

swam around the vessel so thickly that scores were in sight at once. The crew tried to catch some, but stale bait did not seem to appeal very strongly to the taste of the fish. One or two only were hooked and none captured. As we approached the shore in the surfboat, we saw quite a number of seals, which permitted a very close approach, but they did not seem so inquisitive about a boat as they did subsequently about a person or a dog on shore. We had no difficulty in landing, as the sea was quite calm. The boat was simply rowed towards shore till it stopped. Then, as the waves retreated, some of the party jumped out, while those less agile were lifted by the crew and carried to dry land. Starting up for the centre of the island we were all interested to find many specimens of the eggs of the skate, which Capt. Knowlton, of the *Minto*, told us he had always known as a boy, under the name of "the devil's wheelbarrow." The body of the egg is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches square and  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick. From each corner projects a curved horn about from 4 to 6 inches long, and from the sides are string-like substances by which the mother fish attaches the egg to the sea weed in the bottom of the ocean, where it remains until torn from its moorings by current or storms, when it is cast upon the shore. These we found in large numbers, not only at the landing-place but in most other localities on the island.

The boat house was in the mouth of one of the gullies, which had been torn through the sand cliff by the wind. Near the west side of the gully stood a conical pyramid of sand, which had originally been a part of the continuous hill running from east to west. Apparently the gully had been made in two parts, and when the second one had been excavated this pyramid was left standing between the two. It is a perfect cone of about 30 or 40 feet in height, and gives one a good idea of the power of Sable Island winds.

The records show that winds of 40 to 60 miles an hour are common, and even 80 miles has been reached. Unfortunately we were not favored with any extremes of weather; most of us would have enjoyed the experience of meeting a wind travelling at the rate of 60 miles an hour at least; but although on one or two occasions we had one of 30 miles, it never went any higher. To