

*Magnetic
action of the
shore.*

the variation to vary from this cause from 19° to 31° west. A Port Neuf, and on Manicouagon Point, the needle was also disturbed. But these effects were only noticed when the instrument was placed on the shore. In two instances only, when sailing within two miles of the shore, have we observed any effect of the kind upon the compasses on board the *Gulnare*,* and then only to the amount of a few degrees.

*No effect at a
distance.*

When running from place to place, at greater distances from the coast, nothing of the kind has been noticed; so that I feel sure, that in nine cases out of ten where this source of erroneous reckoning has been alleged as the cause of accidents to vessels, they originated either in errors of the chart, or in the local attraction on board the vessels themselves.

Ice.

6. Among the difficulties of the navigation may be mentioned the ice. In spring the entrance and eastern parts of the Gulf are frequently covered with it, and vessels are sometimes beset for many days. Being unfitted for contending with this danger, they often suffer from it, and are occasionally lost; but serious accidents from this cause do not frequently occur, because the ice is generally in a melting state from the powerful effect of the sun in spring. In the fall of the year accidents from ice seldom occur, except when the winter commences suddenly, or when vessels linger imprudently late from the temptation of obtaining high freights.

Fogs.

7. But all danger from ice is far less than that which arises from the prevalence of fogs: they may occur at any time during the open or navigable season, but are most frequent in the early part of summer; they are rare, and never of long continuance during westerly winds, but seldom fail to accompany an easterly wind of any strength or duration. The above general observation is subject, however, to restriction, according to locality, or season. Thus winds between the south and west, which are usually clear weather winds above Anticosti, are frequently accompanied with fog in the eastern parts of the Gulf. Winds between the south and east are almost always accompanied with rain and fog in every part. E. N. E. winds above Point de Monts, are often E. S. E. or S. E. winds in the Gulf, changed in direction by the high lands of the south coast, and have therefore in general the same foggy character. I speak of

* The schooner in which the survey has been carried on.

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