

CHAPTER II.

GENERAL REMARKS RESPECTING THE CURRENTS AND TIDAL
STREAMS IN THE ST. LAWRENCE.

10. Prevailing Currents.—11. Currents at the Entrance of the Gulf.—12. Current in through the Strait of Belle Isle.—13. Its Course after entering the Gulf.—14. Main Current of the River.—15. Its Course and Rate.—16. Round Point de Monts.—17. Along the South Coast.—18. Remarks on the Tides of the North Coast, eastward of Point de Monts.

10. THE time of high water on the full and change days of the moon, and the rise in spring and neap tides at different places, will be found in the Table at the end of this book. Local peculiarities will be mentioned in their proper places. At present I shall chiefly confine myself to a general description of those great currents, and tidal streams, which, although they may be subject to occasional interruption and modification, seem, nevertheless, to depend on constantly existing causes. These currents extend over very large spaces, though varying according to locality and other circumstances, and they are altogether so important a feature in the navigation, that some general knowledge respecting them is indispensable both to the safety and expedition of vessels in the gulf and estuary of the St. Lawrence.

11. It is a generally received opinion that a current sets constantly to the south-eastward out of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, between Newfoundland and Cape Breton Islands, and also that it is frequently deflected to the southward, towards the shores of the island last named, by another current from the northward, which is said to enter the Gulf by the Strait of Belle Isle.

I have myself observed that a current sets out, between Cape Ray and St. Paul Island, during westerly winds and in calm weather; but it is checked by easterly winds, and I believe that it may sometimes run in a contrary direction from the same cause. Northerly winds, and perhaps also the above-named current from the northward, may cause the stream to set to the southward towards Cape Breton Island. But the truth is, that winds, both present and at a distance, possess so powerful and irregular an

*Prevailing
Currents.*

*Currents at the
entrance of the
Gulf.*

*S. E. Current
from the Gulf.*