

In my second paper I called your attention to the vicissitudes this island had undergone from storm and current which, according to Admiralty surveys, had within 80 years reduced its area from 40 miles in length and 2½ miles in breadth to 22 miles in length and less than 1 mile in breadth, and its height from 200 feet to 80 feet, materially altering its outline and position.

I will now endeavor to trace its origin, its relation to that vast sand accumulation known as off shore banks, and also the causes now at work hastening its destruction or submergence.

Of course any attempt at an explanation of its origin must be based upon the assumption that it is the result of natural agencies, in other words that it is not a mere huge sand bank thrown up by some freak of nature, as it might appear to a casual observer, but that the forces that rolled each grain of sand against its fellow until this immense accumulation arose as an island from its ocean bed, are governed by a law as fixed and unalterable as that which holds the planets in their orbits.

In seeking for its origin among others two theories are prominent. 1st, that it is the result of causes now visible and subject to investigation, as in the case of material being transported by icebergs. 2nd, that it is the remains of a former age, now undergoing geological changes yet unfinished.

Before us we have a chart showing off shore banks, and another showing their relative submergence, which I have compiled from latest surveys.

Beginning at the eastern extremity of this remarkable formation we have what is known as the great bank, 240 miles E. and W., and 29½ miles N. and S., an area equal to the whole island of Newfoundland. West from this we have the Quero bank, 120 miles in length; north of this again is the Canso bank, 60 miles in length; west from Quero, 12 miles distant, we have the Sable Island bank, 200 miles in length and 90 miles in breadth. On this bank we have a narrow thread-like elevation above the surface which is Sable Island proper. North of this, separated by a narrow channel, is what is known as the middle ground, 35 miles in length. West from this is Sambro, 12 miles in length; then the LaHave bank 32 miles E. and W.; then the Roseway bank,

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