

INTRODUCTION.

After an isolation of 400 years, the people of Newfoundland have, by the completion of the Trans-Insular Railway, been brought in touch with the outside world. During this long period the conditions of life were most primitive. Until a date quite recent the colony was without roads, without agriculture, without manufactures and without the most ordinary conveniences.

To the inhabitants of Newfoundland through all those dreary centuries there was not even the boon of an alternative. Their sole and inevitable fate was to dwell on the rock-bound coast and follow the treacherous main. Here generation after generation has existed, confronting the pitiless rigors of the climate and the terrors of the sea. To endure and survive these extreme hardships and perils, implied more than a mere rude subsistence. It was from this hard discipline of privation and self-sacrifice that heroic qualities were evolved. This is the reward, of far greater worth than all material gains, which Nature gives to those who abide with her and whose destinies are in her keeping.

If those whose lives have been cast amidst the stirring scenes of this fast-advancing age, coming to this peaceful land, have new and valuable ideas to impart, so have they in turn much to gain. To rest for a time from life's warfare