

boat. Many's the time I went out fishing when it wasn't fit for any boat to face the weather, and my poor mother would be in terror often about me, for this is a very squally place when the wind is any way off-shore. Of course, like all the young gaffers of that time, I was a keen seal-hunter. Not a winter passed but I was at the ice, and being well known for a willing and active chap, I never had any trouble in getting a berth. Them were the days before the steamers were used, Sir, and every harbour of any size had vessels going out. Yes, Sir, many a man earned a winter's diet then that finds it hard to get one now, for I suppose twenty men got a chance of a berth then where one gets it now, since the steamers have done away nearly with sailing vessels at the ice. Why, I mind, Sir, when there were as many sailing craft going sealing out of one of the large harbours as now go from the whole island. They may say what they like about the steamers, but 'tis my opinion they're ruining the seal-fishing with their second trips, killing off the old breeding seals; and whatever a few of the merchants have made by 'em, I know there was more, yes, far more, made by the poor people when sealing ships went out and berths