

REPORT, &c.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

Committee Room, Saturday, 6th December 1828.

IN Committee on the Petition of divers Mariners of the District of *Quebec*, with an instruction to enquire whether it would not be necessary that Pilots should be acquainted with the several Channels of the River *Saint Lawrence*.

Present all the Members.

Mr. *Laterrière* called to the Chair.

Read the orders of reference.

Read the Petitions referred to the Committee.

John Lambly, Esquire, Harbour-Master, residing at *Quebec*, appeared and gave the following information:—I am forty-six years old; I am Harbour-Master of *Quebec*; the Chart laid before this Committee is made entirely by myself, and from my own experience; the soundings as there laid down are correct. I am well acquainted with the South Channel and very slightly with the North Channel.

In my opinion an acquaintance with the North Channel could be of no benefit to Navigation in general; I know of no Channel between *Ile aux Coudres*, and *Seal Shoal* which would admit the passage of large Ships, as far as the North Channel; I speak from my own experience; I gave a written order or recommendation to certain Inhabitants of *Ile aux Coudres*, named *Harvey* and *Dufour*, to repair to the assistance of vessels which they might see in distress between *Ile aux Coudres* and *Seal Shoal*.

I recollect that those persons brought up to *Quebec* two or three vessels of about two hundred tons, and drawing nine feet water, but I do not know through what Channel they conducted them. To explore the passage from the lower part of the *Ile d'Orléans* as far as *Malbaie* by the North, and to explore a Channel between the South of *Ile aux Coudres* and the *Seal Shoal* and draw up a good hydrographical Chart of the place would occupy the time of two able persons during four years or thereabouts.

I cannot say what the expence would be.

I know that the Plates alone of my Charts cost one hundred and forty Guineas.

I have been the Examiner of Pilots about fifteen years; I only examine them respecting the South Channel.

Laurent Tremblay, attended the Committee, and stated what follows:—I am forty-two years old; I am a Branch Pilot for the Channel used by the English, that is to say, the South Channel. When I was examined, I was not examined respecting the North Channel; I am not acquainted with the Channel between the North Shore and *Ile aux Coudres* and *Seal Shoal*. In my opinion it is not requisite for the greater benefit of navigation that Pilots should be equally well acquainted with the North and South Channels; it sometimes happens that Vessels missing the Traverse go on the middle Bank North of *Seal Shoal*, and being unacquainted with the North Channel they are obliged to cast anchor until they can return to enter the Traverse from the South; I consider a vessel at anchor to the North of *Seal Shoal* as being exposed to great danger in heavy gales from the north-east.

Pierre Bonneau, was called and said:—I am about thirty-two years old; I am a licensed Pilot; there is a passage between the South Shore of the *Ile aux Coudres* and *Seal Shoal* which large vessels may ascend at high tide; the bottom of the Channel is sandy; and over it a few stones are scattered; it must be well known to proceed that way; few Pilots are acquainted with it, and seven vessels having run foul of each other in a fog seven years ago last spring, the Inhabitants of *Ile aux Coudres* conducted them to *Quebec*, by the North; two of them ran a ground, and if the weather had been worse, and a calm had not come on, they would have been shipwrecked.