NEWFOUNDLAND AND ITS COD-FISHERIES.

Having taken our departure from the Azores, says Mr. Heriot, we proceeded on the voyage to North America, and on arriving at the Banks of Newfoundland, a number of vessels, stationed at various distances, and seemingly at anchor, occurred to our view. These we soon understood to be engaged in the cod fishery. They are, in general, from eighty to one hundred and fifty tons burden, fitted out from several places in England, particularly from the western counties, and from the islands of Jersey and Guernsey. There are, besides, vessels belonging to the fishermen who winter in Newfoundland, and at the settlements on the neighbouring parts of the continent.

The Great Bank, which is about forty leagues distant from the island, is an enormous mountain formed beneath the surface of the sea. Its extent is about a hundred and sixty leagues, and its breadth about sixty, the extremities terminating in points. On the eastern side, towards the centre, a kind of bay is formed, called the Ditch. The depth of water varies much throughout the whole, being in some situations sixty, in others only five fathoms. During the hottest weather the fish do not frequent either the great or the smaller banks, but retire to the deep waters. It has been remarked by many people, that on approaching the banks the noise of the billows of the ocean become more shrill and loud, an effect which is probably produced by the shallowness of the waters.

The thick fogs which are here more prevalent than in any other part of the Atlantic, exhibit a singular phenomenon, and may be presumed to owe their origin to the stream from the gulph of Mexico, the discharge of waters incessantly accumulating there by the pressure of the trade winds.

The system of philosophy introduced by Sir Isaac Newton, maintains that the combined attractive influence of the sun and moon, and the centrifugal force of the water arising from the diurnal motion of the earth around its axis, elevate that liquid element at the equator to a much greater height than at the poles; and the degree of elevation is in proportion to the alternate advancement, or decline, of the power of these luminaries. This immense collection of waters, impelled by its own gravitation, by the attraction of the earth, and by the force of the winds operating with those causes, moves onwards in a western direction, flows through the chain of Caribbean islands, and enters the Mexican gulph between the island of Cuba and the promontory of Yucatan. Opposed by the surrounding coasts it pursues its way out of the gulph between Florida and the Bahama islands, assumes a course to the northward, and thus runs in the direction of the coast of North America, being at the nearest seventy-five