

charts in 1858; the surveys of La Have and Roseway Banks by Captain Shortland, Royal Navy, in 1859, were satisfactory in every respect; and, later still, the offshore soundings by Captain Orlebar, Royal Navy, in 1864, are valuable additions to our hitherto scanty knowledge of the inequalities of the various banks which lie off the much-exposed and dangerous coast of Nova Scotia. Of these banks the principal in extent and most important in position are the Banquereau and Sable Banks, the former being the easternmost of what may be correctly designated the Nova Scotia Banks.

Banquereau Bank, with 15 to 50 fathoms, is an extensive plateau of sand, gravel, and shells, and is distinguished from contiguous banks by numerous flat sea-eggs without prickles which are found on the bottom. It extends from about latitude $44\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N., longitude $57\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ W., in a westerly direction 120 miles to the meridian of 60° W. This bank is separated from Bank St. Pierre by a deep gully 50 miles wide, having from 200 to 300 fathoms muddy bottom; and from the NE. bar of Sable Island by another gully of deep water 12 miles across its narrowest part and 140 fathoms deep.

On referring to the chart it will be seen that its shoalest part, with 15 fathoms, in latitude $44^{\circ} 35'$ N. and longitude $57^{\circ} 54'$ W., is the apex of a ridge (having less than 30 fathoms) upwards of 40 miles in length in a NE. and SW. direction; and that relatively with the dangers off Sable Island it is not only a safe offing for vessels intending to pass to the northward of the last named danger, but by keeping, if possible, in the same parallel, the long and continuous line of comparatively shoal water, would enable a vessel under ordinary circumstances to feel her way with some degree of confidence until she has passed to the westward of the meridian of Sable Island.

Misaine and Canso Banks.—Misaine Bank lies to the northward of Banquereau Bank, between the latter and Scatari Island, and between its NW. edge, with 60 fathoms, and a similar depth on the outer edge of a bank extending from the shores of Cape Breton Island, there is a deep gully 20 miles wide, with from 70 to 136 fathoms. The least water yet found on this bank is 36 fathoms, the general depth being more than 40 fathoms, with a bottom of stones and broken shells. The outline of the bank is very irregular; its eastern limit is in latitude $45^{\circ} 25'$ N., longitude $58^{\circ} 10'$ W., and its western extremity is connected with Canso Bank by the 60-fathom line.

The least water on Canso Bank is 35 fathoms, sandy bottom; the bank is separated from the north end of Middle Ground by a space of deep water with 112 fathoms, and from the bank extending from Cape Canso by a narrow deep-water channel with 84 fathoms.

Artimon Bank, situated at the east end of the deep-water gully separating Misaine Bank from Banquereau, is of small extent, the least water being 37 fathoms, over a bottom of stones with star fish and sea-eggs.