

seen the land several miles off, and was thought by all on board to be in a perfectly safe road. The weather thickened, a cloud was seen in the distance, hanging over what was supposed to be the back of the Island, yet this vessel struck $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the shore. This could only be accounted for by the fact that a mist from the swamps had arisen and so covered the low peat-bed as to cause it to appear like the water, also mist covered, and it was only when the boat was lowered and rowed towards the Island that they knew they were so near. Treacherous currents had gradually drawn this vessel out of its safe course; the day's reckonings were thereby deranged—and the ship at full speed struck the rocks. When the question was put to the witnesses one after the other: "Why the sounding had not been regularly taken," the answer from them was, that they believed they were 4 to 5 miles from land and in 40 fathoms of water. This vessel became a total wreck.

In former times, the poor shipwrecked mariners and passengers found themselves upon an Island affording no means of sustenance, and the sufferings of the crew of the French frigate "*La Renommée*," who realized a Winter of horrors, starvation and deaths, so graphically related by our esteemed President, in his *Chronicles of the St. Lawrence*, will afford you some idea of the awful fate which awaited the unfortunate castaway, upon that dreaded Island. But much of this is now changed. Government cannot remove the dangerous reefs nor change the treacherous currents; but by placing light-houses, fog guns and powerful steam-whistles on the most exposed points, on the approach of thick weather, their bright light or penetrating sound warns the passing vessel to change its course and seek a safe path. When an ill-fated vessel strikes, and the crew, half-drowned, and often half clad, reach the shore, they have but to follow the beach in any direction, when they will soon come to a sign-board fastened to a tree, which will buoy them up with hope—for in several directions