

NEWFOUNDLAND AS IT IS.¹

By REV. M. HARVEY, St. John's, Newfoundland.

Anchored off the coast of North America, at no great distance from the main land, lies the great Island of Newfoundland. Owing to a variety of circumstances, very little is known regarding this island and its inhabitants. Its isolation, the limited amount of its population, the restricted character of its staple productions and commercial relations, and the fact that its interior is even yet unexplored, sufficiently account for the ignorance that still prevails regarding it, and the small amount of notice it has yet attracted. More than seventy years ago Robert Burns described it as

"Some place far abroad,
Where sailors gang to fish for cod."

It may be doubted whether, at this day, the bulk even of the educated classes, in Britain and America, know more of it than that its dogs and fogs are on a gigantic scale. Doubtless, during the last few years, Newfoundland has obtained world-wide renown as the spot where the Atlantic cable finds the first resting-place for the delivery of messages, as it emerges from "the dark, unfathomed caves of ocean;"² and also because the recently laid French cable first rises into the sunshine on the little island of St. Pierre, close to its shores; but beyond the fact that it is thus a kind of ganglionic centre for the nerves that unite the Old World with the New, few know anything of it. Yet one might have fancied that its important position, its

¹ This is condensed from an article which appeared in *Stewart's Quarterly*, April, 1869, and is reproduced by the permission of the editor. The pleasing style in which it is written, and the interest which attaches to this isolated colony, warrants its reproduction in this series.

Stewart's Quarterly, published at St. John, N. B., by Geo. Stewart (now Dr. Stewart, of the *Quebec Mercury*), for five years (1867-1872), was a magazine of much promise both from a literary and historical point of view. With the corps of talented and brilliant contributors that the young editor was able to gather around him from all parts of Canada, it is not difficult to estimate the advantages that would have resulted to general culture in the country had such a publication been accorded a more generous financial support that would have insured its continuance.

² The first Anglo-American cable was laid in 1858, but after being in use for a little while it proved unworkable. A second attempt to lay a new cable in 1865 resulted in failure, but a third, in 1866, proved successful. There are now three Anglo-American cables between Ireland and Newfoundland.