

succor,—to prevent this the Steamer "Napoleon" was sent down with 100 barrels of flour, which was given to the people. The next fall the same danger being apprehended and Government finding these people becoming a burden, I was commissioned to go to Gaspé—there await the Steamer "Lady Head," sent from Halifax for the purpose—and my instructions were to take the people off the Island and send them where they came from or where they might choose to go. But finding that they had no longer homes in Newfoundland, and if brought to Quebec would be helpless paupers, in the face of a severe winter—I telegraphed these facts to Ottawa, and having learned that potatoes grew in abundance wherever planted, I recommended that a certain sum be allowed me to buy 200 or 300 barrels of potatoes in Gaspé, which with other supplies the people be helped through another winter, and by furnishing seed potatoes upon condition that they would cultivate them, that in a short time they would be better off and be able to help care for shipwrecked people, for which they would be liberally paid. My request was granted, and I visited all the settlements upon the Island. I called the inhabitants together—four or five families in some places, a few more in others. I enquired into their condition, number, age and resources; finding them well disposed and having no desire to leave. I distributed carefully the supplies and got them to appoint one of their number to receive one barrel of seed potatoes for each family, and all were to aid in safely stowing them out of danger from frost, and gave besides to each family 3 barrels to eat. For every barrel of potatoes sown about 40 barrels are harvested. Each family cleared a small patch of land next spring, and about two years after, potatoes were so plentiful that a schooner load was sent up to Quebec for sale; and since then they are grown in abundance. The soil is good and when exhausted, at their very doors they have tons of one of the best of fertilizers in the sea weed. When the wrecks took