

miles, into which vessels of any size can enter easily and anchor safely; *St. John's*, the most northerly, with a population of about 27,000, being the chief commercial depôt and capital of the colony.

The harbour of *St. John's* possesses the advantages of being ample and land-locked; of having great depth of water, with very little rise and fall of tide; thus enabling the largest ships to enter and leave at all hours. The entrance is free from rocks or hidden dangers, and so short that a steamer can reach her wharf within half-a-mile of the broad Atlantic. There is an excellent harbour light, and during the present year a wharf will be constructed, and machinery erected for the express purpose of coaling ocean steamers in the most rapid manner. There is also an 18-pounder gun fired every half-hour at the harbour's mouth when the weather is foggy.

In the months of March and April, the northern ice floats past the eastern shores of Newfoundland, frequently reaching 40 degrees of north latitude, equally obstructing vessels bound to Halifax, Boston, and *St. John's*; in fact during April, it not unfrequently happens that vessels making the southern passage meet with great obstruction, while the ocean north east of Cape Race is free from ice, the floes having gone rapidly by to linger