NEWFOUNDLAND.

A CHAT ABOUT THIS FAMOUS ISLAND

Early Barbarities-A Hardy Bace-The Irish Settlers and Their Traditions ...The Fisheries.

Although England's oldest colonial possession, Newfoundland is in some ways a very young colony, as for upwards of two centuries stringent laws were enacted to prevent permanent settlements from being made on the island. Any sea captain leaving one of his crew there was liable to a heavy fine, and, with a view of preventing the for-mation of family ties in a land which England sought to keep merely as a fishing station, women were strictly forbidden to go out to it. It is true that colonization had been attempted in the troublous days of Charles I. and during the Protectorate, but all such efforts had failed, and, once the fishing season had passed, the island was left to desolation, save for a few hundred Indians in the interior, a handful of men left to take care of boats and fishing-gear, and a sprinkling of ne'er do-weels who dared not return to Europe. It is generally easier to make laws than enforce them, and in spite of regulations to the contrary population began to accumulate on the island; but there was no law, no rnle, save that of the fishing admiral, as the first sea captain who arrived at a port was termed during the ensuing fishing season. In 1670 an attempt was made to break up such settlements as existed by driving all such settlers six miles inland; any one refusing to comply was "to be driven out of the country." For two years misery and outrages reigned in the island, till at length a Mr. Downing, one of the residents, obtained an order from Charles II. preventing further persecution of those already though immigration was still strictly forbidden. Petitions were sent home by the settlers that a governor might be sent out to them, but the shipowners and others engaged in the bank tishery opposed the request, and at their

IT WAS REJECTED.

Some years previously the French had established a settlement on the beautiful bay of Placentia, and to this day portions of land there are held under a grant from French neighbors were a source of constant annoyance to the English, and hostilities between the two were frequent, and were carried on with the utmost ferocity. In 1696 a French force landed from Cape Breton, attacked, and, after a resistance of three days, captured the town of St. John's. On this occasion they distinguished themselves by scalping alive an unfortunate man whom they had made prisoner, by name William Drew, and in this condition they sent him into the fort to assure his countrymen that they would all be served in like manner unless they forthwith surrendered. This was no solitary instance of savage barbarity on the part of the French, as the war in North America furnished many illustrations of a civilized nation descending to the level of the aborigines. The habit of employing Indian auxiliaries, from which neither side was clear, had a demoralizing influence on their employers. English scalps were presented as trophies to the viceroy of New France by the chiefs of the Abenaquis, and the annual register of 1753 states that on the capture of St. John's Island Lord Rollo found the house of the French governor decorated with the governor had been sent out and a few magistrates had been appointed, in distant ports—"out-harbors," as they are there termed-little law was known save that administered by fishing admirals. and the island was in a state little better than barbarism. As late as 1765 there

NOT A SINGLE SCHOOL or church in the colony; those who migrated from England had never seen a olergyman since leaving their native land; those born in Newfoundland had never seen one in their lives. The history of the island in those days is deplorable. Oppression, violence, debauchery and profanity were well-nigh universal. A clergyman of the name of Jackson had been sent out by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel as early as 1705; he received a stipend of £50 a year, and £30 for his voyage. However, he was unable, single-handed, to do much to improve a demoralized population scattered over a country nearly as large as England, without roads or any regular means of communication; and he seems before long to have resigned a task that was, under the circumstances, hopeless. It is impossible in a short paper to trace the influences that led to the passingsway of the old state of things and the dawn of better days in the colony; but suffice it to say that the opening of the present century saw a great change in Newfoundland. The people, formerly negligent of all forms of religion, became scrupulous in attention to their religious duties; schools were established wherever practicable; churches of various denominations arose on all sides; and a general improvement in morals and manners were everywhere apparent. Accustomed for reveral generations to a daily hand-to-hand fight against the perils of the deep," storms, cold, and fare of the hardest, the Newfoundlanders are a hardy race. Large-boned and powerfully built, they are a clear case of the "survival of the fittest," delicate children rarely being able to battle up to manhood against the severity of the climate. In manner they are taciturn and homely, with a substratum of genuine kindliness and sturdy self-reliance. A large percentage of the islanders are

OF IRISH DESCENT,

and retain much of the warm-heartedness of their ancestry; but the hard life oring is very fine. and different surroundings have some-what modified the buoyant and "happycountry. Still, however, they treasure each stick and stone uncovered with the traditions and many of the customs snow, is seen coated and sparkling with

of their motherland, and it is interesting to find the superstitions of Mayo or Galway cropping up in this far-off island; such, for instance, as the "fear-gurtha," or hungry-grass, which is said to render it dangerous to traverse the hills of Erris or Tyrawley, in the west of Ireland, unless one has taken the precaution to put a cold potato or two or a piece of bread in one's pocket. Woe betide the man who steps on the hungry-grass without being provided with something to eat; he falls faint from hunger, and speedily expires if he cannot get some food, though few grains of oatmeal or some crumbs of bread, if within reach, would save his life. The "fear-gurthm" is said to grow

in some parts of the peninsula of Avalon, in Newloundland, and the people, when starting on a journey, take precautions to save themselves should they be un-fortunate enough to trample on it.

In Ireland it is considered unlucky, or, it any rate, disrespectful, to carry a corpse to the grave by the shortest road. Sometimes, when the grave is dug, be-fore being deposited in the ground the coffin is carried three times round the enclosure of the graveyard. In a wild listrict in the west of Ireland I once passed a ruined chapel, where two men were carefully, though not without difficulty, carrying a coffin on their shoulders, over the hillocks and heaps of stones that marked the resting place of genera-tions of Celts. The rest of the people had gone, the grave was open, but they remained to pay the last tribute of respect to their dead relative, as their fathers and forefathers had done from generation to generation. It struck me as a touching and simple ceremony, consecrated by centuries, and

A PLEASING CONTRAST

to the repulsive mutes and mourning coaches of the city undertakers. The dea of the longest road being the one that a funeral ought to go survives in Newfoundland also. A somewhat comical instance took place not long ago. A poor old woman lay dying, and sent for a priest well known and greatly respected in St. lohn's. The woman had always been extremely poor and lived on the verge of want, but she confided to her priest that for years she had been putting away money, which she had saved in order that it might be spent on giving her a fine funeral. She wished to go to the grave "with two horses under her." This money she now entrusted to the priest, and, having thus relieved her Louis XIV., the deed with his signature mind, she sank back. The good father, being carefully treasured by a family living in the picture-sque little town. Their go, when the old dame once more opened he eyes and exclaiming, "Mind, father, the round of the town," gave up the ghost. On Candlemas Day the Roman Catholics used to crowd the chapels to receive a few drops on their hats and clothes from the blessed candles, and a piece was carried home and kept to preserve the house from evil spirits. This in days gone by, as every one knows, was recognized all over Europe as a remedy against such undesirable visitors Those who have travelled in the west of Ireland, if they happen to have been out late on the eve of St. John's Day, must have observed bonfires burning on the hillsides and at the cross-roads. The Baal-tinne, now called St. John's fires, have been burnt in Ireland on that mysterious night since the days when the Celts were pagans. And the Irish

> SOUGHT A NEW HOME across the Atlantic have carried the an-

cient custom with them, and on the eve f Midsummer's Day the hills and cliffs shutting in the picturesque harbor of St. feet long, which are occasionally taken John's are aglow with fires now kindled in the nets or cast ashore by the waves, in honor of the Christian saint. The has not been as yet ascertained. It is a isolation of life in the distant parts of grand spectacle in July and August to French governor decorated with the scalps of Englishmen who had been slain by the Indians. Even after Newfound and had been recognized as something and had been recognized as something they existed, snow and ice would render they existed, snow and ice would render they existed snow and ice would render to the first their even after the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the light cliffs overs about their work than to have a whole sometime of seeing two lines in the daily papers about their work than to have a whole sometime of seeing two lines in the daily papers about their work than to have a whole sometime of seeing two lines in the daily papers about their work than to have a whole sometime of seeing two lines in the daily papers about their work than to have a whole sometime of seeing two lines in the daily papers about their work than to have a whole sometime of seeing two lines in the daily papers about their work than to have a whole see the huge icebergs slowly salling along the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coast, or aground in shallower water near the rocks. Sometimes as far as the coas more than a mere fishing-nation, when a them impassible. Out to sea stretches a vast icy pavement, through which it is often impossible for even a steamer to in it. The effect of icebergs with a fore-ram its way. So all the long winter ground of fir-trees and larehes is particu-ic documents are given by the clergy months the little hamlets lie surrounded larly by the great snow blanket, and cut off from communication from all mankind save those who inhabit their little settlement. Should the store of provisions run low, the situation is perilous, for there is no possibility of getting supplies unless a "lead" opens in the ice and allows a steamer to get along the coast; or, if she be not ice-bound at too great a distance, perhaps some of the men go out over the frozensea to meet the vessel. and carry home food to their families. Should the ship fail to come, the people are sometimes driven to eat their dogs, of which several are usually kept in order to draw home wood from the forests on steds. So great is the difficulty of communication during winter that a clergyman relates that on one occasion as near to the capital as Trinity Bay forty shillings had been demanded, and twenty-five were actually paid, for the conveyance of a single letter overland to the city by a cross-country guide. While the coast is ice-bound the direct steamers from England do not touch at Newfoundland, but the mails are brought up from Halifax in a small wooden steamer, ex pressly built for facing theice; but even this vessel cannot always manage to get l m, and mails

HAVE TO BE CARRIED

ashore seven or eight miles over the ice on men's backs. The centre of Newfoundland is, to a great extent, terca incognita, except to a few trappers and sportsmen and the indefatigable head of the Newfoundland geological survey Great lakes, larger than any in the Unit ed Kingdom, with the exception of Lough Neagh; solemn pine forests; vast tracts of moorband, or barrens, as they are locally termed, where feed herds of cari-beo deer; rapid rivers and streams innumerable, lie neglected and uninhabited, though rich mines are contained in many of the hills, and good soil in many of the valleys, more certain of rewarling toil expended on it. Much of the scenery is very striking and beautiful, and in the summer and autumn, when the barrens are bright with azaleas, kalmias, blue irises, golden-rod, and the brilliant crimson leaves of the whortleberries, the col-

A very beautiful, but fatal, phenomwhat modified the buoyant and "happygo-lucky" Irish nature, and made them
graver, less excitable, possibly more relikely then their brothers in the old them the province of sharp frost succeeds a foggy liable than their brethren in the old day, the next morning every branch

a delicate film of ice. Should the day be autumn there is first-rate grouse-shootbranches are often broken by the weight of their crystal load. In France, Germany, and even in Italy, a similar phenomenon occurs. In France it is known as "verglas," in Germany as "glatteis," and in Italy as "verde ghiaccio." In the latter country its occurrence is disastrous to the olive-trees and brings despair to their owners. In 1820 it wrought

SUCH WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION in some places that the Grand Duke of Tuscany, out of pity for the distress of the peasantry, remitted taxation to the amount of over six thousand pounds. The beautiful silver thaw is not so much dreaded in Newfoundland, though sometimes cruel enough, as the unhappy grouse find, which during severe snowstorms at night allow the snow to drift over them and no doubt congratulate themselves on the nice warm nest they have found below it. But sometimes after the storm the silver thaw sets in, the incrustation becomes too thick for the poor birds to break through in the mornng, and great numbers perish in their rozen eage.

As most people have their unpleasant noods, so most countries have their nupleasant time, and in Newfoundland the pring is extremely disagreeable and try-The ice and snow are melting; so skating and sleighing are at an end, but the deep slush renders walking a penonce, and great drifts block up the roads every now and then, so that driving is an impossibility. It is a blessing when the sight of women and children dotted over the fields tells one that summer is nigh at hand. They are looking for the roung shoots of dandelion, which are taken to market and find a ready sale, as early potatoes and spring lettuce do at

How gladly the poor, frozen-in dwellers in the out-harbors must emerge from their isolation and return to their wonted occupation of fishing! Fishing is the staff of life in Newfoundland, and cod is the only denizen of the deep acknowledged as fish in the island. In conversation with a fisherman one day we inquired if he had had luck so far that year. "I've taken a sight o' salmon,' was his answer, "but no fish yet this season." When the capelin strike the coast, it is a gay and

PICTURESQUE SIGHT to see the shores of the various bays thronged with an eager crowd ladling the glittering mass of little silver fish, about the size of sprats, into carts and baskets. The sea is alive with capelin swarming in headlong haste and heedlessness to the destruction that awaits them on land. Whence they come and whither they go is unknown. Possibly they resolve on committing suicide on the first land they encounter, rather than fall into the jaws of the relentless whales that follow in their wake. In such massess are they taken that they are used to manure the land, no method having yet been found of preserving them with any success. They are a very delicate fish to eat and a bait irresistible to cod. When the capelin have disappeared, their place as bait is supplied by herrings, and after these arrive the squid. The latter are in great shoals, and the individuals measure about six inches when the shoals are first seen, and have attained to almost a foot and a half in length when, like the capelin, they disappear and are seen no more. Whether indivi-duals survive, some of which develop into the large cuttle tish, with arms sixteen hanging the sea, every bay and cove in column in the Catholic press, for the

SINGULAR AND BEAUTIFUL.

The icebergs are of all sizes, from a mile long downwards. In shape, too, they vary greatly, the very big ones resembling alabaster islands, others recalling pyramids and pinnacles. Sometimes a and now and then a polar bear has found its way to Newfoundland on one of these icy rafts.

The country parts of Newfoundland ought to be visited in summer. The dora is varied and beautiful; butterflies and moths of great beauty are plentiful, swallow-tails and Camberwell beauties, o rare in England, being there comparatively common: and the fly-fishing, both for salmon and trout, is excellent. In

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sunshiny, the effect is lovely in the exing, and cariboo deer are found in abuntreme, but fatal to the trees, whose dance in the interior. To appreciate St. John's, the capital city, it should be seen in winter, when snow is piled five feet in the streets, and icicles from six feet to six inches long hang in a glittering fringe from eaves and waterspouts. The town is well situated on a steep declivity over hanging the fine harbor. Most of the streets are exceedingly steep, and, in spite of police regulations to the con-trary, there is hardly one down which a string of delighted youngsters does not continually come tobogganing. Those who can afford it are provided with 'coasters," but when these are not to be had a tea-tray is not a bad substitute, and is often used for the purpose. Sleighs, the horses covered with bells and the occupants with furs, glide pleasantly along, till a "guich" in the road almost dislocates the necks of those who sit in the sleigh. Every now and then comes a little sledge, sometimes drawn by a tiny cur; sometimes a pair of dogs are in the traces, possibly a large black one and a small tan mongrel; and, wherever circumstances admit, boys and girls are skating in the gutters. As with the toboggans, so with the skates: the well-to-do have "acmes" or English skates; "johnnies" improvise them out of the backs of blacking-brushes. The meat exposed in the butcher's shops is all frozen; so are the cabbages, which, by-the-by, are also sold by the butchers. Frozen hares, frozen grouse, and occasionally frozen earibon venison are also offered for sale.

St. John's boasts two fine rinks and several large assembly halls, all built of wood. Churches are numerous. Social-St. John's is gayest during the winter. The people are fond of music. and devote themselves to it with enthusiasm. The educated classes are fond of society, hospitable, warm-hearted, anxiplease and be pleased, and ever ready with their purses and time to aid any good work. There is considerable theatrical talent in the place; so, what with plays, operettas, bazaars, ice carnivals, concerts, balls, moonlight toboggan parties, skating and sleighing, the inhabitants have not a bad time of it, let the winter be as severe as it may .-- Lady Blake in North American Review.

SOUND ADVICE.

The Duties of Catholic Papers in Regard to News Gathering.

At the recent convention of Catholic Editors at New York. Mr. O'Brien, the editor of the Catholic Mirror, Baltimore, delivered an address upon "The News Columns of the Catholic Press." "The news columns of the Catholic press are of as much importance as the editorial, and the average reader does not care so much about editorials as he does about the news pages, and no doubt, would discontinue his subscription if it was not there. It is much more difficult to secure a competent news editor than an editorial writer. The news editor is hard to substitute, but the editorial writer is not. If the editor takes a trip to Europe, which I often do myseif, the news editor can write the editorials, but if the news editor goes to Paris for a few months it is impossible to have his position faithfully filled. In regard to our contributors I must say that their material when it is good is very good, but

when it is bad it is horrible. THE PRIESTS AND LOCAL NEWS. Another part of the news sheet is the local column. This department is the most important part of the paper, and yet we find it very difficult to secure the news of our respective churches until it has been peddled through the columns sight has one or more icebergs anchored reason, as they say, that it has a larger for publication in the daily press when they should first be given to Catholic papers and let the daily press copy. This is a serious setback, and yet I see no way at present ont of the difficulty. We cannot now compete with them, but if the clergy would give such important becuments to us for publication, it would ascade is seen pouring from their tops, help us on the way to a great extent. In order that the Catholic journal shall become powerful, it must keep up with the times. We are forging ahead, and time will put us in our proper sphere. We must use the spirit of independence. and criticise in a judicious, fair and manly way. Give honest criticism of Catholic work and value it for what it is worth. By doing this, better work will be accomplished, and Catholic writers be

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The Pope Makes His WIII.

Rome, June 3 .- The Pope, in order to provide against all possible contingencies, has just concluded a definitive will. His Holiness bequeathes all his personal property to the Holy See.

Winter Sports.

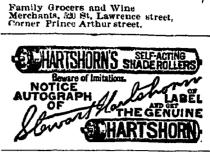
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