

### Sable Island.

In our number for 1852, we gave a sketch of this Island, condensed from a Report prepared by the Hon. the Provincial Secretary, in 1850, since submitted to the Assembly. In that sketch it was asserted: "There is great discrepancy between the position given to this Island on the old charts and that assigned to Captain Darby, ex-Superintendent. The late Capt. Darby was of opinion—and his authority ought to go for much,—that his father's plan is correct. The difference, which is really frightful, will be seen by a glance at the following comparative statement:

Longitude East end Sable Island,	59° 48' w.
Do. do. by chart,	60 02 w.
	Difference, 14
Longitude East head is,	43 59 n.
Do. do. by chart,	44 05 n.
	Difference, 6
Latitude of West head is,	43 57 n.
Do. do. by chart,	44 02 n.
	Difference, 5
Latitude West end,	60 10 w.
Do. do. by chart,	60 32 w.
	Difference, 22"

This discrepancy was brought to the notice of the Earl Dundonald, Vice Admiral and Commander-in-chief on this naval station, by His Excellency the late Sir John Harvey. His Lordship promised to make known to the Admiralty the pressing necessity of a survey of these perils to navigation fatal to so many vessels. In August, 1851, Sir George F. Seymour, who succeeded Earl Dundonald in the command, wrote to Sir J. Harvey, "that in consequence of the Report of the Honorable Joseph Howe, and of His Excellency's application to the Earl of Dundonald, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty had caused the Island to be surveyed by Captain Bayfield, and the Officers of the 'Gulnair'; and the long bars which extended from its extremities, by Commander Shortland, of the 'Columbia'." On the 8th September following, His Excellency Sir George F. Seymour, writing to the Administrator of the Government—Colonel Bazalgette,—and referring to the letter from which we make the extract above, says:—"I have now the honor to furnish you with Captain Bayfield's Report thereon, and containing his views relative to the erection of a Light-house on the Island, on which I had desired his opinion." We therefore append the Report, for the information of our sea-faring readers, and others who may be engaged in nautical pursuits:

#### REPORT TO THE HYDROGRAPHER OF THE NAVY.

The position of the Island is as follows:

- 1st.—The W. flag staff, at the principal establishment, latitude 43d. 56m. 33s. north. Longitude, 3d. 32m. 02s. 8 E. of Halifax—Dockyard tablet. 11d. 10m. 15s. 8 E. of Obs. Bastion, Quebec.
- 2nd.—The E. extreme of the Grassy Sand Hills—see chart—latitude 43d. 59m. 06s. north. Longitude, 3d. 49m. 20s. 5 E. of Halifax—Dockyard tablet. 11d. 27m. 33s. 5 E. of Obs. Bastion, Quebec.
- 3rd.—The W. extreme of Grassy Sand Hills—see chart—latitude 43d. 56m. 52s. north. Longitude, 3d. 26m. 21s. 8 E. of Halifax—Dockyard tablet. 11d. 4m. 34s. 8 E. of Obs. Bastion, Quebec.

If we assume Halifax Dockyard tablet to be in 63d. 35m. 19s. 5 west, according to Admiral Owen's determination from Cambridge Observatory, the above named points will be in 60d. 3m. 16s. 7 west, 59d. 45m. 59s. west, and 60d. 8m. 57s. west, respectively. The East extreme of the Sand Hills alone remains unchanged for comparison with the observations of Admiral Ogle's officers; and it is satisfactory