

far off shore. I have occasionally carried the north land wind nearly over to the south coast just before daylight, but have never observed the south land wind extend more than 5 or 6 miles off, and that very rarely. Under the same circumstances, that is with a fine weather westerly wind going down with the sun, a S. W. land breeze will frequently be found blowing off the north coast of Anticosti at night and during the early part of the morning. If, however, the weather be not settled fair, and the wind does not fall with the sun, it will usually prove worse than useless to run a vessel close in shore at night in the hope of a breeze off the land. Such is the usual course of the winds in common seasons, in which a very heavy gale of wind will probably not be experienced from May to October, although close-reefed topsail breezes are usually common enough. Occasionally, however, there are years, the character of which is decidedly stormy. Gales of winds, of considerable strength, then follow each other in quick succession and from opposite quarters.

9. The marine barometer, which is at all times of great use to the navigator, becomes particularly so in such seasons; and the following remarks upon its general indications, when taken in connexion with the usual course of the winds and weather in the St. Lawrence, may, therefore, be useful. The barometer has a range from 29 to 30·5 inches in the Gulf and River of St. Lawrence during the navigable season, and its changes accompany those of the winds and weather with a considerable degree of constancy. The fluctuations of the barometric column are much greater and more frequent there than in lower latitudes; and sudden alterations, which in other climates would be alarming, may occur there without being followed by any corresponding change either in the wind or weather. But the navigator should not be inattentive to those minor changes, as a constant attention to the instrument can alone enable him to appreciate those decisive indications of the mercury which seldom or never prove deceptive. The following remarks will apply to those well-marked changes which usually indicate the approach of a gale of considerable strength, or of a shift of wind and weather; the correct anticipation of which is often of the utmost consequence to the safety of a vessel, as well as to the length of her voyage. When, after a continuance of westerly winds and fine weather, the barometer has risen nearly to its greatest height,