

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, AND THE COD-FISHERY.

BY REV. W. W. PERCIVAL.

WE would ask our readers to imagine themselves treading the deck of one of the Allan Line of steamships, bound from Liverpool, England, to Halifax, N.S., *via* St. John's, Newfoundland. As the gallant ship approaches latitude 47° 33' 33" North and 52° 45' 10' West longitude, the monotonous sameness of the sea is suddenly exchanged for a scene which in picturesqueness and beauty is with difficulty surpassed. On every side a lofty iron-bound coast presents itself to view, the grim hoary rocks seem to frown defiance to the angry Atlantic. As the ship approaches nearer and nearer, you think that surely she is only rushing on to her doom, when suddenly the voyager sees a narrow opening in the rocky wall, as if by some mighty convulsion of nature the rampart had been rent asunder, and the sea had rushed in. Through this narrow entrance he safely glides, surrounded by a wall of rock on either side, some five or six hundred feet in height. It is impossible to gaze upon those great cliffs of dark red sandstone, piled in huge masses on a foundation of gray slate-rock, without experiencing a feeling of awe. On his right, surmounting an almost perpendicular precipice five hundred and ten feet above the level of the sea, stands the "Block House" for signalling vessels as they approach the harbour. On his left, the hill rises still higher by a hundred feet, and looks rugged and broken. From the base of this hill a rocky promontory juts out, forming the entrance of the "Narrows" on one side, its summit being crowned by Fort Amherst Lighthouse. In former years batteries, armed with formidable guns, rose one above another amid the clefts of the rocks; but years ago the garrison was withdrawn and the cannon removed.

The passage leading to the harbour, commonly called the Nar-

* The illustrations of this interesting article, except one, are taken from Messrs. Hatton & Harvey's admirable work on Newfoundland, historical and descriptive; 8vo., pp. 431, copiously illustrated. Boston: Doyle & Whittle. For sale at the Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Price, \$2.50.