

SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT.

been about fifteen days, and about twelve days from thence to Moose, or in going to York about nine days."

One cannot have a very high opinion of the sailing qualities of the "Prince of Wales," the distance from Mansfield Island to York being 570 miles, and the time consumed in covering it, averaging nine days, shows an average day's sail to be 63 miles, or about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour, with deep water and no danger from shoals.

Captain Bishop's average time home from York for the thirty-three voyages he has made was a little over four weeks. He is of opinion that the beginning of August is early enough for a vessel to attempt entering Hudson's Strait; where he differs from five American whaling captains whose opinions are quoted, for they agree that vessels can enter by the 1st of July. Capt. St. Clair, of New Bedford, said he had entered the Bay on the 13th of June, 1877, and the captain of the "Abbie Bradford" left New Bedford May 8th, 1878, and began whaling in Hudson's Bay on the 20th July, having that day "spoke" with the barque "Nile," boiling out their third whale of that season.

As to the dreams of of the last age, about the danger and difficulty of the navigation through Hudson's Strait and Bay, they are now out of the case. We know that this navigation is far from being perilous as it is represented.

"This is the more manifest from a fact, the truth of which is indisputable, and that is, the Hudson's Bay Company ships returning year after year without any disaster."

Capt. Ellis wrote the above in 1748, after returning from a voyage of two years to Hudson's Bay, when he had acted as agent of the proprietors of the two vessels, "Dobbs Galley" and "California." Part of the instructions he had received was: "In your passage through the Strait, keep nearest the north shore until you pass the Savage Islands."

Sir Edward Parry, when on his second voyage in search of a North-West passage, says, that on the 1st of December, in a bay of Fox Channel, where he wintered, while none of the "old ice" was visible, that part of the sea about there was covered with a very thin sheet of young ice, having spaces of clear water. In June of the following year the ice in their wintering Bay, where they sawed it, was four feet, and that on that date a good deal of ice was still attached to the land.

As the ice from Fox Channel affords the bulk of what passes through