

coast. Bears are very numerous, foxes and martins abundant ; otters and a few mice complete the known list of quadrupeds. Neither snakes, toads nor frogs are known to exist on this desolate Isle.

Unfortunately, there are no good natural harbours on Anticosti ; and in consequence of very extensive reefs of flat limestone rock, extending some distance from the shore, the want of anchorage, and frequency of fogs, the Island is considered dangerous by mariners ; but " not in so great a degree as to render reasonable the dread with which it seems to have been occasionally regarded, and which can only have arisen from the natural tendency to magnify dangers of which we have no precise knowledge." *

Provision posts have been established by the Canadian Government, for the relief of crews wrecked on the Island, † and three

* Bayfield.

† To those who have drawn conclusions unfavorable to the island, from the number of wrecks which have been reported to have taken place upon it, it is necessary to point out that the wrecks, which in returns appear so formidable in the aggregate, under the head of " Anticosti," have not occurred at one spot, but at many spots widely separated, extending over a distance of 320 miles, that being the circumference of the island, and consequently the extent of coast front, not taking into account the indentations caused by bays, creeks, &c. Take the same length of coast upon any part of the main shores of the river or gulf, and it will be found, upon proper inquiry, that six times as many wrecks have occurred within it each year, as have for the same period taken place upon Anticosti. Instead of the wrecks upon the latter having been compared with the number of wrecks spread over the same extent of coast on the former, they have been generally regarded as having occurred at one spot, and have been compared with those only which have happened at some one place on the main shore of the river or gulf, of a few miles, or of less than a mile in extent, lying in the course of fewer vessels, yet wrecking annually nearly as many. From an estimate, made by the writer of this communication, of disasters in the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence, during the ten years ending November, 1849, it appears that half as many wrecks occurred upon the Manicouagan shoals, as took place upon the island in that period, and that Cape Rosier, Matane and Green Island each wrecked upwards of a third of the number of vessels which were stranded during the same period upon the whole of the 320 miles of the much labelled coasts of Anticosti. The Manicouagan shoals, Cape Rosier, Cape Chat, and other spots upon the main shores of the river and gulf, are places not only much more to be dreaded by the mariner than Anticosti, on account of the number of wrecks which occur upon them, but in consequence of the great loss of life which sometimes accompanies those wrecks, while, from the shelving nature of the beach at Anticosti, there are few instances recorded of wrecks upon the latter having been attended with loss of life. While the circumstantially related and carefully preserved account of the fate of the crew of the *Granicus*, wrecked in 1828, near Fox Bay (who, in the course of a long winter, died from famine), has created in the minds of many, who adopt without reflection any popular fallacy placed before them, a belief that every poverty of soil, every drawback of climate, and every danger of coast must belong to Anticosti, those greater dangers and those more numerous disasters upon the main shores of the St. Lawrence, attended with greater loss of life, have been almost entirely lost sight of, or if thought of in connection with the former, have been set down as unimportant, when compared with the unfairly estimated disasters and the imaginary dangers of Anticosti.

The evil reputation which still hangs over the island, became attached to it many years ago, before its coasts were thoroughly surveyed, when it was laid down in the chart as being many miles shorter than it actually is, in consequence of which many vessels ran upon it in places where deep water was supposed to exist, and before light-