

miscalculate their position with reference to this Island, to which fact is attributable many of the wrecks.

Capt. Darby, a former Superintendent of the Island, in a letter to Blunt's coast pilot, with regard to the strength of this polar current, says:

"The most of the wrecks occurring here arise from error in longitude. I have known vessels from Europe that had not made an error of half a degree in their longitude until they came to the banks of Newfoundland, and from there in moderate weather and light winds have made errors from 60 to 100 miles."

It is difficult to understand how that the commanders of vessels making voyages to and from this country for so many years, should be apparently so ignorant of the strength of these currents, unless as it would seem they have periods of comparative quiescence and activity.

Then again we have a third current, a portion of the polar current, which, becoming detached at the southern end of Labrador and sweeping through the Strait of Belle Isle, is joined by the vast flow of the St. Lawrence, and forms what is known as the Gulf of St. Lawrence current. This combined current skirts the east side of Cape Breton, passes south and strikes obliquely in the vicinity of Sable Island, that portion of the polar current which is deflected westward by contact with the Banks of Newfoundland.

We will refer to this oblique current again.—

From ocean currents we will consider another of nature's great forces shown in the transporting power of ice.

This great polar current skirting the coast of Greenland and Labrador is constantly bringing its great ice rafts laden with rock, sand and gravel from the north to the margin of the Great Bank, where meeting the warm waters of the Gulf Stream they deposit their burdens, the finer portion of which being carried forward by the current is distributed along the line of the impinging stream.

To learn something of this transporting power we will refer to the evidence of those Arctic navigators who have minutely chronicled their observations.