that they hail with joy the preaching of the gospel by anybody who was willing to tell the