

ings are not so deep, and the icebergs not so prevalent, and their either lying-to until daylight, or anchoring with the stream.

*St. George's Bay.*

There are 200 resident planters in this bay who receive assistance in hands, during the fishing season, from Cape Breton and its adjacent shores. Their fishing usually commences a month or six weeks earlier than that on the coast of Labrador. This year they began the 27th April. They fish herring, salmon, trout and eels, besides the cod. Up to the present date (17th August), their catch has been 10,000 barrels of herrings, 200 barrels of salmon, and but a small quantity of cod. They employ about 200 boats and 800 hands, and send their fish to the Halifax and Quebec markets during the summer and fall. The fishings end about the 1st of October, with the exception of the eels, which are caught in great quantities, and afford subsistence during the winter. They have bait without intermission during the entire fishing, and use herring, caplin, squid and clams. The climate is usually dry and mild; and if their society was under proper control, St. George's Bay would offer many inducements to the industrious settler. The harbour is occasionally blocked up by ice, but for no length of time, and is always open by the middle of April. The inhabitants consist of English, a few Irish, and a number of lawless adventurers, the very outcasts of society from Cape Breton and Canada, and it is very distressing to perceive a community, comprising nearly 1,000 inhabitants, settled in an English colony, under no law or restraint, and having no one to control them, if we except what may be exercised through the influence shown by the single clergyman of the Established Church, who is the only person of authority in the settlement. I am told, the reason why magistrates are not appointed is in obedience to direct orders from the Home Government, it being believed against the spirit of the treaty with France. Under these circumstances, I would recommend, either that a vessel of war should be appointed to remain stationary in the harbour, or that the society should be forcibly broken up and removed, for violent and lawless characters are rapidly increasing, and neither the lives nor property of any substantial or well-disposed settlers are safe. Four cases of violent assault were brought to my notice as having recently been committed upon parties, some of whom were injured for life, and others nearly murdered; and I was sorry to understand the culprits had succeeded in escaping into the woods upon the appearance of Her Majesty's ship.

The cultivation of grain has been commenced with considerable success. Wheat, oats and barley ripen well, and turnips grow exceedingly fine. Potatoes and garden-stuff is cultivated also to a considerable extent. A great quantity of fur is collected; but the trappers suffer great losses by the frequent robbery of both traps and their contents.

REMARKS.

I have thus stated to your Lordship all the information I could gain relative to the fisheries of the south coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, gleaned from the statement of the parties residing at the ports visited by Her Majesty's ship under my command; but before closing this Report, I consider it my duty to lay before your Lordship how I conceive Her Majesty's ships may be beneficially employed in the protection to be afforded to British interests upon the coast of Labrador, and round the island of Newfoundland; and in doing so, I must presume to call your attention to the Report of Captain Milne, of Her Majesty's ship "Crocodile," whose observations made in 1840 agree entirely with the facts I was enabled to collect during my cruise this season; and, notwithstanding seven years have elapsed between the periods of our inspections, the evils therein pointed out exist, and in a more magnified form, with perhaps the single exception of the French encroachments upon our grounds round the Burgeo Islands, early in the spring, for the purpose of digging bait. These have discontinued, simply because they have so systemised their arrangement with the settlers in the Bays of Placentia and Fortune, including those living on the coast between, as to render them independent of any supply from the more distant Burgeo Islands.