

Mr. Gisborne is now engaged in making a thorough exploration of the coast and interior, the many indications of copper, silver, and lead, being satisfactory evidence that a persevering search may eventually be well rewarded. The Colonial Government have had it in contemplation to assist Mr. Gisborne in these researches, and it is generally thought no wiser expenditure of the public money could be made, for Newfoundland requires something beyond the fisheries to ensure the future welfare of her increasing labouring population, while at the same time there appears to be but one opinion as to the most fitting person to perform the duty of exploration.

The interior of Newfoundland is exceedingly rugged for forty or fifty miles inland, and in general is covered with dense—almost impenetrable woods of small spruce, juniper, and birch. Countless lakes, ranging from a few hundred yards to fifty or sixty miles in length, are interspersed here and there, while deep gulches or ravines traverse the land. The rivers are mountain torrents; fierce and violent after long continued rains, but generally comparatively shallow in their beds, not only in consequence of the rocky nature of the country, but also from a deep covering of moss which every where clothes the land, which retains and but *gradually* parts with its moisture. Further inland vast barrens and marshes of brilliant hues dotted with clumps of trees like an English park, but upon a much grander scale, small lakes and picturesque waterfalls make up the scene, while further north dense spruce woods exist and almost defy progress. Large herds of migrating deer, (of the reindeer species,) wolves, bears, beaver, and other fur-bearing animals frequent the country; ptarmigan or Arctic grouse, hares of large size, salmon, and an endless variety of trout furnish good sport in their respective seasons and localities. Black flies and mosquitoes are also abundant. It was through four hundred miles of such wilderness as this that Mr. F. N. Gisborne undertook to plant the electric telegraph, which now connects Newfoundland with Canada and the United States. On the 2nd of September, 1857, he took his departure from St. John's, accompanied by six men, he and they each carrying from 60 to 70 lbs. weight of provisions, guns, &c. Quite a number of people assembled to witness the departure of the expedition, never expecting again to see the members thereof. On the 4th of December, after a desperate season of rain and snow, Mr. Gisborne

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