

Cove ; one barque and one brig in Goose Cove ; one barque, one brig and one schooner in Creminillere Cove ; two barques and two brigs in Braha ; one English brig in Griguel Harbour ; one French brig in De Grat Harbour.

Belle Isle (North).

The fisheries round this island are most valuable, and I grieve to say are principally gathered by the French. During the afternoon, night and next morning I was off this island, I only saw two vessels, and those were English jacks ; but, nevertheless, I ascertained that the French had been fishing round its shores the entire season, and had only departed upon the visit of the man-of-war being reported by their look-outs.

I do not see how these fisheries can effectually be protected while the French possess the facilities of numerous and convenient ports in its vicinity, with only the opposing influence of two Jersey establishments in Chateau Bay to contend against them. The most effectual protection would be the constant presence of a small cruiser during the entire season, to act in conjunction with the small Government schooners the French themselves employ for this service. If it were practicable to form establishments on the island itself, this expense, perhaps, might be saved, but, owing to the total absence of safe beach or boat harbours, this would be almost impossible.

These fisheries are capable of yielding 40,000 quintals in the season, and, I am told, the French take upon the average 30,000.

I could not visit the establishments in Chateau, owing to the bay being blocked up by icebergs ; 83 were counted between Belle Isle and the coast of Labrador.

Red Bay

Is a beautiful little harbour, perfectly sheltered from every wind, and is capable of admitting ships of the largest class. It is formed of Saddle Island, lying off the entrance of a round basin with a narrow neck. There is good anchorage behind the island, which forms what may be called the outer harbour. The hills of the main are nearly 500 feet in height, somewhat higher than those directly to the North-east and South-west of the port.

The hills are close to the shore, formed of reddish granite, and covered with moss, some stunted spruce, birch and juniper bushes.

Three small rivulets enter the basin, but water cannot easily be procured for ships, owing to sand-bars extending across their mouths.

The port is not very easy to make, as the features and indentations of this portion of the coast are very similar ; one of the best marks is a small flat island, a little to the eastward of Saddle Island, named "Oil" Island in the book of sailing directions, and "White" Island by the fishermen.

There are 13 rooms at this station, all belonging to separate planters, small proprietors employing altogether 50 fisherman (exclusive of the shore-men) ; the principal person among them is a Mr. William Penny, of Conception Bay. He comes to this port in his schooner every spring, and arrived this year, on the 17th June, with 95 people on board—40 men, the rest women and children. During the season there are about 100 inhabitants ; 40 reside for the purpose of seal fishing during the winter. They commenced cod fishing this year the 5th June. They use both seines and lines, and have 25 boats of different sizes, employing from two to three hands each, and capable of containing from 5 to 10 quintals. They send their fish to St. John's, Carbonear and Halifax. They despatch it twice in the season, if the fishing is moderately good. Their catch to the present date, 30th July, has been 3,500 quintals, which is the greatest amount of fish they have taken so early for the last three years. They expect to average before the close 100 quintals a man. They would not be contented with less than 70 (the French consider 50 quintals per man a paying season). The fishing generally ends about the 5th September, when the ice begins again to form, and the bait strikes off into deep water. The bait they use is caplin, herring

"In 1839 or 1840, when employed on this service, I represented that the French had taken possession of Belle Isle, and an order was sent from England for their removal in the following year."—A. Milne.