

I imagine it cannot be doubted that Agriculture will yet afford employment to many. The cultivation of every patch of ground, however small, must prove advantageous, and I trust that due encouragement will be given to the respectable Society who devote their time and attention to the furtherance of that most important branch of industry.

It is well known that valuable minerals exist in Newfoundland ; many specimens have been collected by a Committee of Members of both branches of the Legislature, appointed as local Commissioners for the Colony, in order that it may be represented at the Great International Exhibition to be held in May ; specimens of other articles, the produce of the Colony, have also been sent home, and all will be exhibited by Mr. F. N. Gisborne, who has been appointed Commissioner in London. This gentleman having explored considerable part of the interior, and being thoroughly acquainted with Newfoundland, will be eminently qualified to afford information at the Exhibition, and to direct the attention of many of the scientific men who will be present on that occasion, particularly to our specimens of minerals, the existence of which cannot be doubted ; and it is to be hoped that capital may be attracted to the Island, tending to the development of resources which, for want of such aid, have hitherto lain dormant.

In the month of September last, the screw steamer *Victoria*, which had been engaged for a term of five years to carry mails and passengers between St. John's and the Outports, was suddenly, and without notice, withdrawn by her owner, on the alleged ground of unseaworthiness. Efforts have since been made in various quarters to induce other parties to tender for this service, but hitherto without success,—the amount at the disposal of the Government being regarded as insufficient to defray the cost of such an undertaking.

I observe by the 7th Report of His Lordship the Postmaster General on the Post Office, that, with the approval of the Lords of the Treasury, he had terminated the contract which established a fortnightly communication between Galway and the United States, *via* Newfoundland.—Whether that or any similar contract will be renewed, remains to be seen.

During the last six months, numerous steamships, carrying important political and commercial intelligence, have been intercepted at Cape Race on their outward and homeward passages, and this new and important feature in Telegraphic communication may affect future postal arrangements.