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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, is entirely surrounded by ice for about five months during the year, and the only means of communication with the rest of the world is by the Mail Boat, which crosses the Northumberland Straits at its narrowest part (about nine miles) between Brulé and Cape Tormentine. So terribly severe is this mode of travelling, that during the whole winter scarcely a passenger will be found to venture across.

The boat is similar to those used by the Royal Humane Society on the ice in our parks in England, only a good deal larger and stronger. It is fitted with oars, boat hooks, &c., plenty of work having to be done in the open water, as at times the ice drifts about, and there is more rowing than pushing. One very severe winter, during the time we were quartered at Prince Edward Island, the boat made several journeys without getting into the water at all, but such instances, I am told, are rare.

Both crew and passengers are fastened to the boat by a long rope round the waist, to help themselves out of the water should they slip in (not an unfrequent occurrence), as well as to pull the boat along. The passenger must work just as hard as any of the crew, although he has to pay pretty heavily for his little amusement.