

On the other hand lagoons and bays are being filled up, slowly, if we reckon by human life, rapidly, if we reckon by geological eras. Men not very old will show you where they saw brigs built and loaded, where now you could easily wade across. And your own eye can see how the sea is forming and broadening beaches of gravel or sand, or the wind blowing it in hills. As you walk along these beaches you see how soil is gradually formed upon them, and how they become occupied by various kinds of vegetation.

While, however, the soil of these islands is so well fitted for agriculture, yet fishing has always been their main industry. The time is not long past when their fishing grounds were the most productive perhaps in the world. Men scarcely past middle life tell of seeing

THREE HUNDRED VESSELS

off their shores at one time and getting full cargoes in a few days, or of Pleasant Bay being so packed with herring that men had only to dip them up till their vessel was full. But these days are past. Still, the taking of the inhabitants of the deep, first of the seal in spring, then the spring herring, then lobsters, codfish, mackerel and summer herring, has always been the principal employment of the people. But of late years the catch has greatly fallen off.

But to notice the islands more particularly. The

FIRST WHICH MEETS THE EYE

of the voyager coming either from the North or South is Entry, so named because it stands as a sentinel at the entrance of Pleasant Bay, which is the seat or nearly all the trade of the islands. Its appearance is somewhat striking. On the North-eastern side conical hills rise high above the surrounding waters, the highest rising nearly 600 feet above the level of the sea, being the loftiest point on the group. At a distance they appeared to me to resemble the humps on the back of a dromedary. On this side the sea has so cut in upon it that the cliffs are said to be 400 feet in height, but at the South-west the land slopes to the shore. It is about two miles long and is nearly circular in shape. I was not upon it, but I was informed that there are seven families resident upon it, all Protestants, besides being resorted to by a large number during the

fishing season. The original occupants were

FROM THE EAST RIVER OF PICTOU,

and one venerable lady, Mrs. Dickson, *nee* Cassidy, was long known as the sort of mother of the whole. She died about two years ago at a very advanced age.

There is a passage on either side. That on the East between Entry and Alright Islands is seven miles wide, and to the North-west, one of about three miles, separates it from a sand beach of four miles in length, making out from Amherst Island. This is the largest of the group, being eleven miles in length, but not more than four at its greatest breadth, and on the average not more than two. There are only two Protestant families upon it. But there is a church built by the late Admiral Coffin, the proprietor of the islands, and I am informed that during the fishing season, there is sometimes a considerable number of worshippers in it.

To the North two ridges of sand eight miles long connect it with Grindstone Island, so called from a round hill of grey freestone, to which the French used to resort for grindstones, to which, accordingly, they gave the name of Cap au Moule. This island is somewhat oval or tortoise shaped, being about five miles in the greatest diameter and four in its shortest.

To the North-east it sends forth a long gravel beach, opposite to which the island of Alright sends forth another so that there is but a narrow passage between them. The latter is about four miles in length by two in width.

Upon these three islands thus so closely connected, reside nearly all the French population, to the number of over 4000. They have four chapels with as many priests, and, besides their churches have to maintain convent schools. With the failure of the fisheries of late years, the maintenance of all these has been felt by the people a burden heavy to be borne. These people are much like the French habitants wherever we find them. Of the Magdalene Island French we may say, however, that they are generally temperate. There are

NO PLACES WHERE LIQUOR

is retailed. Some of the large traders do not supply it at all and others only import small quantities to be used for special purposes. Doubtless it is imported otherwise, but still its use is comparatively limited.