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CORMACK'S JOURNEY ACROSS NEWFOUNDLAND.

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A TERRA INCOGNITA.

It is a remarkable fact that the great Island of Newfoundland is to this day unexplored, as far as the interior is concerned. While daring travellers have been searching out the mysterious sources of the Nile, and bold mariners have solved at length the North-West Passage—the problem of centuries—here is an island, considerably larger than Ireland, nearly four times the size of Belgium, the most ancient of Britain's forty colonies, lying within easy distance of England, and yet far less is known of its uninhabited interior than of Central Africa. Its internal plains, lakes, mountain-ranges, are unmapped, its river courses undetermined, its natural resources unknown. Around its 2,000 miles of coast, 146,000 people are sprinkled, living chiefly on the harvest yielded by the sea, while the interior is left to bears, wolves, deer, beavers and foxes. Scenery the grandest and loveliest may be found within its boundaries; game, too, for the sportsman in profusion. The charm of gazing at scenes on which the eye of man may never before have rested, and of making discoveries in geology, natural history and botany, the importance of which may be very great, all invite exploration; and yet our adventurous travellers and scientific explorers pass by what is at their own doors as worthless and plunge into the interior of Africa or Australia, risk life and limb in China or Japan, and brave the polar ice-floes in search of an open Arctic Basin. Let us

hope that ere long we shall hear of some well-equipped scientific expedition setting out for the exploration of the interior of Newfoundland; or of some daring traveller, with a genius for adventures like Sir Samuel Baker, winning fresh laurels by opening up here a new portion of earth's surface.

CORMACK'S ENTERPRISE.

Forty-nine years ago, in the year 1822, there lived in Newfoundland a Scotchman, W. E. Cormack by name. He was of a good family, well educated, of scientific tastes, and fond of adventure. It seemed to him strange and anomalous that the island should have been inhabited by white men for 300 years, and that the natural condition of the interior should be utterly unknown; and he courageously resolved to attempt raising the veil that shrouded this *terra incognita*. He was admirably fitted for such an undertaking, being a man of iron nerve and powerful frame, possessed of cool, unflinching courage and tenacity of purpose. He loved adventure for its own sake, and had that thirst for knowledge and that observant turn of mind which are the best qualifications of a traveller. He resolved to wipe away the reproach involved in such ignorance regarding Newfoundland, by penetrating the central part of the country in the direction in which the natural characteristics of the interior were likely to be most decidedly exhibited. Accordingly, he fixed on the route between Trinity Bay on the east coast and St.