

force of the current against the fishery until a part of it gave way, and left an opening for the escape of these prisoners, the company would on the occasion, have been re-imbursed all its expenses of outfit, for each of these fish is worth from \$80 to \$100 ; but this experiment did not prove more successful than the other, and it appears that only three or four porpoises were taken the whole season.

It is said, however, that the company are not disposed to abandon the enterprise and will recommence operations next spring. But these fish are so cunning and so timid in approaching objects they are not familiar with, that it will always, I think, be difficult to take them. Hitherto the best and most successful method of catching them has been that employed for a number of years by the fishermen of River Ouelle and *Isle aux Coudres*, namely, in brush weirs ; but these could not be used in the Bay of Chaleurs for want of tidal currents, and nets had to be used instead.

#### WHALE FISHING.

The port of Gaspé is the only one in Canada that dispatches, as it has done for many years, schooners fitted out for the express purpose of whale fishing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. At first these enterprises were highly profitable, whales being numerous and readily allowing themselves to be approached by the harpooner.

Now, however, both these conditions are reversed—but few whales visiting our coasts, and those being so timid that often it is only after having rowed for days in all directions, carefully following the movements of a whale, that the harpooner succeeds in dealing it a blow.

This year, for some reason or another, whales seem to have been more numerous, and what was better still, the weather was favorable to our fishermen during the whole season. Accordingly they gave themselves up with the greatest ardor to the pursuit of these animals, as well on the coast of Labrador as on those of Newfoundland and Gaspé, and they succeeded in taking a much greater number than usual, as may be seen by the following table :—

SCHOONERS FROM GASPÉ BASIN, EMPLOYED IN WHALE FISHING IN 1867.

Name of Schooner.	Name of Captain.	No. of tons.	No. of men.	Whale Oil.	
				Barrels.	Gallons.
Admiration.....	Joseph Tripp.....	46	15	200	6,000
Violet.....	Henry Suddard.....	37	15	180	5,400
Rambler.....	Charles Stuart.....	51	15	170	5,100
Highland Jane.....	John Aseah.....	64	15	237	4,110
Breeze.....	William Harbour.....	45	15	80	2,400
Lord Douglas.....	James Baker.....	58	15	96	2,880
	Total.....	301	90	963	25,890

The yield of this year's fishing was therefore nearly equal to that of the last two years put together ; only 14,420 gallons of oil having been brought back in 1865, and only 12,330 in 1866. But will our whalers always be so fortunate, and will they always return with such cargoes ? I do not think so. On the contrary, I think we cannot expect to see as good results every year as those obtained this summer, particularly when we consider how uncertain a chase is that of the whale, which I may compare to that followed in the spring by the inhabitants of the Magdalen Island, when they are so fortunate as to see fields of Gulf ice covered with young seals ground near their shores.

What, then, is to be done to remedy this evil, and supply this deficiency ? I answer, what ought to have been done long ago, and what was strongly recommended by Commander Fortin in his Report for the year 1865, and that is to form a company or two for the purpose of fishing, or rather hunting, for whale in the Northern Ocean, and off the coasts of Greenland. There those animals are still to be found in great numbers ; and the Gaspé whalers, with their well-known experience and activity, would be sure to do