

The example of fishermen and hunters makes stay-at-homes stray from home; and most of those who follow this example are neither fishermen nor hunters, but settlers. Then comes a crisis. Hunters and fishermen oppose settlers—for settlers and wild beasts are incompatible; and there is war—as in Manitoba—in which wild beasts and hunters disappear; or there is absorption—even as the whalers of Cook Strait, New Zealand, were merged into the settlers, and the whales disappeared; or there is absorption of another kind and all the settlers are transformed into fishermen, and none of the fish disappear. This last process took place in Newfoundland, and nowhere else in the world. Indeed, there are few other places in the world where fishing could have continued, if all the settlers, who followed in the wake of all the fishermen, had become fishermen. It continued and continues in Newfoundland, first because the fisheries are practically inexhaustible, secondly because creeks and nooks in or from which fishing can be carried on by settlers are practically innumerable.

Therefore for many centuries fishermen, who went and fished off Newfoundland but returned yearly to their cottages in the south-west of England, existed side by side with colonists who lived and fished in Newfoundland; so that the colony was something more than a fishing ground, and something less than a colony, in the sense in which the word colony is generally used. Regarded by itself and apart Newfoundland was only half alive. It still remained a physical part of its mother. Thus Fishery proved the earliest and greatest