

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

are published in the Dominion Geological Survey Report for 1880. I submit a letter from Capt. Adams, of the whaler "Arctic," of Dundee, who has had 35 years' experience in Northern waters—"a man of singular ability and of keen powers of observation"—says my correspondent:

"Ships may enter (Hudson's Bay and Strait) from the 20th to the 25th June almost yearly, and the straits remain open till the young ice forms about Oct. 26th. In round numbers the Straits are open four months a year, even when open navigation at eastern entrance is sometimes difficult, because the current from Davis' Strait carries ice across the mouths of Frobisher, Cumberland and Hudson's Straits. The ice is mostly 'one year's ice,' with Polar ice between, but in limited quantity. Bergs are numerous, but can be easily avoided. Open water is always to be found on North side of Strait, especially under Resolution Island when the wind is northerly, but sometimes, although open water can be seen under Resolution Island, this same wind, by tightening the ice, closes the entrance from the outside. In most years a steamer, although unfortified, may make the passage without fear."

Whaling vessels are strongly *fortified* with double timbering at bows and round the sides, to prevent their being easily crushed by the ice.

Since publication of "Our Northern Waters," I have procured a description of the harbors on the North shore of the Hudson's Straits, made by Capt. Coates, who was in the H. B. Co's. service from 1720 to 1751. The list is taken from a manuscript copy of a work called the "Geography of Hudson's Bay," and is given *verbatim et literatim*:

"Geography of Hudson's Bay," issued by the Hakluyt Society, 1852.

Edited by J. Banon, F. R. S.

Capt. Coates sailing H. B. Co. Ships, 1727-1751.

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When we approach the meridian of Cape Farewell we dilate to southward into 58° or further to avoid ice, which hangs near the verge of the cape most of the summer, for the same reason we take care to get up to northwards into 61° 30' north latitude when past the cape, to avoid ice and a more sensible current near the Labrador coast.

Cape Farewell is in Lat 59° 49' N.

Cape Resolution 61° 30' N.

Long. 64° 30' W.

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You are carefully to avoid being entangled in ice before you have entered