

Capt. Hale, of the U. S. Navy, who surveyed this Bank, reported "That the breakers were such that unless the weather was perfectly calm it was impossible to go among the shoals with boats on account of the heavy seas. Nor was it considered safe to attempt it with the vessel, for besides the danger of striking on a sand bar the vessel would be liable to be filled with the breakers. And had not the sea been perfectly smooth and at high water, he would not have been able to get where he found but 3 feet at low water. And further he had no doubt but that this patch would be bare with a continuance of off shore winds."

This spit has an area of about one-third of Sable Island.

The breakers on those shoals are very heavy and can be heard and seen for a considerable distance.

It may be argued that this theory may account for the formation of this island, but not for its elevation above the surface.

In my last paper I referred to one of the most remarkable features in connection with this place, viz., the swirl-like current that surrounds it. A good illustration of this was given when, in February, 1803, the first superintendent having had three months of anxiety from the rapidity with which the island had been washed away in the vicinity of his house, and having lost much of his provisions by the depredations of rats, and fearing that want would stare him in the face before relief would reach him in the spring vessel, built a dispatch boat and sent her out crowded with sail before a S. E. gale in hopes she would reach the main land or be picked up by some in bound vessel that would carry the dispatches to the government, and acquaint them of the condition of affairs on the Island.

To his surprise, in 13 days after she returned to the beach, 6 miles above where she set out from.

Experiments are often made to test the strength of this current by throwing over a cask or barrel which will make circuit after circuit of the Island.

Bodies from wrecks also make the same circuit. It is quite customary for the surfmen to search on the opposite side for things which, in consequence of off shore winds, have been carried thither by the current and deposited upon the beach.