

S AND HAVING

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Quebec with 20

pilots on board. The condition was that the master of the schooner was obliged to embark every one of those Pilots before reaching his destination : after a cruise of a fortnight there was still several Pilots on board the schooner, when a gale came on, all the crew and the Pilots were worn out by constant day and night cruising, and the schooner met with a complete loss of all lives and Property, twelve Pilots being still on board. By this accident several families lost their support, the true facts were sealed, the Insurance paid the value of the goods, and the consignee who was expecting for those goods and breadstuffs to supply his fishermen was frustrated of carrying his fishing during the best part of the fishing season. Such an occurrence is not a solitary but a yearly one.

Every year a great number of Pilots are perishing in the Gulf and not a single one in their natural waters, last year again besides pilots who have been drowned in single boats and in freighted schooners, one pilot boat has been wrecked, with her crew and with two pilots on board. Accidents are so frequent that the Trinity House which is the trustee of the pilot saving fund have been obliged to lessen to a trifling and insufficient sum the annuity provided for widows and orphans of deceased pilots, rendering to an extent the human and wise provisions of the law inefficient.

Those above-mentioned facts have induced a committee of the Parliament of 1851 to report favorably upon the Petition of the Pilots praying for relief ; and a Bill to incorporate the Pilots did pass in the session of 1852 its second reading, but on account of the immense number of measures before the House, this Bill was surprised by the prorogation before having gone through the other stages. The Bill of 1852 was nevertheless far inferior in its details to the one just now before this present Parliament.

The present Bill has two main features, that is to say two provisions : 1o. To keep Pilots within the limits of their own waters ; 2o. To allow them to make a Joint Stock Company of their own earnings on equitable footing.

The first provision is for the benefit of the shipping