

The Middle Flagstaff is farther inland, near the east end of the salt water lake, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the westward of the East Flagstaff.

The West Bar dried about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the end of the grassy sand hills. There were several patches nearly dry about a mile farther out, and then 9 miles of heavy breakers, succeeded in bad weather by 7 miles more in which the depth increases from 5 to 10 fathoms, and where there is usually a great ripple and a heavy cross sea. Since 1852 the sea has encroached on the land and covered places where the grass formerly grew. The direction of this bar is N. 60° W. for the first 12 miles, thence west for the remaining distance; the whole extent of the bar from the end of the grassy sand hills to the depth of 10 fathoms being 17 miles, beyond which the water deepens gradually to the westward for many miles.

The East Bar during fine weather dried about 4 miles from the end of the grassy sand hills. At the distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, a small sand hill about 10 feet high and with some grass on it has accumulated around a wreck since 1820. The 4 miles of dry sand are succeeded by 8 or 9 miles of heavy breakers; the whole length of this bar, from the grassy sand hills to the depth of 10 fathoms being 14 miles. Since 1852 the sea has receded, and vegetation now appears in places which were covered by water. Its direction is N. 40° E. for the first 7 miles, beyond which it curves gradually, till it terminates to east. The ridge of sand with a depth of from 10 to 13 fathoms on it, and with often a heavy cross sea, continues for 10 miles farther to the east, and then ends abruptly, the depth increasing, in a distance of 3 miles farther in the same direction, to 170 fathoms, in the channel between Sable Island and Banquereau Bank.

Vessels should be careful not to be caught within the crescent in a strong gale from the northward, when the accelerated ebb tide, setting directly towards and over the bars, would render the situation extremely dangerous. Both the bars are extremely steep on the north side, the east bar especially so, having 30 fathoms water close to it. To the southward, on the contrary, the water deepens gradually for many miles, and renders it difficult to account for the great number of shipwrecks on that side of the island and its bars, unless they are to be attributed to the neglect of the lead.

Wrecks on the bars are of course far more dangerous to life than those that take place on the island, and it is important in such cases to know on which bar the vessel is, and the consequent direction in which to seek for safety on the island. This information, when the island is hidden by fog or the darkness of night, must be sought by observing the direction of the line of breakers, which on the east bar is between NE. by N. and ENE. until near its outer extremity, whilst on the West Bar it is WNW.

Anchorage.—Off the north side of Sable Island, excepting near the east end, where the deep water approaches too near the shore, there is