

as bad as a fog, being frequently of sufficient density to obscure lights at night when only a short distance from them.

Fogs, Winds, and Barometer on the SE. Coast of Nova Scotia.—

Fogs are prevalent all the year round, but during the spring and summer months dense fogs or rain almost always accompany all winds from the sea, from ENE. around by south to WSW. In winter the rain is frequently replaced by snow. During the autumnal and winter months winds from between north and west become more frequent, and, being off the land, are always accompanied by clear weather.

Strong gales of wind do not often occur in May, June, or July; but after the middle of August they are often of great strength, and it then becomes essential to attend carefully to the indications of the barometer. Strong winds from east, round by south, to WSW., are always accompanied by a falling barometer; when, therefore, these winds begin to abate, and the barometer at the same time ceases to fall, a change of wind, more or less sudden, to the opposite direction may be expected, with a rising barometer and fine weather; if it be winter the change will probably be accompanied by intense frost, coating the vessel, sails, and rigging with ice.

Again, a high barometer, stationary or beginning to fall, indicates that a SE. or SW. wind, with accompanying rain and fog, is not far distant; and if, at the same time, there be a bank of clouds rising above the northwestern horizon, the indication is certain.

Caution.—It is essential to the safety of vessels to attend to these indications, for to the neglect of such precautions, more especially of the deep-sea lead, no less than to the fogs and irregular currents, the shipwrecks on Sable Island and the SE. coast of Nova Scotia are attributable.

All this portion of the sea, from the eastern limit of the bank of Newfoundland, past Cape Race to Halifax, as well as to Portland, Boston, or other harbors of the coast of the United States, is within soundings, and therefore during foggy weather, or when in doubt respecting the ship's position, frequent soundings are absolutely necessary.

Another important point to which due attention should be paid is, that in approaching the coast of Nova Scotia the variation of the compass changes rapidly, and, if not allowed for, might easily run a vessel into danger.

Tides.—The tidal currents along the shores of the Bay of Fundy are uncertain both in velocity and direction, and in navigating the bay extreme caution is necessary when within tidal influences, whose velocities have been known to vary from one to 8 miles an hour.

Capt. R. V. Hamilton remarks that off the Tusket Islands, the tides are strong and eddying, and that H. M. S. *Sphinx*, though steaming at the rate of 7 knots an hour, was whirled almost completely round against the helm.

The same authority states that the offing tides are likely to mislead,