

good idea of these boats may be obtained from the illustrations accompanying this article. These boats are built expressly for the purpose of conveying passengers and mails across the nine miles of Northumberland



PHOTO BY MR WERDELEY HYNDMAN

AN EASY STRETCH

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Strats which intervene between Cape Traverse on this side and Cape Tormentine on the other. This waterway is, in winter, never altogether free from floating ice in hummocks and floes of all heights and sizes. The crews of the boats have to pull them over the ice, which often is packed together in all sorts of irregularity for miles, to row through slush and open water, and to try and make the crossing every day if possible. It is no wonder that the endurance and pluck of the men engaged in this work has been such as to cause the wonder and admiration of people who have had occasion to cross by the Capes. This occupation is not without grave risks. A sudden snow storm may come up, on a day of difficult crossing, when they are struggling in the midst of the straits, and blot out the shore on each side. They then have to steer by compass and this, owing to the fact that the ice is constantly drifting under the influence of the tide and wind makes it exceedingly uncertain where they may land. The journey may thus, as it has sometimes happened, take eight or nine hours to accomplish in conditions that would try the nerves and courage of the bravest. Happily accidents seldom take place and the trip