

There are increasing settlements all around the bay, and several harbours, roadsteads, and rivers, which are frequented by numerous vessels engaged in the lumber trade and the fisheries.

The climate is warmer, and the weather in general much finer, within this bay, than it is outside in the adjacent parts of the Gulf. The fogs, which prevail so much with southerly winds on the Miscou banks, seldom enter the bay, although rain and mist accompany easterly gales here as elsewhere.

The navigation is by no means difficult ; for although there are some dangerous shoals, yet there is everywhere good warning by the lead.

TIDES.—It is high water, full and change, in the entrance of Chaleur bay at 2h., and ordinary springs rise 5 feet and neaps 3 feet. The tidal streams are regular within the bay, and seldom amount to the rate of one knot per hour ; but outside, off its mouth, and especially on the Miscou banks, the currents and tidal streams are so irregular, both in strength and direction, that nothing definite can be said of them ; and their dangerous effects upon the course of vessels can only be guarded against by the constant use of the deep-sea lead, and attention to the soundings.

DIRECTIONS at NIGHT and in FOGS.—Vessels bound for Chaleur bay, and approaching its entrance in a dark night or foggy weather, should not attempt to make Macquereau point, which is so bold that there is little or no warning by the lead ; but should strike soundings on the Miscou banks, which extend nearly 22 miles to the eastward of Miscou island. A cautious look-out should be kept for the numerous fishing schooners, which are generally riding on the banks ; and the northern edge of the latter, being followed in 30 fathoms water, will safely conduct vessels past the north point of Miscou, at the distance of 4 miles, and form a sure guide up the bay. In addition to the soundings, there is the assistance of the lighthouse on Birch point, Miscou island ; it is an octagon, wooden, and red tower, 74 feet high, and shows a *fixed red* light, 79 feet above the sea (page 23).

The bank of soundings off the north shore is also sufficiently wide to guide vessels everywhere within Macquereau point ; nevertheless, in a dark night and bad weather, vessels had better not approach the shore much nearer than the depth of 30 fathoms in any part of the bay to the eastward of Carlisle point. The soundings are generally of sand and shells on the banks, while in the central parts of the bay black and brown mud prevail, with depths between 30 and 50 fathoms. Within, or to the westward of Carlisle point, and the opposite bay of Nipisighit, the depth decreases to less than 30 fathoms, but there is still sufficient warning everywhere by the lead quite up to the head of the bay.