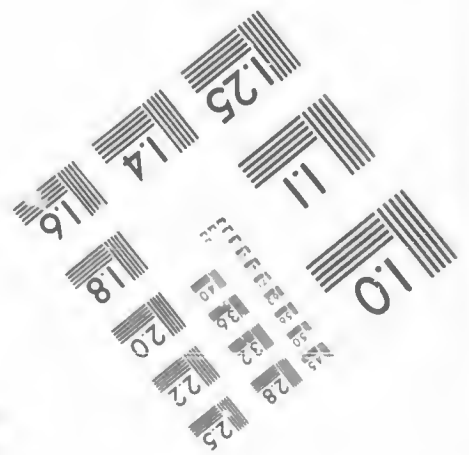
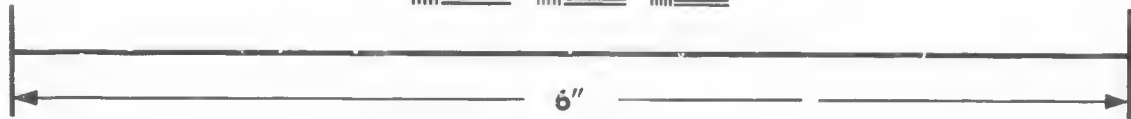
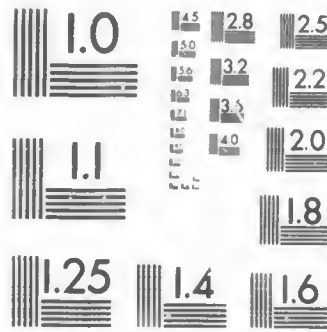


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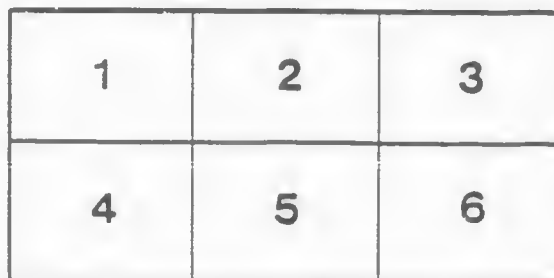
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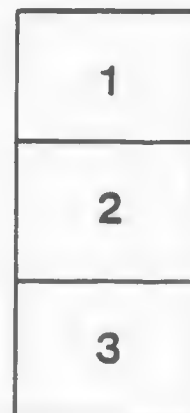
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A

CATECHISM

OF THE

History of Newfoundland,

FROM THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS TO THE CLOSE OF
THE YEAR 1834,

For the Use of Schools.

BY

WILLIAM CHARLES ST. JOHN,
OF HARBOUR-GRACE.

St. John's :

J. M'COUBREY, PRINTER.

1835:



TO
His Excellency HENRY PRESCOTT, Esq.,
COMPANION OF THE MOST HONORABLE MILITARY
ORDER OF THE BATH,
GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN AND OVER THE
ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND,
AND ITS DEPENDENCIES,
&c. &c. &c.,

THIS WORK,
CONTAINING A HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF THE OLDEST,
AND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT,
COLONIES OF GREAT BRITAIN,
IS, WITH HIS EXCELLENCY'S PERMISSION,
MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY

THE AUTHOR.



Preface.

IN the following sheets I have endeavoured to produce a short and, at the same time, faithful outline of the History of my native country. I trust I need not apologize to the public for its introduction, since no one, I presume, will deny that such a work has been long wanted in all the respectable Schools of this Island.

History, in every modern system of education, holds, and very properly, a distinguished place; but unless it is based upon a knowledge of ones own country, it cannot possibly be attended with any substantial benefit.

The materials of which the former part of this Catechism is composed, have been drawn from the most authentic sources—viz., Reeves' and Anspach's "Histories of Newfoundland," McGregor's "British America," and Carson's "Letters."—For the information respecting the Red Indians, I am, in a good measure, indebted to Lieut. John Cartwright's valuable communication to Governor Palliser.—The sketch of the Natural History is from my own personal observation and inquiry;—it is intended as a mere school-boy's account, and as such, of course, it will be received. Should, however, the Bounteous Giver of all Good, in His mercy, bestow upon me the blessings of health, a more satisfactory work on this subject may, perhaps, be expected.

I cannot conclude this short preface without returning my grateful acknowledgments, in the first place, to His Excellency the Governor, for his condescension in allowing the dedication, and also for his very handsome subscription;—and, in the next place, to those gentlemen who have so kindly tendered their support in furtherance of my little production.

W. C. ST. J.

Harbour-Grace, August 6, 1835.



A
CATECHISM
OF THE
History of Newfoundland.

CHAP. I.

OF THE DISCOVERY OF NEWFOUNDLAND BY SOME NOR-
WEGIAN ADVENTURERS.

QUESTION.—Have we any grounds for believing that the Island of Newfoundland was discovered before the close of the 15th century ?

ANSWER.—We have ;—from the writings of several historians of undoubted credit, it appears, that, in the year 1001, a Norwegian vessel, under the command of one Biron, or Biorn, was driven, by stress of weather, on the coast of an Island many degrees S. W. of Greenland ; and from the accounts and description which this adventurer gave of its soil, climate, and of the general aspect of its shores, it is conjectured, and with great probability, that the country alluded to was Newfoundland.

Q.—Did not the Norwegians give this newly discovered Island a name ?

A.—They called it Winland, that is, the Wine Country ; from the circumstance of their having found grapes growing spontaneously in the woods.

Q.—Does not this fact operate against the conjecture above stated, since grapes are not *now* a product of this Island ?

A.—No ; for all the earlier adventurers to Newfoundland have concurred in asserting that wild vines, bearing fruit of various sizes, were to be met with here in abundance. Possibly some great atmospheric change has of late years prevented their growth.

Q.—What was the consequence of Biorn's discovery ?

A.—In the following year, a number of Icelandic emigrants, induced, no doubt, by the favourable reports which the Norwegians spread abroad on their return, formed a colony in Winland ;—they soon opened a profitable intercourse with the *Esquimaux*,* whose furs were readily exchanged for articles of European manufacture.

Q.—Did this colony continue to flourish for any length of time ?

A.—It does not appear that it did. Indeed, we are informed, that, in the course of a few years, the greater number of the colonists returned home, and that the communication between Winland and the European side of the Atlantic shortly afterwards ceased. It is very likely, therefore, that the small remnant of adventurers which remained behind, became, in a little while, totally extinct.

Q.—You have said that communication between Europe and Winland had ceased. Do you know from what cause ?

A.—It is supposed to have been occasioned by the vast fields of arctic ice, which, about this time, began to beset the shores of Greenland, so as to render the navigation extremely dangerous.

Q.—Are you in possession of any further information respecting the Island at this early period ?

A.—Scarcely any thing worthy of remark ; and after this, during the long space of nearly five hundred years, Winland, or, as it is now called, *Newfoundland*, must have rested in obivion.

* Inhabitants of New Britain, or Labrador.

CHAP. II.

OF THE RE-DISCOVERY OF NEWFOUNDLAND BY JOHN CABOT.

(1497—1583.)

Q.—By whom was this country re-discovered, and when ?

A.—By John Gabota, or Cabot, a Venetian, who, on a voyage of discovery, in the reign and under the sanction of Henry VII., of England, and on the 24th of June, 1497, fell in with that part of the Island called Cape Bonavista, to which he gave the name that it bears.

Q.—Is not the credit of this discovery sometimes awarded to his son Sebastian ?

A.—It is ; but some think unjustly so—stating, that, “ although Sebastian accompanied him at the time, it is certain that John, the father, had the command of the expedition.” Others however deny this, and claim for Sebastian *all* the credit.

Q.—Did Cabot make any stay here ?

A.—No ; he coasted along the continent of America, until he found himself in latitude 38° north, when, being short of provisions, he returned to England, and, as it is recorded, with a good cargo.

Q.—Of what did this cargo consist ?

A.—Probably of furs and fish. He carried with him, also, three Aboriginal inhabitants of the Island of St. John.*

Q.—What name did Cabot give to Newfoundland ?

A.—That of Baccalaos, the Indian name for codfish.

Q.—In what year did Europeans begin to establish a fishery on these shores ?

A.—In 1502.

Q.—What people were the first to embark in this adventure ?

A.—The Portuguese ; and, subsequently, the Biscayans and the French ; the first of whom had, in 1578, no less than fifty vessels engaged in this occupation.

* Now called Prince Edward Island.

Q.—Who was Gasper de Corte Real?

A.—A distinguished Portuguese, who, in 1501, visited this Country, and gave to Conception Bay its present name.

Q.—When did the *English* begin to be fully aware of the great importance of the Newfoundland fishery?

A.—About the year 1540.

Q.—What British ports were then most conspicuous in this branch of commerce?

A.—London, Bristol, Biddeford, and Barnstaple.

Q.—Were there not, in the reign of Elizabeth, some illustrious characters engaged in expeditions to this Island?

A.—There were;—namely, Sir Humphry Gilbert, and his relative Sir Walter Raleigh.

Q.—In what year did Sir Humphry take possession of it in the name of his Sovereign Elizabeth?

A.—He formally took possession on the 5th August, 1583.

Q.—Did he meet with any opposition in this measure?

A.—At first he did; the masters of the foreign vessels lying in the harbour of St. John's refused to admit him into port; but, upon his preparing to gain an entrance by force, they thought it expedient not to offer resistance.

Q.—How many vessels had Sir Humphry under his command?

A.—Four;—five had, originally, been fitted out; but one of them, the *Raleigh*, having on board Sir Walter himself, was, in consequence of an infectious distemper which broke out among the crew, obliged to put back to England.

Q.—After having effected an entrance, in what manner did Sir Humphry proceed?

A.—He convened a general meeting of the British and foreign merchants,—caused the commission under the Great Seal of England to be read in their presence,—informed them that he personally stood in possession of the harbour of St. John's, and all the adjacent land within the circumference of six hundred miles;—and also, that he was duly empowered to enact laws for the Government of the same.

Q.—What followed?

A.—He granted several portions of his land, caused parties to explore the coast, and to examine the interior; and on the 20th August, in the same year, set sail from St. John's on a cruize to the westward.

Q.—Did the voyage prove fortunate?

A.—No;—on the 27th of that month they bore in upon the land, and a violent gale springing up from the S. E., accompanied by heavy rain and thick fog, it was with the greatest difficulty that the fleet were preserved from the rocks.

Q.—Were any of the vessels lost?

A.—Yes; at day-break, on the 29th, in latitude 45° north, and about 260 miles to the west of Cape Race, (probably the Isle of Sables) the *Delight*, Captain Maurice Brown, went on shore, and was immediately dashed to pieces:—the others, fortunately, gained the open sea and escaped.

Q.—Were the crew of the *Delight* saved?

A.—Out of 116 souls, 14 only got safe to land;—the Captain was among the number that perished.

Q.—What became of the other ships?

A.—On the first of September, orders were given to steer for England. In about a week after, a dreadful storm arose, when the *Squirrel* (Sir Humphry's vessel) sunk, and her crew, together with their illustrious Commander, unhappily were drowned. The remaining vessel (the *Golden Hind*) arrived at Falmouth in thirteen days after.

Q.—What remarkable expression was Sir Humphry heard frequently to repeat on the evening previous to this disaster?

A.—This—"Courage, my lads!—we are as near Heaven at sea, as we are on land."

Q.—Have you not said that there was another vessel engaged in this adventure?

A.—Yes; she was called the *Swallow*.

Q.—What became of her?

A.—Previously to leaving St. John's, Sir Humphry had de-

spatched her for England, with a considerable number of his followers ; some of whom were sick, and others disinclined to proceed farther on the voyage.

CHAP. III.

OF THE SETTLEMENTS ATTEMPTED IN THE REIGN OF
JAMES I., &c.

(1583—1630.)

Q.—Did the disastrous result of the above-named expedition deter other people from engaging in similar ones ?

A.—No ;—several attempts were soon afterwards made to plant a colony here ; the most remarkable of which was one in 1610, by a company English gentlemen of the first respectability, among whom are to be found the names of the Earl Southampton, Sir Percival Willoughby, and the great Sir Francis Bacon.

Q.—Had this company obtained a grant of any portion of the Island ?

A.—They had.

Q.—Of what part ?

A.—By letters patent dated 27th April, 1610, James I. gave them all that part of Newfoundland lying between Cape Bonavista and Cape St. Mary.

Q.—Did any of these individuals actually visit this Island ?

A.—No.

Q.—Under whose direction, then, was the colony sent hither ?

A.—Under that of Mr. John Guy, who, after a short passage, arrived at Mosquitto Cove, in Conception Bay, where he erected temporary dwellings, and opened a promising intercourse with the native Indians.

Q.—Were the hopes of these emigrants realized ?

A.—It is not likely that they were ; for we learn that the whole of the party, very shortly after, returned to the mother country.

Q.—Have we any reason to believe that the *trade* of Newfoundland was at this time engrossed exclusively by the English ?

A.—We have.

Q.—State it.

A.—In a year or two subsequently to the return of Guy, the Court of Admiralty, at home, commissioned a gentleman of the name of Whitburn to impanel juries, and to make legal inquiry into various abuses and disorders which had taken place among the people prosecuting the fishery on this coast ; and, since it is not at all probable that the Admiralty would have interfered with the people of another nation, it is fairly concluded that the persons so engaged were the subjects of his Britannic Majesty.

Q.—Did Whitburn hold a Court agreeably to this commission ?

A.—He did ; and complaints, from no less than one hundred and seventy masters of *English* vessels, are said to have been immediately laid before him.

Q.—When were *permanent* dwelling-houses first erected in Newfoundland ?

A.—About the year 1614.

Q.—Who was Sir George Calvert ?

A.—Principal Secretary of State to James I. By letters patent, in 1623, he became absolute lord and proprietor of all the S. E. part of the Island, comprehended in the extensive peninsula formed by the bays of Placentia and Trinity. This he erected into a province, under the name of Avalon ; and, sending thither a considerable colony, appointed Captain Wynn as Governor.

Q.—At what part of the province did Wynn settle ?

A.—At Ferryland, where he built a large dwelling-house, a granary, and some stores.

Q.—Did not Wynn, in the following year, make flattering reports as to the soil and climate ?

A.—He did. In his despatches to Sir George, he stated that so early as the 17th of August, wheat, barley, and oats

were eared, and that various garden vegetables had attained maturity.

Q.—What effect had these accounts upon the proprietor ?

A.—That of inducing him to remove thither with his family. He had lately been created Lord Baltimore ; and, upon his arrival at Ferryland, he caused a house, suitable to his rank, to be erected, and also a strong fort.

Q.—How long did he reside there ?

A.—He, or at least some part of his family, continued there for many years.

Q.—What subsequently happened ?

A.—Finding at length that his plantation was exposed to the depredations of the French, whose men-of-war were continually hovering upon the coast—and that neither the soil nor climate was so favourable to vegetation as he had, at first, been led to believe—he returned to England ; and, after obtaining a grant of lands on the neighbouring continent, he suffered his possessions in Ferryland gradually to sink into decay.

CHAP. IV.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A REGULAR SYSTEM BY CHARLES I. (1633—1634.)

Q.—What British Monarch first drew up a regular system of rules and regulations with a view to the better governing of this Island ?

A.—Charles I.

Q.—In what year ?

A.—In the year 1633.

Q.—Can you recount the substance of the most important of these regulations ?

A.—Yes ; they ordained that all persons accused of murder, or theft, (if above 40s.) should be carried to England for trial,—that no flakes, stages, or cook-rooms should be demolished at the end of the voyage,—that no ballast stones should be thrown

overboard, in the harbours,—that, according to the ancient custom, the master of the fishing vessel first arriving at any port, should be *Admiral* of the same during that season,—that no taverns, or houses of entertainment, should be set up,—and, lastly, that divine service, according to the established religion, should be duly celebrated on every Sunday.

Q.—Was there not great inconvenience experienced in carrying prisoners to England for trial?

A.—Unquestionably there was; and as it often happened that a number of witnesses was indispensable, heavy expenses, also, were necessarily incurred.

Q.—What *power* had the fishing Admirals?

A.—They were authorized to determine such questions or matters of dispute as might arise out of the ordinary transactions of the fishery, and to see that the orders of certain acts of the Imperial Parliament were duly enforced; though they very often unwarrantably assumed a wider latitude of jurisdiction.

Q.—Were their decisions generally regulated by a strict regard to Justice?

A.—Unfortunately they were not; partiality and corruption were the most prominent features of their Courts.

CHAP. V.

(1634—1728.)

Q.—In what year did France, rather than relinquish the privilege of fishing on this coast, submit to pay a tribute to the British government?

A.—In 1634, and continued to do so for forty-one years. It amounted to five *per cent.* on all fish taken by the French. In the reign of Charles II., however, this tribute was given up; and, from that moment, the French fishery rapidly increased.

Q.—Did the French in 1626 settle a colony in Placentia?

A.—They did; and frequent disagreements, between them and the English, are said to have been the consequence.

Q.—Were there many English settlements on this Island in 1654?

A.—It is recorded that there were fifteen different settlements existing at that time, and nearly four hundred families.

Q.—What events happened in 1696?

A.—The town of St. John's was taken and destroyed by a French fleet, and all the settlements in the country were demolished, except those at Bonavista and Carbonear, which effectually defended themselves. An English frigate lying in Bay Bulls was likewise taken and destroyed.

Q.—What put a temporary stop to these depredations?

A.—The peace concluded at Ryswick, in Holland, between England and France.

Q.—What understanding then took place between these two nations relative to Newfoundland?

A.—They mutually agreed that it should be placed in the same state of division, with respect to each other, as it was in at the commencement of the war.

Q.—How long did it remain in this state?

A.—Until 1702, when war was again declared.

Q.—What followed this declaration?

A.—Queen Anne, then on the throne of England, sent a squadron hither under Sir John Leake, who gained possession of the whole country, captured no less than nine and twenty sail of the enemy, and returned home with his prizes towards the end of October.

Q.—Did the English long remain the undisputed possessors?

A.—No; for very shortly afterwards the French attempted to become the sole masters of the Island; their garrison at Placentia received from Canada such accession of strength as to be able, in 1705, to make a formidable attack upon the forts at St. John's.

Q.—Was their attack upon these forts attended with success?

A.—No; but they succeeded in spreading their devastations northward, as far as Bonavista. In the following year they were again expelled by the English, and many of their men-of-war and fishing vessels either captured or destroyed.

Q.—Did this put an end to the contentions of these two nations ?

A.—It did not ; so impressed were their respective governments with an idea of the vast importance of Newfoundland, that, for the eight subsequent years, the whole colony presented a scene of depredation and warfare, being sometimes in possession of the English, and sometimes in that of the French.

Q.—Was it solely in consequence of her *fishery* that Newfoundland claimed so much consideration ?

A.—Her fishery was not the only thing that rendered her an object of importance ;—she formed an extensive nursery for seamen, and occupied a commanding geographical position with respect to the Canadas.

Q.—Was it not about the time of which we are speaking that the first Episcopal Missionary was appointed for this country ?

A.—Yes, in 1705 ;—his salary was but £50 *per annum*, though he had to perform his clerical duties at settlements nearly 200 miles apart.

Q.—What was the treaty of Utrecht ?

A.—A compact of peace between England and her allies on the one part, and France on the other ; concluded at the city of Utrecht, in the Netherlands, on the 4th of April, 1713.

Q.—What was the substance of such part of this treaty as related to this country ?

A.—Newfoundland and the adjacent Islands were declared to belong wholly to Great Britain ;—liberty was given to the French to catch and dry fish only on that part of the coast lying to the north of Cape Bonavista, and stretching along the western shore as far as Point Riche ;—they were not to make any fortifications or erections, except such as were necessary for the fishery ; nor were they to remain in the Island longer than the process of curing their fish absolutely required.

Q.—Was not the number of inhabitants in 1713 found to be considerably increased ?

A.—Yes.

Q.—In what state was society at this period ?

A.—In a very disorderly one, owing to the bickerings continually taking place between the *adventurers* and the resident population.

Q.—What occasioned these disagreements?

A.—Previously to the arrival of the *adventurers*, or *fishermen*, in the spring, the planters, who resided on the Island during the winter season, made a practice of selecting for themselves the best stages, and the places most convenient for prosecuting the voyage. This was considered by the *adventurers* as an intolerable grievance, and they resented it accordingly. [It may here be remarked that it had long been the policy of the British government to discountenance, as much as possible, every species of *settlement* in Newfoundland.]

CHAP. VI.

(1728—1762.)

Q.—In what year were a Civil Governor, and regular Justices of the Peace, first appointed?

A.—In 1728.

Q.—Who was the Governor?

A.—Captain Henry Osborne, of His Majesty's Ship *Squirrel*. He has been represented as an officer of distinguished merit and abilities.

Q.—Did not Governor Osborne nominate a High Sheriff?

A.—He did;—he likewise authorized the Captains of the ships of war, then on the station, to hold Surrogate Courts for the decision of civil causes. These Judges were afterwards designated *Floating* Surrogates.

Q.—What else did he do?

A.—He divided the Island into convenient districts; levied a rate of a half a quintal of fish on all boats, and boats'-rooms, for the building of prisons; and also erected several pair of stocks.

Q.—Had these measures a salutary effect?

A.—Though eminently calculated to do good, they proved of little service to the country; their usefulness was completely

frustrated by the obstinate, contemptuous, and arbitrary conduct of the fishing Admirals.

Q.—Was it not proposed in the year 1737 to empower the Governor to establish a Court of Oyer and Terminer in Newfoundland?

A.—It was.

Q.—Why was this Court instituted?

A.—For the purpose of trying such criminals as otherwise must have been sent to England.

Q.—Who was Governor in 1740?

A.—The Right Hon. Lord George Graham.

Q.—By whom was he succeeded?

A.—By the Hon. John Byng, in the following year.

Q.—Did any thing worthy of note happen during his administration?

A.—Numerous captures were made by the squadron under his command, on the vessels of Spain, which nation was then at war with England.

Q.—Was there not, in consequence of these captures, a Vice Admiralty Court established here?

A.—Yes; and thus were prevented the expense and risk of sending prizes to the mother-country for trial and condemnation.

Q.—Who was the succeeding Governor?

A.—Sir Charles Hardy, Captain of His Majesty's Ship *Jersey*.

Q.—In what year was he appointed?

A.—In 1744.

Q.—When did Lord Rodney assume the Government?

A.—In the year 1749; he was then a Post Captain.

Q.—What is to be remarked of 1754?

A.—It was in this year that Lord Baltimore revived his claim to the province of Avalon; but, in consequence of his having been so long out of possession, his claim was not allowed.

Q.—Are you aware of any events in 1760 worthy of remembrance?

A.—An attempt was this year made, by one Scott, and others, to open an intercourse with the Indians; but both he and his companions were treacherously killed.

Q.—Who was Lord Rodney's successor?

A.—Lord Graves.

Q.—What is remarkable of 1761?

A.—So inconsiderable was the naval force on the station, in this year, that, in order to protect the homeward-bound vessels, a merchant brig was equipped at the joint expense of the trade. The command was given to Lieut. John Neal.

Q.—What was the consequence of leaving the Island in this unprotected state?

A.—It was visited in the following year by a French squadron, which arrived at Bay Bulls on the 24th of June:—here they landed some troops who proceeded overland to St. John's.

Q.—Relate what followed?

A.—The garrison at St. John's, being incapable of defence, immediately surrendered, and sixty soldiers, together with the officers and crew of His Majesty's Ship *Gramont*, then lying in port, were made prisoners of war.

Q.—Were their depredations confined to St. John's?

A.—No;—they likewise took Carbonear and Trinity, where they inflicted every kind of injury on the fishery and trade.

CHAP. VII.

(1762—1763.)

Q.—You have stated that in 1762 the French were successful in their attack upon Newfoundland. How long did they hold possession of it?

A.—But for a very few months. Intelligence of the affair having reached Lord Colville, at Halifax, he immediately set sail for this coast. On arriving with his squadron off the mouth of St. John's, he found a superior number of the enemy, under the command of Admiral de Ternay, lying within, at anchor.

Q.—What subsequently happened?

A.—Lord Colville, being joined by some transports having on board about eight hundred men, made immediate preparations for an attack. The troops, who were under the command of Sir Jeffrey Amherst, effected a landing at Torbay, under a galling fire, and advanced, at once, upon Quidi Vidi, which they took sword in hand. They afterwards turned their attention to the commanding batteries on Signal-hill, then in possession of the French; and such was the bravery of the British troops, that, in a few moments, the enemy were driven from their guns.

Q.—Did not the French still occupy some strong forts in the centre of the town?

A.—They did; but, on the night of the 17th September, after sustaining, for some hours, a brisk fire from the English, they surrendered themselves prisoners of war.

Q.—Have you not said that Lord Colville, upon his arrival off St. John's, found a French squadron lying within at anchor?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did *they* take no part in the above related conflict?

A.—No; for they had previously put to sea under cover of a thick fog.

Q.—Where were the English fleet at this time?

A.—They had been driven off by a heavy gale of wind.

Q.—Did they fall in with the enemy's ships?

A.—They descried them, but at too great a distance to admit of pursuit.

Q.—Do you know the amount of loss sustained by the English?

A.—About twenty men, besides Lieut. Schuyler, of the Royal Americans, were killed. Capt. M'Donald, who commanded in the attack on Signal-hill, died of his wounds; and some other officers were severely wounded, but recovered.—The French troops, though defeated by an inferior force, are said to have been a fine body of men.

Q.—Were there not two individuals, inhabitants of the Is-

land, who took an active, praiseworthy, and conspicuous part in the occurrences of those critical times?

A.—There were—namely, Robert Carter, Esq., of Ferryland, and Charles Garland, Esq., of Harbour-Grace; the former supported a garrison at the Isle of Boys, and the latter a detachment of military on an Island at the entrance of Carbonear. Their services were afterwards most honourably acknowledged by the Government.

Q.—What circumstance may be adduced as an unquestionable proof of the high opinion which the French government entertained of the importance of Newfoundland?

A.—By a definitive treaty, signed at Paris towards the beginning of 1763, France renounced *all her pretensions to Nova-Scotia*, for the privilege of catching and curing fish on the northern parts of this Island.—The coast of Labrador was, about this time, annexed to the government of Newfoundland. It is also worthy of remark, that, for two or three years subsequently to this period, the justly celebrated navigator, Capt. James Cook, was employed in the survey of these and the adjacent shores.

CHAP. VIII.

(1763—1774.)

Q.—What was the amount of population in 1763?

A.—About thirteen thousand; but of these not more than one-half were *constant* residents.

Q.—What was then the extent of the fishery?

A.—in that year no less than 386,274 qtls. of codfish were taken and cured; 694 tierces of salmon; and the produce of train oil was 1598 tuns.

Q.—Can you tell the value of the furs obtained in this year?

A.—It exceeded £2000.

Q.—Have you any idea of the number of vessels then employed in the trade?

A.—Yes; nearly 400.

Q.—Was the seal fishery prosecuted at this time?

A.—No.

Q.—In what year was Capt. Hugh Palliser sent hither as Governor?

A.—In 1764, and continued till 1768. The rules and regulations which he made, relative to the fishery, were afterwards passed into law.

Q.—By whom was he succeeded?

A.—By the Hon. John Byron, who was the first that issued a proclamation for the protection of the native savages.

Q.—Who was his successor?

A.—Commodore Molineaux, in 1772. He was afterwards created Lord Shuldham.—Wesleyan Methodism was, about this year, introduced by the Rev. Lawrence Coughlan, a clergyman of the Established Church.

CHAP. IX.

(1774—1786.)

Q.—Was Newfoundland in the habit of receiving any other supplies than those imported from Europe?

A.—Yes, from various parts of America, and in particular from the United States, at that time dependencies of Great Britain. From these she annually imported provisions, amounting to upwards of *three hundred thousand pounds*.

Q.—What effect had the memorable rupture, which took place between Britain and her American colonies, upon Newfoundland?

A.—A very serious one;—the general Congress of the States having, in the fall of 1774, issued an order prohibiting the exportation of provisions to such of the sister colonies as remained unfriendly to the American cause, an alarming apprehension of famine took possession of the public mind; and though vessels were immediately dispatched across the atlantic for supplies, yet the most distressing and unprecedented scarcity was experienced throughout the land.

Q.—What is remarkable of 1775?

A.—One of the heaviest storms ever remembered in this Island occurred in that year. The sea suddenly rose twenty feet above its usual height, and the consequent loss of property, on the land, was immense. Numbers of square-rigged vessels went on shore, and were totally lost; hundreds of smaller craft shared the same fate; and it is estimated that, at least, three hundred human beings perished.

Q.—Did the Americans, after their declaration of war, commit any depredations on this coast?

A.—They did; and so well acquainted were they with the various harbours and coves, that, not unfrequently, they would capture vessels while lying at the merchants' wharves.

Q.—Were not the towns of Harbour-Grace and Carbonear very much annoyed by the privateers?

A.—At first they were; but batteries having at length been erected upon some commanding cliffs, these vessels thought it advisable to keep at a distance.

Q.—When was Rear Admiral Montagu appointed Governor?

A.—In 1776.

Q.—For what was his administration remarkable?

A.—Principally for the measures adopted to enforce, on the part of the settlers, an amicable intercourse with the native Indians, many of whom had been unjustly, and even wantonly, killed. About this time a copper mine, between Petty Harbour and St. John's, was attempted to be worked;—not answering expectations, however, it was soon afterwards abandoned. During the administration of this Governor a Presbyterian Minister first officiated here?

Q.—Who next succeeded to the Government?

A.—Rear Admiral Edwards, in 1779.

Q.—Who had charge of affairs in 1782?

A.—Vice Admiral John Campbell. His Secretary was Mr. Aaron Graham, whose abilities, it is said, were of essential service to the country.

Q.—Had the English the entire scope of the fisheries in 1782, or did the people of other nations participate?

A.—The English possessed the exclusive right.

Q.—Were they, ever afterwards, careful to preserve this right?

A.—No; France and the United States were re-admitted to a participation at the close of the war.

Q.—What were the limits and extent of the *French Shore*, or that part of the coast on which the people of that nation are allowed to fish, as defined at the cessation of hostilities?

A.—It was agreed that France should renounce her right of fishing on that line of coast lying between Cape Bonavista and Cape St. John; but from the latter Cape, situate on the eastern side of the Island, and in latitude about the fiftieth degree, she was, after proceeding north about, to *extend* her privilege down the western shores, as far as Cape Ray.

Q.—Was it understood, by this agreement, that the French had, within these bounds, an exclusive right of fishery?

A.—The Government of that nation has always considered it as such, though it has been strongly questioned by many of our own statesmen, by whom the subject has been frequently agitated in the Senate.

CHAP. X.

(1786—1811.)

Q.—Who was Governor in 1786?

A.—Rear Admiral Elliot.

Q.—Was it not about this time that Dr. James O'Donnell came hither as head of the Roman Catholic Church?

A.—Dr. O'Donnell came in 1784.

Q.—What title had he?

A.—“Prefect and Vicar Apostolic of Newfoundland.” He was subsequently raised to the dignity of Bishop. After spending, meritoriously, twenty-three years of his life in this country, he returned to Ireland, where he passed the remainder of his days. On his retiring from Newfoundland, the British Government, in testimony of his patriotic conduct, presented him with a pension of fifty pounds a-year.

Q.—When was a Court of Common Pleas first established here?

A.—In 1789, by Admiral Mark Milbank, who was then Governor.

Q.—Was not this followed by a Court of Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction?

A.—Yes; it was called “The Supreme Court of Newfoundland.”

Q.—Who was appointed Judge of this Court?

A.—John Reeves, Esq., with a commission as Chief Justice of the Island. He has been represented as a man of extensive legal acquirements and deep penetration. During his short continuance in office, numerous abuses, that had gradually crept into the inferior Courts, were rectified; and, from that time, their proceedings were conducted with more regularity and order.

Q.—In what year did the French, under the command of Admiral Richery, burn the shipping and town of Bay Bulls?

A.—In 1796.

Q.—What number of vessels had Richery under his command?

A.—Nine sail of the line, and several of inferior force. Sir James Wallace was Governor in this year.

Q.—By whom was he succeeded?

A.—He was succeeded by Vice Admiral Waldegrave, whose exertions, in the cause of religion, will be long remembered, in this Island, with feelings of gratitude.

Q.—Are you informed as to the extent of the fishery about this period?

A.—The number of quintals of codfish reported to have been cured in 1795, was six hundred thousand, valued at eighteen shillings per quintal. Four thousand nine hundred seals were also taken, besides a vast quantity of salmon.—The whole amount of property vested this year in the trade, was estimated at little less than a million and a half pounds sterling.

Q.—Who was Judge of the Supreme Court in the time of Governor Waldegrave?

A.—Richard Routh, Esq.

Q.—When did Admiral Gambier administer the government ?

A.—From 1801 to 1803. During his administration, and that of his successor, Sir Erasmus Gower, Benevolent Irish Societies, having for their object the relief of the poor, were formed, both in St. John's and in Conception Bay—and several Sunday Schools established.—A Red Indian female was taken in the year 1804, and carried to the capital.

Q.—What is remarkable of 1807 ?

A.—The first newspaper ever issued in the Island was published by Mr. John Ryan, under the title of "*The Royal Gazette and Newfoundland Advertiser*," which is continued to the present period (1834), by the same publisher, under the title of "*The Royal Gazette*."

Q.—What happened in 1808 ?

A.—A very respectable volunteer militia was formed in St. John's: and, about this time, a regular Post Office was established in that town.

Q.—What else, worthy of remark, occurred ?

A.—The Courts of Judicature, which had hitherto been merely the subject of experiment, were now rendered perpetual.—The coast of Labrador, which for some time previously had been separated from the government of this Island, was re-annexed to it; and an ineffectual attempt, under the direction of Lieut. Spratt, was made to open an intercourse with the Indians.—Admiral Holloway was then Governor.

Q.—Who succeeded him ?

A.—Sir John Thomas Duckworth, K. B., in 1810.

Q.—What were among the first acts of his administration ?

A.—That of publishing a proclamation for the protection of the Indians; and of sending, to the Bay of Exploits, a small armed schooner, under the command of Lieut. Buchan, for the purpose of obtaining information respecting that interesting but ill used people.

Q.—What was the result of this expedition ?

A.—Though judiciously planned, it terminated very disastrously:—two marines, who had been left at a small Indian

encampment as a guard, while the lieutenant and his party proceeded in quest of another encampment, supposed to be but a few miles off, were, during the absence of their companions, treacherously murdered, and their heads severed from their bodies. When the officer returned to the fatal spot, the whole of the savages had decamped.

Q.—Was the perpetration of this outrageous act attributed to any improper conduct on the part of the marines?

A.—By no means; they were men of unexceptionable character, and no doubt conducted themselves with the utmost prudence; but the Indians, so long the objects of relentless persecution, could not, now, be brought to believe, that the intentions of their visitors were either honourable or pacific; and these two innocent individuals fell a sacrifice to their suspicions.

Q.—What took place in 1811?

A.—An Act authorizing the holding of Surrogate Courts on the Coast of Labrador, was passed by the British Parliament; several salutary improvements were effected in the re-construction of St. John's; and a reward of one hundred pounds was offered to any person who should bring about a friendly understanding with the Red Indian tribe.

CHAP. XI.

(1811—1826.)

Q.—Did any thing worthy of notice happen in 1812?

A.—War between Great-Britain and the United States of America broke out on the 17th June, consequently much excitement and alarm prevailed throughout this Island.—The small-pox, during the height of the summer, spread its ravages in the town of St. John's.

Q.—Did the trade suffer material damage by this war?

A.—No; on the contrary, it is thought to have been essentially benefited by it.

Q.—In what way was it benefited?

A.—The Americans, and the nations in alliance with them, were of course excluded from the fishery;—our merchants,

therefore, had fewer competitors in the markets abroad, and, in consequence, obtained a higher price for their fish.

Q.—Is it not supposed that the country experienced some other beneficial results from this war?

A.—Yes; the naval and military establishment being greatly enlarged, a proportionally increased circulation of money was the immediate result; and the numerous captures brought, from time to time, into St. John's, conducted, in no small degree, to the prosperity of that town.

Q.—In what year was the treaty of Paris concluded?

A.—The treaty of Paris was concluded on the 17th of June, 1814—exactly two years after the American declaration of war.

Q.—What reference was made to Newfoundland in this treaty?

A.—So much of the treaty of Utrecht as gave to the English the possession of *all* the adjacent Islands, was abrogated; and the French right of fishing placed on the same footing as in 1792.

Q.—What change began about this period to be effected in the fisheries of this Island?

A.—The *bank* fishery suffered a considerable falling off, while the outfit for Labrador was greatly increased.—The Sealing voyage began to be more extensively prosecuted, and the vessels employed in that business to be of a superior size.

Q.—Can you furnish an idea of the extent and value of the exports in 1814?

A.—One million two hundred thousand quintals of codfish were exported in this year, valued at the enormous price of £2 per quintal. Twenty thousand quintals of core fish were shipped off in barrels; six thousand tuns of cod or train oil, at £32 per tun; one hundred and fifty-six thousand seal-skins, at 5s. each; four thousand six hundred and sixty-six tuns seal oil, at £36 per tun; besides salmon, mackerel, furs, and berries, amounting to £10,000 sterling.

Q.—Do you know what were then the current prices of some of the principal articles of provision?

A.—Bread sold at £6 per cwt.; flour at £8 per barrel; pork

at £12 per barrel; butter at 3s. per lb.; salt, at per hhd., 40s.; and shop goods in proportion.

Q.—Were not servants' wages enormously high?

A.—Yes; an ordinary fisherman would obtain £70 for the season—that is, from the beginning of June to the 20th of October; and a 'splitter' at least double this sum.

Q.—What effect had the peace of 1814 upon the trade of this country?

A.—A severe and general depression was immediately felt; the staple products of the island fell, suddenly, in value, and the numerous mercantile failures, consequent upon this unexpected change, threw the whole colony into a state of alarm.

Q.—Who succeeded Sir John Thomas Duckworth?

A.—Sir Richard Goodwin Keats.

Q.—What events happened in 1816?

A.—A great part of St. John's was destroyed, in the month of February, by fire, as also the Parish Church of Harbour-Grace, in the succeeding autumn.—The most honourable mention ought here to be made of the benevolence of the citizens of Boston, who, *immediately* on hearing of the disaster at St. John's, sent, gratuitously, a vessel with a full cargo of supplies to the distressed inhabitants.

Q.—What occurred in the following year?

A.—Owing to an unusually unproductive harvest in various parts of Europe, the accustomed quantity of provisions had not, the last fall, been imported into Newfoundland;—several mercantile establishments were, perhaps, tolerably stocked, but these, seeing, in the event of their disposing of their goods upon credit, the great improbability of returns, resolved, in that respect, to be as circumscribed as they could. The year, however, had scarcely commenced, when hundreds of the population, professedly in a starving state, began to break open the stores; and it was not until volunteer companies were embodied, and efficiently armed, that they could be prevailed upon to desist. Committees of Relief were then formed, and for some months a rateable supply was, at stated periods, dealt out.

Q.—Did not an inquiry into the state of Newfoundland affairs take place in the Imperial Parliament this year?

A.—Yes.

Q.—What facts were elicited on that occasion?

A.—That Newfoundland employed, annually, eight hundred vessels, and produced a revenue of two millions sterling, in returns of various kinds.—The population was stated to be 80,000.

Q.—When was Vice Admiral Pickmore Governor?

A.—In 1817.

Q.—Was there not, in the fall of this year, a large portion of the town of St. John's consumed?

A.—Yes; the fire broke out on the night of the 7th of November, and, in nine hours, thirteen mercantile establishments, and about one hundred and thirty dwelling-houses, were reduced to ashes. The destruction of property was estimated at five hundred thousand pounds. A temporary embargo was laid upon the vessels and boats lying in the harbour, in order to prevent any unnecessary quantities of provisions being carried from the scene of distress.

Q.—Was not this calamity almost immediately followed by a similar one?

A.—It was;—in about a fortnight afterwards, fifty-six houses, besides stores and wharves, were entirely destroyed.

Q.—Were these fires the effect of accident, or of design?

A.—There was every reason to believe, upon the strictest examination, that the cause of them had been accidental.

Q.—What happened in the beginning of 1818?

A.—The death of Governor Pickmore.

Q.—Were his remains interred in the Island?

A.—They were deposited for a month or two in a vault, but subsequently conveyed to England in His Majesty's Ship *Fly*.

Q.—Who assumed the temporary management of affairs?

A.—Capt. Bowker, of H. M. S. *Sir Francis Drake*.

Q.—When did Sir Charles Hamilton come hither as Governor ?

A.—In the course of the same year.

Q.—Was not the year of 1818 distinguished for its successful fisheries ?

A.—Yes; and in consequence thereof our commercial prospects began, in some degree, to brighten.

Q.—Who was Chief Justice during the administration of Sir Charles Hamilton ?

A.—Francis Forbes, Esq., of Lincoln's-inn, Barrister-at-Law. He was put into office on the 4th August, 1816. His talents as a Judge were, unquestionably, of a high order; and the pains which he took to render the Law of England suitable to the peculiar wants of this colony are deserving the greatest praise.

Q.—Was there any thing remarkable occurred in 1819 ?

A.—An Indian female was captured by an armed party in the month of March. Her husband, a man of noble and commanding stature, was, while endeavouring to rescue her, most unjustly and inhumanly shot. The woman was afterwards conducted to the capital, where she experienced the most kind treatment from Lady Hamilton and others. She was eventually sent back, with presents, intended for her people, but she died before she reached them.

Q.—What was done with her body ?

A.—It was wrapped in linen, and laid on the margin of a pond, where it was discovered by some of her own tribe, and conveyed away. Mr. Cormack, very much to his surprise, found it, some years after, in a cemetery, lying beside the remains of the husband.

Q.—How were the laws administered in the out-ports in and about the year 1819 ?

A.—By means of Courts, held by resident and floating Surrogates;—from these, in suits exceeding £40, an appeal lay to the Supreme Court in St. John's. Courts of Session, also, were held by gentlemen in the commission of the peace; they had jurisdiction in cases of *assault*, &c., and in *any cause* not exceeding forty shillings, disputes respecting servants' wages, to any amount, could be finally settled by them.

Q.—How long did Mr. Forbes hold the situation of Chief Justice ?

A.—About six years ; he resigned on the 30th September, 1822.

Q.—When were “ *The Newfoundland Free Schools* ” established ?

A.—In 1823 ; incalculable benefit has, without doubt, been derived from them.—The Naval establishment was this year broken up.

Q.—Who succeeded Mr. Forbes in the office of Chief Justice ?

A.—Richard Alexander Tucker, Esq., A. M., of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, who took his seat in the Supreme Court, on the 5th of May, 1823, and continued the *sole* Judge thereof until the 2d of January, 1826.

CHAP. XII.

(1826—1831.)

Q.—Was there not, in 1826, an important change effected in the judicial proceedings of Newfoundland ?

A.—There was ;—for some years past the inefficiency of the Surrogate Courts had become a popular theme. It was contended that the *resident* Judges of these Courts, however honourable their intentions, could not possibly maintain an unbiassed judgment, interwoven as their personal interests necessarily were with those of the community in which they respectively lived :—and, with regard to the *floating* Judges, (who were the Commanders of His Majesty’s Ships) it was looked upon as very improbable that *their* decisions, in matters of so peculiar a nature as those connected with the fishery, could be altogether satisfactory or equitable.

Q.—What was the consequence of a representation of these views to the parent government ?

A.—An important change, as before remarked, was effected in the machinery of the Courts ;—the *Royal Charter*, authorizing this alteration, was promulgated on the 2d of January, 1826. Sir Thomas John Cochrane was now Governor.

Q.—Relate the substance of the Royal Charter ?

A.—It directed, that in future the Supreme Court of Newfoundland should be held by a Chief Judge, and two Assistant Judges;* that the Island should be divided in three districts—a Northern, Central, and a Southern;—that at each of these three separate Circuit Courts should be held, in which one or other of the said Judges should preside;—that the Supreme Court should admit a sufficient number of qualified Attorneys and Solicitors to practice in the several Courts;—and that, as hitherto, it should grant letters of administration, and the probate of wills. The salary of the Chief Judge was to be twelve hundred pounds sterling, per annum, and that of the two Assistants, seven hundred each. *Surrogate Courts* were now, of course, abolished.

Q.—What else did this Charter direct?

A.—That the Governor should annually appoint a High Sheriff, who was to enter into recognizances of £5000, with two securities of £2000 each, for the due performance of his official duties;—and that in causes exceeding £500 sterling, appeals might lay from the Supreme Court to the King in Council.

Q.—What took place in 1827?

A.—A Bœothic Society was formed in St. John's, having for its object the civilization of the native savages. Towards the fall of the year, an expedition was undertaken by the intrepid and philanthropic, W. E. Cormack, Esq., accompanied by three Indians of different tribes, for the purpose of ascertaining particulars relative to these primitive people, and of effecting a reconciliation with them. But, though the expedition penetrated the very heart of the country, and, for a length of time, made the most unwearied search, not a single Indian was fallen in with much curious and valuable information, however, was obtained.

Q.—For what other event is the year of 1827 remarkable?

A.—His Lordship, the Bishop of Nova-Scotia, paid us a visit in this year. It was the first time a Protestant Bishop ever

* The first two Assistants appointed to act in conjunction with the Hon. Chief Judge Tucker, were the Hon. John William Molloy and the Hon. Augustus Wallet Des Barres; the former of whom was, in a very short time, removed from office.

landed on these shores. During his stay all the Episcopal places of worship throughout the Island were consecrated, and numbers of individuals confirmed.

Q.—Did not Governor Cochrane return to England this year?

A.—He did; and the temporary administration of the government devolved upon Chief Justice Tucker, as President of the Council, whose place on the Bench was supplied by the Hon. Edward Brabazon Brenton, Senior Assistant Judge. This arrangement, however, existed only till the arrival of Sir Thomas Cochrane, in the autumn of 1828, when Mr. Tucker and Mr. Brenton resumed their respective offices on the Bench.

Q.—What occurrences, of note, happened in 1828?

A.—The road between the capital and Portugal-Cove began to be improved, partly at the expense of the Government, and partly by means of subscriptions raised in St. John's and Conception-Bay. The cultivation of the soil met with a sudden and pretty general advocacy; and the building of the new Government-house was commenced.

Q.—What occurred in 1829?

A.—The Rev. Michael Anthony Fleming was appointed and consecrated coadjutor Bishop to Dr. Scallan.—The true position of the Virgin Rocks* was ascertained by one of His Majesty's Ships; and Shawnaidithit, a captive Red Indian female, died, after a residence of six years in St. John's.

Q.—What took place in 1830?

A.—The death of the Right Rev. Dr. Scallan, Roman Catholic Bishop. He had, for many years in this Island, discharged the duties of his responsible office. His kind and condescending deportment rendered him generally beloved, and his loss was deeply and universally lamented.—A new stone Court-house and Prison were this year built in Harbour-Grace, and Government-house in St. John's was completed at the expense of £60,000!

Q.—What also took place in this year?

* The sunk rocks are situated on the Western edge of the Grand Bank, in Longitude 59° 53' 35" west, and 46° 26' 23" north.

A.—Several benefit Societies, called “Fishermen’s and Shoemen’s Associations” and “Mechanic Societies,” were founded in various parts of the country.

Q.—What happened in 1831?

A.—Petitions were got up, in sundry towns, praying that His Majesty’s Government would be graciously pleased to confer on this Island a Local Legislature.—Governor Cochrane re-visited England this year.

CHAP. XIII.

(1831—1834.)

Q.—Recite the most important events of 1832.

A.—A Representative Assembly, agreeably to the prayers of the inhabitants, was granted to the colony.—A most calamitous fire broke out, on the 18th of August, in Harbour-Grace, by which ninety-seven buildings, including the Episcopal Church, were completely destroyed.—A general election of members for the House of Assembly took place about the beginning of November; and a Factory, having for its object the relief of the poor, was established by the ladies of St. John’s.

Q.—Did Governor Cochrane return again to this country?

A.—He did, about the close of the month of August.

Q.—Was he not invested with enlarged authority?

A.—He was.

Q.—What was the substance of his new commission?

A.—It empowered him to convoke a Colonial Parliament; to select a Council composed of seven individuals, any of whom he could suspend if he found just cause for so doing; to divide the Island into districts, townships, or counties; to negative any bill which the Assembly should pass contrary to his will; and to adjourn, prorogue, or dissolve the said Assembly as he should judge necessary.

Q.—Into how many districts was the Island divided?

A.—Into nine.

Q.—What number of representatives was appointed to each?

A.—The district of St. John's had three; that of Conception Bay four; those of Trinity Bay, Bonavista Bay, Fogo, Fortune Bay, Burin, and Ferryland, one each; and that of Placentia and St. Mary's two;—making, in the whole, fifteen representatives.

Q.—Who are capable of becoming members?

A.—All persons of the full age of twenty-one, being of sound understanding—natural born subjects, or lawfully naturalized—never having been convicted of any infamous crime—and having, for two years next immediately preceding the day of election, occupied, as owner or tenant, a dwelling-house within the Island.

Q.—What constitutes an elector?

A.—The qualifications of an elector are similar to those of a representative, with this advantage, that being the owner or tenant of a dwelling for *one* year only, is sufficient for *him*.

Q.—Did not the fire at Harbour-Grace occasion great distress?

A.—For a time it did; but the liberal subscriptions immediately entered into by the sympathising inhabitants of the other towns, and the munificent assistance of the Government, prevented that extremity of suffering which otherwise would have inevitably followed.

Q.—To whom, for his services on this painful occasion, are the inhabitants of Harbour-Grace lastingly indebted?

A.—To Richard Alexander Tucker, Esq., who, at the period of the catastrophe, and in the absence of Sir Thomas Cochrane, was administering the government. No sooner was he made acquainted with the fact, than he crossed Conception Bay, in an open boat; and though but imperfectly recovered from a long and severe indisposition, he underwent considerable bodily, as well as mental fatigue, in alleviating the distress of the sufferers. His private donations on this, as well as on every other charitable occasion, were generous in the extreme.

Q.—Can you furnish an idea of the extent of this country's exports, averaging the last three years?

A.—Six hundred thousand quintals of codfish were exported,

valued at 10s. per quintal; three thousand tons train oil, at 18s. per ton; four hundred thousand* seal-skins, at 1s. each; five thousand tons of seal oil, at £20 per tun; and salmon and furs valued at £20,000;—making a total of £194,000.

Q.—What were the imports of the principal articles of provision, averaging the same period?

A.—Bread ninety-three thousand five hundred and twenty-four bags; flour thirty-seven thousand five hundred and fifty-two barrels; pork twenty-two thousand five hundred and ninety-four barrels; butter one million two hundred and ninety-nine thousand eight hundred and seventy-two pounds.

Q.—What occurred in 1833?

A.—The first session of the Colonial Parliament was opened on the first day of January.—Mr. Tucker resigned† his commission as Chief Judge—an office he had for ten years filled with distinguished ability.—A presentation Convent was introduced in St. John's; Committees of Health were formed in the several districts; a commodious Cholera Hospital was built, principally by private subscription, at Harbour-Grace; a destructive fire happened in the lower street of St. John's, attended with the melancholy loss of lives; and several atrocious and diabolical murders were perpetrated in Conception Bay.

Q.—What led to the resignation of the late Chief Justice?

A.—A misunderstanding which took place between him, in his legislative capacity as President of the Council, and the Commons House of Parliament, upon the subject of taxation—Mr. Tucker contending that the trade and state of the country in general were then unable to bear any levies of that nature, and the representatives maintaining to the contrary.—The Revenue Bill was passed in the Lower House, but, in conformity to the President's opinion, was rejected in the Council.—N. W. Hoyles, Esq., was this year appointed Colonial Treasurer.

Q.—Who succeeded Mr. Tucker in the office of Chief Justice?

A.—The Hon. Henry John Boulton, of Upper-Canada.

* Less than 40 years ago the catch of seals was but 10,000.

† Upon the resignation of Mr. Tucker, in 1830, the Council received the appointment of Acting Chief Justice.

Q.—Did any thing else, worthy of remark, happen at the close of this year?

A.—The execution of the inhuman miscreants, who had committed the atrocious murders in Conception-Bay, took place in January.

Q.—What events happened in 1834?

A.—The arrival of His Excellency Henry Prescott, Esq., Companion of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, as Governor of the Island; and the subsequent departure of Sir Thomas John Cochrane and family for England.

Q.—Are you informed as to the total amount of property imported by the colony this year?

A.—Yes, £618,757. and the exports £826,659, leaving a difference of £207,902 in our favour.

Q.—What number of ships, from sundry parts, arrived at Newfoundland in 1834?

A.—Of British there were eight hundred and twenty-eight, carrying 105,570 tons; and of foreign (*i. e.* Spanish and American) twenty, carrying 2978 tons.

Q.—How many vessels were, this year, employed on the Sealing voyage?

A.—From St. John's, 125 ships, of 11,029 tons, and carrying 2919 men; from Conception-Bay, 218 ships, of 17,785 tons, and 4894 men; from Trinity-Bay, 19 ships, and from other parts of the Island perhaps ten or a dozen more. All these, generally speaking, together with several other registered vessels, too small, or too weak to be sent to the ice, are employed in the cod-fishery during the summer months.

Q.—Is there not a considerable fishery still carried on in the Bays, and on the Banks of this Island?

A.—What is termed the *Bay* or *Shore* fishery is still very extensive; but the number of vessels employed upon the *Banks* is now inconsiderable. Formerly no less than 700 vessels were engaged in this particular branch, while, at the present day, there are not, perhaps, twenty!

Q.—What is the present population?

A.—It is estimated at about 95,000; of these St. John's contains 15,000, and Conception Bay upwards of double that number.

Q.—Has there not been a Chamber of Commerce established for some years in St. John's?

A.—Yes; there is one, also, at Harbour-Grace, and another has more recently been formed in Carbonear.

Q.—How many newspapers are published in the Island?

A.—Seven; five in St. John's, and two in Conception Bay.

Q.—Were there any charitable institutions formed in 1834?

A.—There was one—the Benevolent Irish Society of Carbonear.

CHAP. XIV.

OF THE RED INDIANS, OR ABORIGINES OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

Q.—Is it known of what race the native Indians are the immediate descendants?

A.—Various conjectures and arguments have, from time to time, been hazarded upon this difficult subject; but none of them sufficiently plausible or convincing to place it beyond doubt. Some writers have supposed them to be the descendants of that band of Icelandic adventurers which, as stated in the first chapter, were left on the Island of Winland; whimsically referring their distinguishing epithet *red*, to the surname of one Eric Roude, or *Red-head*, under whose direction this colony is reported to have been planted; whilst others have maintained, and with much more probability, that they originated from some of those numerous hordes or tribes of warriors, or, as they emphatically designate themselves, *red-men*, who were once the sole inhabitants of the neighbouring continent.

Q.—Have not the Indians of this Island been represented as the most ferocious people in the world?

* Considering the population of St. John's, perhaps there is not, in the whole world, another town with an equal extent of trade.

A.—They have; but the picture is exaggerated. No doubt, like every other tribe of kindred habits and pursuits, they are artful, malignant, and cruel; stern and sullen in their deportment, and inexorable in their revenge; but that they inherit these fearful characteristics in any *pre-eminent* degree ought not to be received as a fact.

Q.—Have not these unfortunate people endured the most inhuman persecution?

A.—They have; for nearly three hundred years.

Q.—From whom have they experienced this treatment?

A.—Not only from the Micmacs, and the Esquimaux, but also from the more civilized inhabitants; the furriers, in particular, have been long notorious for their manifold acts of barbarity: an Indian in their estimation, deserving less pity than a wolf or a fox.

Q.—Did not an amicable intercourse once subsist between them and their present persecutors?

A.—Yes; and it was not until they had endured reiterated aggressions, that they assumed the unyielding, and hostile character, for which they have been so frequently, though so unjustly, *reproached*.

Q.—Do you know in what part of the Island they principally reside, and what is the extent of their numbers?

A.—A century or two ago, there was scarcely a part of it that, in their migratory routs, they did not visit; but about the year 1760, their numbers had been so much reduced, and so annoyed and harassed were they by their enemies, that they betook themselves to the gloomy solitudes in the neighbourhood of the River Exploits. At that time, probably, their whole tribe did not exceed two hundred souls. More recently, however, they have been driven, even from this unobtrusive retreat, and it is, at this moment, a question whether a single family of them survives.

Q.—Are they acquainted with the use of the gun?

A.—No; their arms consist, simply, of the bow and arrow.

Q.—Of what are these implements made?

A.—The bow, which is about five feet in length, is construc-

ted of a wood called sycamore, represented as being very scarce in the Island. The interior side of this bow, except immediately in the grasp, is cut with a certain slant, and with so much nicety that the string will vibrate in a direction exactly coincident with the thicker edge. Upon this principle, it is said, depends the true delivery of the arrow.

Q.—How is the arrow formed?

A.—It is nothing more than a straight, smooth piece of pine, armed at the point, with a dart of bone or iron of about six inches long, and mounted, at the other extremity, with a few goose quills in order to direct its flight.

Q.—Of what are their canoes fabricated?

A.—The frame is formed of frail pieces of light wood, which are covered with birch rind, sewed together with the elastic roots of trees, split to a convenient size: the seams are payed over with resin. The usual size of these boats is about twelve feet long, by three and a half wide.

Q.—What is the shape and construction of their huts?

A.—Their huts, or as they are termed wigwhams, are, for the most part, of a conical form, ingeniously covered with the skins of deer, or with broad pieces of birch rind. The frame work consists of poles fastened together at the top, leaving only a small aperture for the escape of the smoke, and spreading to the required breadth at the base. Their beds are cavities dug in the earth, and lined with the soft branches of trees.

Q.—What are the deer fences?

A.—A kind of hedge reared along the banks of rivers, lakes, or ponds; extending, frequently, with slight interruptions, over a space of thirty miles.

Q.—Of what utility are they?

A.—They lessen, exceedingly, the toils and disappointments of the hunt—without them the poor Indian could never be sure of subsistence for a week together. In nine cases out of ten, the deer, in their migrations from north to south, and the contrary, would, in consequence of the vast range of forest which comprises the hunting grounds, be sure to pass unobserved;—whereas, by means of these fences, they are intercepted in their

passage, and conducted to the very spot where the Indian lies in ambush to shoot them.

Q.—Have you any notion how these fences are constructed ?

A.—Large trees, growing in a line along the banks of rivers, or other sheets of water, are cut somewhat more than half through ; they are then made to fall, so as to coincide exactly with each other. Care is taken that the distance between each shall be rather less than the height of the respective trees, in order that the top of one may be properly secured to the butt of another. In this manner a continuous bulwark is raised, over which it is impossible for almost any animal to pass.

Q.—But suppose, as it must sometimes be the case, that spots occur on which no trees grow—how are the fences then made ?

A.—When this is the case, no fence is constructed ; but *sewels* are placed at regular distances, which answer the purpose equally well.

Q.—What are *sewels* ?

A.—Slender poles, from eight to ten feet long, on the top of which are fastened long tassels or pendants of birch-rind. These poles are stuck in the ground, somewhat in a leaning position, in order that the tassels may hang clear, and be agitated with the smallest breath of wind. Simple as this contrivance is, it has invariably the desired effect—not a deer will attempt to pass through the gap in which one of them is placed.

Q.—How do these Indians bury their dead ?

A.—In a variety of ways ;—sometimes they place the body of the deceased in strong cabins, formed with logs of wood ; sometimes on small platforms raised to the height of five or six feet from the ground ;—but the most usual way is, to lay the corpse on the earth, and cover it with fragments of birch-rind, over which are irregularly piled small heaps of stones.

Q.—Are they not in the habit of painting their utensils, as well as their own persons, with red ochre ?

A.—They are ; but the practice is not peculiar to their tribe.

Q.—What form their principal articles of food ?

A.—Venison seems to be the object of their choice ; but, in

cases of necessity, every species of beast, bird, or fish, that can possibly be procured.

Q.—Have they not at all times a sufficient supply?

A.—No; famine frequently stares them in the face; and instances have occurred of women, in a starving condition, been obliged to give themselves up to the civilized inhabitants.

Q.—Are the Red Indians blessed with the services and companionship of the domestic dog?

A.—They are not—and perhaps this constitutes one of their heaviest privations. It has been well remarked, by a distinguished writer, in an allusion to savages in general, that “the poor Indian, who will but too frequently experience fraud and treachery in his dealings with man, finds in his honest dog a friend that will never forsake or betray him.”

CHAP. XV.

OF THE SITUATION AND GENERAL FEATURES OF THE ISLAND; ITS HARBOURS, CAPES, BAYS, BANKS, ETC.; SURROUNDING ISLANDS, CLIMATE, AND SOIL.

Q.—How is Newfoundland situated, and what are its latitude and longitude?

A.—It is situated at the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to which it affords a northern and a southern entrance. It lies between the latitudes of $46^{\circ} 40'$, and $51^{\circ} 37'$, North, and between the longitude $52^{\circ} 25'$, and $59^{\circ} 15'$, West; and approaches to a triangular form.

Q.—How many square miles does the surface of this Island contain?

A.—Nearly forty thousand.

Q.—Report the names of the principal bays.

A.—On the S. E. side is the bay of St. John, in which is the capital of the same name. To the north of this, lies the beautiful bay of Conception, containing the port of Harbour-

Grace,* together with Carbonear, Brigus, Port-de-Grace, Bay Roberts, and several other wealthy, populous, and commodious towns and harbours. In this bay, also, are situated the fine Islands of Great Bell Isle, Little Bell Isle, and Kelly's Island, More northerly are the bays of Trinity, Bonavista, Gander, Exploits, Notre-dame, White, and Hare; and on the most northern extremity is the small bay of Pistolet.

Q.—Are there not some others on the western side?

A.—Yes; St. George's Bay, and Bay of Islands, with some others of less note. Here are, also, several large rivers, and a very extensive lake.

Q.—What bays are situate on the southern side?

A.—The principal are, Fortune Bay, bays of Placentia, St. Mary, and Trepassey.

Q.—Where is Cape Ray?

A.—On the southernmost angle of the Island.

Q.—What is the most eastern cape called?

A.—Cape Spear.

Q.—Where is Cape Norman?

A.—On the northern extremity of the Island.

Q.—What separates Newfoundland from Labrador?

A.—The Straits of Belle Isle.

Q.—Repeat the names of the principal Islands by which Newfoundland is surrounded?

A.—To the south are St. Peters and Miquelon, both of which are in the possession of the French. More westerly are the Magdalen Islands, Cape Breton, and the large but unpeopled Island of Anticosti. On the east are New World Island, Fogo, Funk, and Wadhams. Off the French Shore lie Groais Island and Belle Isle.†

Q.—How is the Great Bank situated?

* On various accounts, the town of Harbour-Grace has long been considered as the second in importance in the Island. In consequence of its beautiful site, it has been styled the *Brighton of Newfoundland*.

† There is another Island of this name in the Straits of Belle Isle.

A.—Its western edge is rather more than one degree to the east of this Island. It is five degrees wide, from east to west, in its broadest part; and about nine degrees long, from north to south. Its depth of water varies from 10 to 100 fathoms; its shape is exceedingly irregular, and its edges steep and unchanging.

Q.—Are there not others in the vicinity of the Great Bank?

A.—Yes; namely, the Outer Bank, which lies about $2\frac{1}{2}$ degrees further to the East, and Green Bank, Mizen Bank, Porpoise Bank, and Banquerean; which lie to the West of the Great Bank.

Q.—What are these *Banks* supposed to be?

A.—By some they are considered to be prodigious depositions of sand, which has been brought thither, age after age, by the action of conflicting currents; but the fact of their never changing their situation, or their figure, seems to claim for them a more solid structure.

Q.—What have you to say respecting the climate?

A.—The climate of Newfoundland differs, in many respects, from that of those countries lying under the same parallels, both in the eastern and western world. Our summers are frequently many degrees warmer than those of Britain, whilst our winters are, generally speaking, incomparably more cold. Yet a mild winter, with scarcely any frost or snow, is by no means unusual—and a cold, raw summer is a thing of no unfrequent occurrence. Vegetation, in some years, commences in the beginning of April; in others, not until the close of May. August and September are our hottest months, when the thermometer has been known to rise to 90 degrees in the shade: January and February, the coldest, when it frequently sinks below zero. Dense fogs are prevalent in the southern, but not so much so in the northern, parts of the Island. Thunder storms are sometimes terrific, but they are seldom destructive. The northern-lights afford a brilliant, and, occasionally, a magnificent spectacle.

Q.—What is the nature of the soil?

A.—The soil, so far as the Island has been explored, is extremely diversified; so much so, that in some parts it is dif-

difficult to find a single acre that does not contain four or five different kinds. Towards the southern parts of the country, and about the neighbourhood of St. John's, there are, no doubt, some fertile and excellent tracts, in which oats and barley are very productive. In Conception, and other Bays towards the north, some fine fields of oats are occasionally raised; and the potato, for which the soil seems peculiarly adapted, is grown to a considerable extent. In no part of the Island, it may safely be asserted, does the soil run to a considerable depth. In proof of which, we may adduce the comparatively diminutive growth of the timber, and the complete *barrenness* which manifests itself on the surface, *almost immediately* after the removal of the forest trees.

Q.—What is known of the interior?

A.—The interior of this Island has never been properly examined; but, as far as researches have been made, it appears to be—not what it was once imagined, *a dense body of forest*—but a continuation of barrens and morasses, (upon which low heath and brushwood are the only vegetation) with sheets of water interspersed. The belt of woods, by which the Island is surrounded, does not, generally speaking, extend above five-and-twenty miles from the sea-shore, and very often not more than half that distance.

CHAP. XVI.

OF THE NATURAL HISTORY.

Q.—Name the wild quadrupeds of Newfoundland.

A.—Of these we have but a small variety. Deer, of the Carriboo kind, are in some parts exceedingly plentiful;—they are frequently met with in herds of from one to two hundred in number;—they have a majestic appearance, and some of them will weigh five hundred pounds. They resort to the northern parts of the Island during summer; but the first fall of snow, at the close of autumn, is the signal for their retreat towards the south.

Q.—What other animals have we?

A.—Black bears are occasionally seen. We have, strictly

speaking, no *wolves*: but a species of wild dog is said to be numerous. They go in packs, and prove annoying and destructive to the deer. Foxes, otters, beavers, martens, muskrats, and hares, are found in all parts—the last of which turn white in winter. Of the marine animals, the seal holds the first rank, both on account of its numbers and its value. There are several species of seal—the two largest of which are the *square flipper* and the *hood*. The gigantic water-bear, also, is an occasional visiter.

Q.—Can you furnish a brief enumeration of the birds?

A.—Yes; the principal are hawks, ravens, owls—a species of which (the snowy owl) is remarkable for its immense size;—partridges, or rather *ptarmigan*, that, like the hares, grow white in winter; curlew and plover, which, in the month of September settle for a few days on our head-lands and barrens;—a species of the thrush, with red breasts and grayish blue backs, by the boys called *black-birds*;—pewits, yellow-hammers, linnets, tomtits, cross-bills,* jays, hedge sparrows, black-caps, snow-buntings, wood-peckers, swallows, snipes, grebes, and sandrils.

Q.—Are there no water fowl?

A.—There are: wild geese, wild ducks, loons, gulls, teals, Baccalao-birds (so called from the Island of Baccalao at the entrance of Conception-Bay, where they breed in incredible numbers);—puffins, gannets, hounds, and several smaller genera. The penguin, a very large bird, once so plentiful at Funk Island, has now totally disappeared.

Q.—How do you account for its disappearance?

A.—People sought after these birds for their feathers; when a sufficient number were killed, they were picked, thrown into heaps and burnt: the annoyance occasioned by the fires, as well as the extent of the slaughter, induced them at length to forsake their haunts.

* I have often heard it remarked, by the old people, that the appearance of this bird, in the fall, is the sure presage of a severe winter; the truth of which has, more than once, been corroborated by my own observation.—W. C. ST. J.

Q.—What kinds of fish abound on this coast?

A.—Codfish, salmon, herring, mackerel, caplin, flat-fish, sculpin, star-fish, halibut, ground-sharks, dog-fish, lobsters, crabs, larce, thornback, smelt, and squids; the last, of late years, have become uncommonly scarce. The whale tribe, during the earlier part of the summer, abounds in our Bays. Our ponds and rivulets are the repositories of myriads of excellent trout and eels.

Q.—What insects have we in Newfoundland?

A.—The more remarkable are, dragon flies, erroneously called *horse-stingers*;* butterflies, some of which, particularly the *swallow-tail*, *admirable*, and little *alexis*, are exceedingly beautiful; beetles,† among which the *cerambyx* is conspicuous for its immense *feelers*; and the fish-fly for its penetrating fetor;—ichneumons, or cuckoo-flies, ants, caddis-flies, crane-flies, moths, saw-flies, wasps, humble-bees, may-flies, common flies, sand flies, and mosquitos. Previously to 1827, *fish-flies*, (which are a large species of the *rove beetle*,) were seldom seen. Since that year, they have become disagreeably numerous. Within the last ten years, a small species of the white butterfly has proved troublesome to the gardens.

Q.—What are the chief vegetable productions?

A.—Newfoundland cannot boast of the size or variety of her forest timber. Pine, spruce, and fir, comprise more than four-fifths of her groves; and these, with the exception of a few inconsiderable skirts about the Bay of Exploits, when compared with the stately giants of the neighbouring continent, may be designated *dwarfs*;—juniper, wych-hazel and birch, are the

* It is difficult to persuade boys that these "*horse-stingers*" do not sting. It is, nevertheless, a fact, that they do not.

† I think I remember to have seen it conjectured in Adams' "Essays on the Microscope," that the hair-worm (*gordius*)—respecting whose origin naturalists have been so long undecided—owes its being to a *black beetle*. I had, a few years ago, the satisfaction of proving this conjecture to have been *perfectly correct*. As, however, the particulars of this curious case will be published through a more appropriate channel, further mention need not be made here.—W. C. ST. J.

only hardwoods, the two last seldom thrive to the north of Bonavista Bay. Birch, in this Island, is very apt to decay in the heart; but such as is sound, is, from its tardy growth, more compact and close-grained than any we import. Wild willow, white-wood, mountain-ash, alder, and withrod, make up the remainder of our groves.

Q.—What other vegetable products have we?

A.—Fern of various sorts; mosses, among which the soldier-moss affords some elegant specimens; ground juniper, or savine, trailing ever-green, maiden-hair, and sarsaparella, heath, Indian tea, and a numerous family of the fungi. The *real* mushroom* is not common. Sedges and cotton grass are found in marshy places; rock-tripe incrusts the faces of rocks exposed to the atmosphere. Wild roses and a variety of sweet-smelling flowers spring up in every quarter.

Q.—What berries grow naturally here?

A.—Raspberries, cranberries, wild cherries, gooseberries, currants, and strawberries; plumboys, bake-apples, hazel-nuts, partridge berries, whortle berries, scarlet stone berries, squash berries, and wild pears.

Q.—What minerals have there been discovered?

A.—Indications of coal have been met with in different parts. Plaister of Paris is said to abound to the southward of St. John's. There is a lime stone† quarry at Ciapel Cove, in Conception-Bay. Goldmarcasite, compounded of sulphur, and

* Boys should be particularly cautious in gathering mushrooms to eat, as some species of them constitute the most *deadly* poison.

† Having learned that several unsuccessful attempts have been made to calcine this stone, I was induced, a few weeks ago, to examine a specimen of it. It does, certainly, contain a large proportion of *lime*, but in combination with magnesia, oxide of iron, and silica. Of magnesia it contains 15 or 20 per cent., which, as every body knows, renders it peculiarly *unfit* for agricultural purposes. I have not, myself, seen the quarry, and therefore cannot state whether it is all of the same sort. The fragment which formed the subject of the above analysis had an unctuous feel, a silky lustre, and its specific gravity was 2.575 or $2\frac{2}{3}$ times as heavy as water.—W. C. ST. J.

iron, is dug in the vicinity of Catalina. Specimens of the dog-tooth spar, and other calcareous crystallizations, are of frequent occurrence.—Good building stone is found at Kelly's Island, in the above-named Bay; and vitriolic streams are met with in every part of the country.

CHAP. XVII.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Q.—When is the usual time for proceeding on the Sealing voyage?

A.—Laterly about the 10th of March. Some years back, the 17th of that month was the usual day.

Q.—What is the average length of time spent on this voyage?

A.—About four weeks.

Q.—How many men go in each vessel?

A.—This depends chiefly upon the tonnage. Vessels from 50 to 100 tons take generally 30 men; vessels of 70 tons, or thereabouts, carry 25 men; and so on according to the size.

Q.—What number of seals do you account a saving trip?

A.—This of course depends upon the *price* of the seals, and the cost of the outfit, including the "*wear and tear*" of the *vessel*. In speaking of a saving trip, this last circumstance is often overlooked; but it is evidently wrong to do so.

Q.—Endeavour to make this more plain?

A.—In order to form a just estimate of the gain or loss of any adventure, it is necessary to take into consideration the *whole expense incurred*, on the one side, and the *full value of the returns*, on the other; the difference of which shews the gain or loss. If there be *no* difference—that is, if the expense and returns are equal, then is the adventurer free from loss, or, in other words, *he is safe*.* Now it is very plain that the da-

* Hence the expression "*saving trip*."

mage the vessel suffers—that is, her *wear and tear*, forms a part of the incurred expense, and therefore ought to be taken into account;—otherwise, at the end of perhaps seven years, the adventurer, who has all along been reckoning himself *safe*, finds that, in reality, he is minus, nearly in the full amount of the original value of his schooner, which has now become so far damaged as to require almost a thorough repair.

Q.—How are the seals* disposed of—by number or by weight?

A.—Formerly by number, but at present by weight. This alteration was found necessary in consequence of the dishonest practice adopted by some of the seal-hunters, of leaving behind them, on the carcase, a portion of the fat and skin.

Q.—How is a cargo of seals divided among the crew?

A.—One half of it is shared equally among them; the other half goes to the owner, who, if he be *master* also of the vessel, receives a man's share. A hired master obtains about sixpence a seal, and sometimes monthly pay besides, together with a man's share.

Q.—What is done with the seals after they are landed.

A.—They are skinned, cut into small pieces, and thrown into vats, to melt.

Q.—How many will a man skin in the course of a day?

A.—A very expert hand will accomplish between five and six hundred.

Q.—In what month do the vessels proceed to Labrador on the cod fishery?

A.—About the 15th of June, and return about the middle of October. The wages of a good fisherman are now (1834) £25 for the season.

* To persons unacquainted with the nature of the sealing voyage, it is necessary to explain, that what is here meant by *seals*, is nothing more than the skin, with the fat attached, the carcase being thrown away at the ice.

Q.—How many hogsheads of salt will *cure* a hundred quintals of fish?

A.—Ten.

Q.—How much liver-oil will this quantity of fish yield?

A.—Two hogsheads; some years not quite so much.

Q.—What name is given to the best quality of dried cod-fish?

A.—Merchantable.

Q.—To the second quality?

A.—Madeira.

Q.—And to the third?

A.—West India.

The following Table affords a correct account of the number of Governors from 1749 to 1834, with the years of their respective administration :—

1749—	RODNEY.
1750 to '52—	DRAKE.
1753 to '54—	BONFOY.
1755 to '56—	DORRILL.
1757 to '59—	EDWARDS.
1760—	WEBB.
1761 to '63—	GRAVES.
1764 to '68—	PALLISER.
1769 to '71—	BYRON.
1772 to '74—	SHULDHAM.
1775—	DUFF.
1776 to '78—	MONTAGU.
1779 to '81—	EDWARDS.
1782 to '85—	CAMPBELL.
1786 to '88—	ELLIOTT.
1789 to '91—	MILBANK.
1792 to '93—	KING.
1794 to '96—	WALLACE.
1797 to '99—	WALDEGRAVE.
1800 to '01—	POLE.
1802 to '03—	GAMBIER.
1804 to '06—	GOWER.
1807 to '09—	HOLLOWAY.
1810 to '12—	DUCKWORTH.
1813 to '15—	KEATS.
1816 to '17—	PICKMORE.
1818 to '24—	HAMILTON.
1825 to '34—	COCHRANE.
1834	{ His present Excellency HENRY PRESCOTT, Esq., Companion of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath.

ON the very day these sheets were being sent to the Press, the Corner Stone of the first Stone Church ever erected in the Island was laid at Harbour-Grace, by His Excellency the Governor, attended by the Hon. James Crowdy (Colonial Secretary), Fort Major Griffiths, of St. John's, and by the Ministers of the various denominations, besides a large concourse of the Parishioners;—Magistrates, Merchants, the Benevolent Irish Society, Fishermen and Shoremen's Association, Mechanics' Society, Children of the Newfoundland School, and other inhabitants; forming, altogether, an assemblage of upwards of two thousand persons. After the accustomed forms had been gone through, the solemn ceremony was concluded with an appropriate speech by His Excellency.

The following is an extract from the scroll read on the spot by John Stark, Esq., Chairman of the Building Committee, and deposited in a bottle beneath the aforesaid stone :—

“Here* stood St. Paul's Church, which was burnt to the ground by the great fire at Harbour-Grace, on the 18th August, 1832—erected on the site of the first Church built in the year 1764; and the Corner Stone of this *New Stone Church* is now laid by His Excellency Henry Prescott, Esq., Companion of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its dependencies, and Vice Admiral of the same, on Tuesday the twenty-eighth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five, and in the sixth year of the Reign of his present Majesty William the Fourth of Great-Britain and Ireland King.”

* It is but justice to the “honoured dead” to record, that the spot on which this Church is about to be erected, together with the adjoining Burial ground and Parsonage lands, were the munificent gift of the late Charles Garland, Esq., Surrogate, of Harbour-Grace, to the Episcopalians of this community.

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The reader will have the goodness to correct, with a pen, the following errors of the Press, as well as any others which may have escaped the author's eye:—

- Page 20, line 5, for *Lord Graves*, read *Governor Drake*.
21, line 4, for *Sir Jeffrey Amherst* read *Colonel Amherst*.
24, line 12, for *wharves* read *wharfs*.
38, line 1, for 18s. read £18.
39, line 17, for eight-hundred and *twenty-eight* read eight-hundred and *eighty-eight*.
44, line 5, for *been* read *being*.—Same page, line 28, for *Report* read *Repeat*.
45, line 16, for *southernmost* read *southwestern*.
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NOTE.—A Map of Newfoundland would have been a most desirable accompaniment to the little work; but it is to be regretted, that, in this country, nothing of the kind can, as yet, be executed. In Schools, however, this defect may, in a great measure, be remedied by appending a large chart of the Island to the walls.

