

the great peninsula of Avalon, lying toward the south-east, and on the eastern side of which is the capital, St. John's. The coast line is indented with bays, which, in some instances, penetrate the land for 80 or 90 miles. If the coast line, estimated as the crow flies, be called 1,000 miles, so numerous are the indentations of the shore, in bays, and coves, and arms of the sea, that a traveller to circumnavigate the island, following the shore line, would require to sail at least 2,000 miles. The coast is generally without any gravelly beach. Great ribs of rock rise in massive cliffs, making many perils of waters for the navigator. Many a strong ship has struck upon those wave-beaten shores, with little prospect of ever floating again. The serrated coast affords abundance of good harbors; and coves and inlets for the protection of the fishing fleet are numerous and secure. In many parts of the coast, where miles of rocky walls rise 200 or 300 feet above the sea, the views are grand and awe-inspiring. But the massive grandeur of the scenery only adds to the difficulty of colportage work. At times our colporteur has to force his way along in an open boat, from harbor to harbor, choosing a fair day for his venture, and glad when he has made the shelter of the next fishing hamlet. As he propels his boat up an inlet, he may view with delight the bright blue sky, clear as that of Italy, the dark evergreen forest clothing the hills to the waters edge and affording material for the fisherman to build his boats and fishing stages. Numerous islands may dot the surface, and the whole is a scene of surpassing beauty. It is from the sea that the inhabitants gain their living, and very little of the labor of an earth tiller can be seen. At the heads of the bays may be found land capable of culture, and ready to yield pasture or crops of grain, but, generally speaking, the shore line is not capable of extensive cultivation. The greater part of the interior of the island is yet to be explored.

To the south of Newfoundland flows the warm current of the Gulf Stream, a great river in the ocean. The air above it is warm and laden with water, and when this is driven by wind into the chill atmosphere of the polar current, there is an immediate condensation of moisture, producing those fog banks which are a source of danger to navigation. But whilst the sea may be enveloped in clouds of fog, the warmer air of the land dissipates the vapor; and thus the island

