



ART. III.—SABLE ISLAND, NO. 3. — ITS PROBABLE ORIGIN AND
SUBMERGENCE.—BY SIMON D. MACDONALD, F. G. S.

(Read January 11, 1886.)

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—

I MAKE no apology for occupying your attention in discussing for the third time Sable Island, and its attendant phenomena.

Independent of the call this Island makes to a rich and varied field for scientific research, there comes a deeper voice across the mad tumult of its breakers, and amid the storms that appear to vent their fury in its vicinity, asking in the interests of humanity for a wider knowledge of the causes which have associated such horrors with its very name.

In addition to this, the proximity of this fatal Island to our shore,—the unfavorable reputation it has already given to our coast and its approaches, and the certainty of its complete submergence at no distant day, with the probability of its becoming a still greater dread to the mariner,—makes this Island a proper subject of investigation for this Society.

It comes within its province to observe and record for the benefit of not only the present but for the many future investigators, who will doubtless value everything of information left by us, and scan with eager glance in coming days the varied resume of facts we have collected, or left for them to theorize and debate upon.

In my first paper I brought to your notice the Island generally, its history, natural features, wrecks, etc.; and also showed that from its geographical position situated at the interlacing of three of the most remarkable currents which encircle it with those swift eddies so fraught with destruction, whilst the atmospheric influences borne to it on the bosom of those dissimilar and opposing currents, surround it with conditions not found elsewhere, and afford for meteorological purposes a point unsurpassed in the North Atlantic.

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