

which they have lately begun to export a considerable quantity. The potato disease, however, visited them last year, in consequence of which their seed is neither good nor abundant.

June 30th.—To have left an officer and boat's crew at Lamalin, at the late season of my first visit, I ascertained would have been of no service, as the French bankers had received their supply of caplin from the English themselves, and which Mr. Pack told me were chiefly the fish, about which disputes arose.

It may be undoubtedly true that the French occasionally encroach upon the banks in the vicinity of Lamalin, and thereby excite the jealousy of the fishermen of that station, and that in consequence a man-of-war's boat would be useful to foster the indolence of those individuals who, thus protected, might choose their own time to fish, and take it easy; yet I have no hesitation in saying, they do not deserve this protection; for the comparatively few fish the French abstract cannot be one tithe so injurious to their own individual interests as their wholesale and illegal traffic in caplin is to the entire fishing community inhabiting the south and eastern shores of the colony, not only by supplying the French bankers with the means of prosecuting their successful competition on the Grand Bank, but also thereby preventing the strike of the fish towards the shore, by the spread of bait, which intercepts their passage.

I nevertheless think that a small cruiser, possessing three fine whale-boats permanently stationed on the south coast for the season, making Lamalin as the port nearest the French possessions her head quarters, and with power not only to protect our fishermen, but to act as a coast-guard vessel, to prevent smuggling, and check the illegal trade in caplin, would be most beneficial to the fishing interests of the colony at large.

#### *St. John's*

Has enjoyed a more productive season than for many years past, which, with the cheering prospect of abundant crops in grass, grain and potatoes, has given new vigour and life to the capital, after the fire and famine of the last and preceding years.

July 23d.—I sailed from St. John's for the coast of Labrador, July 23d, with clear weather, and a moderate breeze from W. S. W., which lasted until we were abreast of Trinity Bay, where we met a fog from the southern coast, which generally fills that bay with winds between S. and W. S. W., passing over the narrow isthmus which joins the district of Terryland to the great body of the island.

The wind shifted to the N. N. E., and threw up, as it increased, a chopping sea; but, as the fog was light, I stood towards Cape Freels, to see whether the valuable fishing grounds extending round its extremity were occupied by our own people.

This Cape is to be avoided in thick or heavy weather, on account of the innumerable rocks and shoals that surround it, both north and south. It, nevertheless, is a good fishing station, and affords shelter for boats and small vessels; 17 were in sight.

At noon we passed Funk Island within a mile, leaving it on the port hand. It is a flat-browed island; I should say not more than 60 feet high, and cannot be seen at more than 12 miles' distance.

Parties repair thither in spring and autumn to collect eggs and feathers. At one time a very considerable profit could be gained by this trade, but lately, owing to the war of extermination that has been waged against the flights of puffins, gannet, divers, gulls, eider-ducks, cormorants, &c. &c., it has greatly diminished. One vessel of 25 tons is said once to have cleared £. 200 currency in a single trip to Halifax.

July 26th.—We passed between Groais and Belle Island (South) shortly after daylight, counted ten icebergs, some drifting about with the wind and tide, others aground, and two at the entrance of Croc.

#### *Croc.*

This harbour is a long narrow indenture, slightly curving towards its head, where vessels may lay perfectly land-locked.

It is the head-quarter station for the French men-of-war, employed for the protection of their fisheries.