

in lower latitudes, where the southern currents detain them, often for a considerable time. The Custom House returns show the arrival and departure of vessels to and from St. John's during every month in the year, and in the memory of the oldest citizen, the harbour has been known to freeze entirely over but on two occasions, thus proving the comparative mildness of the climate, which is in fact less severe by several degrees than Halifax or Boston, consequent upon Newfoundland being entirely surrounded by salt water.

The great circle sailing line for ocean steamers between the English Channel and New York, when drawn across the chart, almost intersects the harbour of St. John's, and in the event of vessels ever being prevented from approaching this port in consequence of floating ice, the harbour of Trepassey, eleven miles south west of Cape Race, would be available, as it would be freed from obstruction by the same wind which would block the eastern shore; it is therefore proposed to have equal facilities for coaling steamers in this latter port, that Captains may rely with confidence upon being supplied at either place during any season of the year.

The average detention of a steamer in the harbour of St. John's would not *exceed* two hours, in consequence of the perfect arrangements for rapid coaling, and the extra distance to be run in