

## REPORT

*Of the Committee appointed to examine Blunt's Chart of the North-East Coast of North America, relative to the South Shoal of Nantucket.*

The committee appointed to examine the evidence relative to the position of Nantucket South Shoal,

### RESPECTFULLY REPORT,

That the South Shoal of Nantucket, which has been heretofore placed in lat.  $40^{\circ} 42' N.$  or thereabouts, on the charts of the Coast of North America, has been placed in lat.  $41^{\circ} 4' N.$  on a Chart of part of the Coast of North America recently published by E. M. Blunt, on the following evidence of its position.

1st. A survey by Capt. J. Colesworthy, made in June and July, 1821, for account of, and at the expense of Mr. E. M. Blunt.

2d. Observations of Capt. Colesworthy on the 11th of September following, assisted by Mr. Walter Folger, jr. of Nantucket, who accompanied him at the instance of several of the inhabitants of that Island, to determine whether a mistake had or had not been made by Capt. Colesworthy, in his previous surveys.

At this time, (11th Sept.) a good observation was had at noon half a mile south of the Shoal, according to the account given by Mr. Folger.

3d. A survey made by William Coffin, P. F. Coffin, Jona. C. Briggs, and several other experienced navigators of Nantucket, who were provided with a sloop equipped at the expense of the inhabitants of that Island, by subscription, for the express purpose of surveying the South Shoal, to ascertain whether the Shoal surveyed by Capt. Colesworthy was the "Old South Shoal," or not.

This party left Nantucket on the 20th of October last in the morning, and "at noon of the same day, observed in latitude  $41^{\circ} 4' N.$  by four good instruments, the Shoal east, two miles distant.

After this they traversed to the S. S. W. South, East, N. and E. and N. and W. between the parallels of  $40^{\circ} 40'$  and  $41^{\circ} 4'$ . They "had 30 fathoms in  $40^{\circ} 40'$ , and running on one hour to the south, had 35 fathoms."

In traversing over the position assigned to the Shoal on the old Charts, they found 30 fathoms, and not less at any time to the south of  $40^{\circ} 40'$ ; from that depth the soundings were found regular to 15 fathoms, near the Shoal, in  $41^{\circ} 4'$ .

Mr. Walter Folger, jr. says, in a letter dated October 21st, "this evening the vessel arrived here that was sent out to find the South Shoal in  $40^{\circ} 42'$ , on board of which were some of those who were most positive that it lay in that latitude. They informed me, that they could not find less than 30 fathoms water on that parallel. They observed yesterday, west from the Shoal that Capt. Colesworthy surveyed 24th June and 9th July, and that we observed at the south of, half a mile distant, on the 11th September; *I could then see the vessel from my house.*"

This statement is supported by the letters of William Coffin, P. F. Coffin, Jona. C. Briggs, and several others, which give particular accounts of the survey, and which accompany this Report.

Your Committee are therefore of opinion, that the position assigned to Nantucket South Shoal, by Mr. E. M. Blunt, on the Chart recently published by him (in lat.  $41^{\circ} 4' N.$ ) is the true place of the Shoal.

Your committee recommend the following resolutions for adoption—

*Resolved*, That this Society is satisfied that the position assigned to Nantucket South Shoal, (lat.  $41^{\circ} 4' N.$ ) by Mr. E. M. Blunt, on a Chart of part of the Coast of North America, recently published by him, is the true place of the Shoal, and that the position of that Shoal is established by more sufficient testimony than that of any other Shoal on the Coast of North America.

*Resolved*, That in detecting an error of 22 miles in the position assigned to the dangerous South Shoal of Nantucket, on the Charts heretofore published, Mr. E. M. Blunt has rendered an important service to the shipping interest, and to the mariners of the United States.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be directed to transmit to Mr. E. M. Blunt a copy of the foregoing Report and Resolutions.

H. AUSTIN,  
ISAAC WAITE, } Committee.  
E. FISHER.