

Capt. Scoresby, who reconnoitered the foot of the great glacier of Spitzbergen, counted at one time upwards of 500 icebergs starting out on their course southward, many of which were laden with thousands of tons of sand, mud and gravel.

Capt. Wilkes, of the United States exploring expedition, landed upon an upturned iceberg, supposing it to be an island. Upon it he found huge boulders of basalt and sandstone embedded in mud, sand and gravel, the whole forming an ice conglomerate.

Sir John Ross mentions an incident of an iceberg capsizing in lat. 74° , bringing up a portion of the bottom 100 feet above the surface, so that it was for the moment supposed to be an island not previously seen.

In addition to the masses of rock, sand, etc., accumulated on the surface of the glacier from the adjoining cliff, and the mud and sedimentary matter scooped from the sea bottom by upturned icebergs, is to be added the effect of land ice, as observed by Kane and others, where the shores of the Arctic in a similar manner to ground ice forms in more than a hundred feet of water, raising from the bottom an enormous amount of material. On the breaking up of the ice those floes are carried off by the current southward to be discharged at the great dumping grounds of Newfoundland.

Commander White, of the U. S. Navy, in his Arctic voyages also relates seeing the birth of an iceberg which cracked from the glacier with a loud report, and after a summersault in 180 fathoms of water appeared with an enormous cliff of granite embedded in its surface, which it had carried from the adjoining bluff.

It is obvious that with this transporting process, carried forward for a long period of time, we may look here for deposits on a colossal scale, and account for not only the great Bank of Newfoundland, but the whole series of Banks, of which Sable Island is the apex.

It may be thought by some that while this process may be deemed sufficient to account for the formation of the great Bank, we must look to some other source for the presence of the western Banks.