



REPORT ON SABLE ISLAND, IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.

BY CAPT. H. W. BAYFIELD, R. N. (Concluded from our last.)

The north-east bar extends fourteen miles out from the Grassy Head-bills to the depth of 10 fathoms. Its direction is N. E. by E. for the first seven miles, beyond which it curves gradually till it terminates in E. S. E.

The dry part of nearly four miles is succeeded by eight or nine miles of breakers when there is any sea running. I have considered the bar as ending at the depth of 10 to 12 fathoms, and then a heavy breaking sea, ten miles further to E. S. E., and then ends abruptly; the soundings increasing to 170 fathoms, in a distance of three miles further in the same direction.

Both bars are extremely steep, and consequently dangerous of approach on the north side; the north-east bar, especially so, having 30 fathoms of water close to it, on the contrary, the water deepens gradually out for so many miles, that it would seem almost impossible for any vessel, using common precautions, to run on shore on that side, either of the island or its bars.

Yet by the greater number of shipwrecks have taken place there, affording a sad proof of the culpable neglect of the commanding officer, as common in the mercantile marine. Some of these vessels came on shore in fine, although foggy weather, after running for many miles in shallow water, when one coast of the island would have shown to them their danger, and in many cases saved both life and property.

In most cases the vessels were thought to be far to the eastward of the island, when they ran on shore upon it; having been set to the westward by the currents. That this alleged error is the true one there seems little reason to doubt, for the general tendency of the currents, between Newfoundland and Sable Island is to the westward, although they are greatly modified by the various banks, shoals, and between which they flow; and are also rendered inconstant and irregular both in strength and direction by winds present and at a distance. These currents are, first, the great currents along the coast of Newfoundland, which is directed to the westward by the Great Bank, and secondly, the current out of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, composed not only of the stream of the river St. Lawrence, but also of the brackish water of the ocean, which is generally found entering the Gulf through the Strait of Bellefleur.

I have already mentioned the set of the tidal stream over the bars; they too are doubtless much influenced by winds. It was difficult on account of the uncertainty of the start time of high water on the full and change days, but it was seven hours and a half earlier, and the rise not exceeding four feet. This was on the north side of the island. I am inclined to think, that it is high water somewhat earlier on the south side, as has been alleged, and that portions of the flood tide water, after passing round the bars, coverage and meet on the north side, making high water there perhaps an hour or more later; but I am not sure that any precise or sufficient observations have ever been made to ascertain this. It is said by the people of the island, that all floating things which have been lost overboard anywhere in the vicinity of the island, are sure to be found on its eastern bar. This would lead us to suppose a prevailing circular motion in the currents or tidal stream, to which the arrangement of the island, its bars and the middle ground to the north of it, in their peculiar shape, may in whole or in part be due.

Sable Island, seen from the north, is a distance of nine or ten miles, presents the appearance of a long range of red-bills, some of which are very high. From the south, the range of white sand appears more continuous, and very low towards the west end. On a near approach, many of the small hills are seen to be divided by the waves, so as to form steep cliffs next to the sea. In other parts they are covered with grass and defended by a broad beach, which however cannot be reached without passing over ridges of sand, covered with only a few inches of water, and in some places, the distance not exceeding one third of a mile; these form heavy breakers, dangerous to pass in boats when there is any sea running. The landing is, in general, impracticable on the north side, and only on several days of northerly wind. On the south side boats can land only in gullies, and after some continuance of fine weather; but there are no shoals at the establishment, which is situated on the west side, when a fine view for several miles is obtained, and over the surrounding ocean. It is in contemplation by the colony to send a light from this flag-staff, for the benefit especially of the small merchant vessels that visit the island periodically with supplies; and the schooner employed in the removal of wrecks, and property saved from wrecks, in the exportation of wild horses, and in the mackerel and other fisheries around the island.

The best flag-staff stands on the north side of the island, where there is a high and rocky cliff, distant 2200 fathoms from the east extreme of the Grassy Head-bills. Its position, if retained, will serve to indicate any change, that may hereafter take place, either by addition or subtraction of land, or by any other means. The middle flag-staff is situated further inland, and nearer the east end of the island. It is intended to remove this outpost to a more advantageous position on the north side of the island, where there is a house, and a small farm, the pond, and where it will be better situated to observe and report wrecks, as well as to render prompt assistance.

The want of a post on the south side has been felt at times, when the pond has been rendered impassable by ice, and when many hours were unavoidably lost, in going round the island, before assistance could be given to vessels that had come on shore.

Besides the houses at the three flag-staffs there is an unoccupied house of refuge on the north side, which is distant, in August, from the 220 fathoms from the west extreme of the Grassy Head-bills. No wreck can take place on the island at a greater distance than six miles from some of the posts; and in the event of one occurring, the outpost reports by signal to the superintendent at the principal establishment.

Wrecks on the bars are of course far more dangerous to life than those that take place on the island; and it is important in such cases to know on which bar the vessel is, and the consequent direction in which to seek for safety on the island. This information, when the island is obscured by fog, or the darkness of night, must be sought by observing the direction of the line of breakers, which on the north-east bar is between N. E. by E. and E. S. E., until near its outer extremity; while on the north-west bar it is N. W. by N. E.

The establishment is supported by an annual grant from the legislature of Nova Scotia, to which the Imperial Government adds an equal sum; also by a salvage upon the sale of wrecked vessels and their cargoes; and by the occasional sale of wild horses. The annual sum of 2000 pounds is at present on the island, estimated at about 400, divided into several grants, each under the leadership and control of a powerful man, who admits of no interference with his charge.

It is the opinion of the distinguished Colonial Secretary of Nova Scotia, the Hon. Joseph Howe, that much may be done to render the establishment in a greater degree self-supporting, by improving the breed of wild horses, by a dairy-farm, including the raising of cattle to a limited extent, by procuring the mackerel fishery in its season, by science or otherwise, and by the sale of cranberries, which are said to be in great demand in the United States.

In connection with the establishment, it may not be out of place to mention one important want, which seems to have been hitherto very imperfectly supplied, and which seems to be a desideratum for the religious and intellectual instruction of those who, from having been cast on shore at the commencement of winter, may be unavoidably detained through several of the following months of the year, before they can be removed from the island.

Of the feathered tribe, besides great numbers of gulls, divers and other sea-fowl, there are geese, various species of ducks and plovers in their season. Many of these lay their eggs on the island in spring and early summer. From the brief account of the natural productions of the island and surrounding sea, it will appear a far less desolate place of residence than might otherwise be supposed.

It is said to be very healthy, and those that have resided on it for years speak of it in high terms of praise;—southward of the fact, that a single autumn or winter gale has borne large portions of it into the sea more than once, and that the beginning of the first, shaking the island to its centre, seems to threaten a recurrence of a similar destruction during every violent storm. These things, however, are not to be feared, and even the most immediate and real danger of their occasional visitation, in saving life and property from wrecks, may have a secret charm for adventurous spirits that may add to their preference.

The climate of Sable Island appears to be greatly influenced by its proximity to the Gulf Stream, which is distant from it only about twenty miles to the southward. Winds from that direction almost immediately dissolve the snow which had previously fallen; consequent with the alternating winds, ranging from a higher mean temperature than occurs on the neighbouring coast during the winter months. The southerly winds coming from a warm sea to a comparatively cold one, are compelled to part with a portion of their moisture, and hence are almost always accompanied with a dense fog.

These winds greatly prevail during the summer months, the south-west especially, and the east of the island thus copiously charged with moisture, and heated at the same time by a powerful sun, is enabled to support an amount and variety of vegetation, not usually found in such situations.

The barometer seldom or never rises with these winds, and when it falls with them rapidly and extensively, rain and wind, and what it is after the middle of August, a heavy gale may be expected. Winds from the north and east prevail most during spring and early summer. They are sometimes, and especially when from the north, accompanied by the fine weather that usually attends the rising barometer; but at other times, and almost always in autumn and winter, the contrary winds bring bad weather accompanied by a falling barometer.

Some of the heaviest gales in these seas, have been from this quarter, and they are usually followed, almost immediately after the barometer has reached its lowest point of depression, by an equally strong gale from between the north and west, and which is always accompanied by clear weather and a rising barometer. Exactly as well as of essential service in warning the people of the island, and especially the summer residents, when westerly winds and clear weather become proportionately less rare occurrences.

In the fogs, even more than the irregular tides and currents, that render this island so dangerous; they frequently last many days and night in succession with the prevalent easterly and southerly winds of early summer, and even as late as the beginning of August, when we were from the island, only at days out of sixteen were entirely free from fogs. Winds between the north and west are, in general, frequent in autumn and winter. They blow always long low clear weather, with a rising barometer; but they are often of great strength and in winter are accompanied with intense frost.

The position of the island, directly in the track of the violent, and said to be circular, storm, that so frequently pass along the American coast from the Gulf of Mexico, would give to a mercantile vessel, if foolishly left, a far more than ordinary interest; and would also be of essential service in warning the people of the island when employed about wrecks, as well as the vessels in communication with them, of the approach of danger. A good barometer and a good thermometer should be supplied to the establishment, and a meteorological journal should be kept by the superintendent.

The establishment on Sable Island is at present under the command of Mr. McKenna, the superintendent; who has under him a foreman or second in command, Mr. Jackson, and nine men; two of whom, with their families, occupy outposts at the middle and east ends of northerly wind. On the south side boats can land only in gullies, and after some continuance of fine weather; but there are no shoals at the establishment, which is situated on the west side, when a fine view for several miles is obtained, and over the surrounding ocean. It is in contemplation by the colony to send a light from this flag-staff, for the benefit especially of the small merchant vessels that visit the island periodically with supplies; and the schooner employed in the removal of wrecks, and property saved from wrecks, in the exportation of wild horses, and in the mackerel and other fisheries around the island.

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Being without sufficient occupation to fill up their time, the opportunity would be favorable for acquiring information, and the best means of conveying it, under the circumstances, would be to form an establishment with a library, selected with the view of combining amusement with instruction; and especially with the hope of leading the thoughtless, but often citizen-hearted seaman to recognize his obligation to that infinitely Great Being who having recently saved him from an unprepared-for temporal death, mercifully invites him to be saved from death eternal! The regular assembling of the people of the establishment and their families, together with any others that may be on the island, for public worship on Sundays, will also greatly tend to the same desirable end, and it appears to be a permanent duty under the circumstances.

I cannot better close this account of Sable Island, than by discharging the pleasing duty of bearing testimony to the order and efficient condition of the establishment under the command of Mr. McKenna, the intelligent superintendent, from whom we received every information, assistance, and kind attention which it was in his power to render us, during our visit to the island, for the purpose of surveying it, and verifying its position last summer.

Miscellaneous. DISCOVERIES IN AFRICA.

A large portion of the vast peninsula of Africa is an unknown region. Notwithstanding the repeated efforts of such travellers as Bruce, Park, Denham, Clapperton, Ledeyard and Lander, the interior of the country has been in a great measure a sealed book to the European discoverer. A glance at the latest map yet published of the country designated as Ethiopia, extending from the vicinity of the Nile to the tropic of Capricorn, will present to the eye an almost dead black; and whatever is inserted is made up more from the uncertain accounts obtained from the natives, than from any well-authenticated and reliable sources. Many important discoveries, however, have very recently been made in that neglected portion of the globe, and preparations are on foot to push discovery throughout the continent, both North and South, the results of which will be of vast importance to the sciences of physical science. A late English paper says:—

"A map of that country is about to be published, comprising the vast region from the equator to 18° of south latitude, and from the mouth of the Nile to the Cape of Good Hope. The route of 1600 miles, from Wallah Bay to Omdoum, near a large river named the Nourou, and to the country of the Orampou, Genabou, and the country of the Nourou, will present to the eye the snow-patched mountains seen by the German missionaries, and considered to be the source of the White Nile, are not more than about 300 miles distant from the eastern coast; and it is said that no more promising enterprise could be undertaken than an attempt to ascend and explore them, starting from Mombasa. Barth, and Overweg were at the eastern end of Lake Tchad when last heard from, and we are told, that the slave-traders, finding their occupation decreasing on the western coast, have lately, for the first time, penetrated to the interior, and tempted many of the natives to sell their children for showy European goods; and Mr. Macgregor Laird is well ready to carry a vessel up any river of the west coast to which government may please to send him. Besides the travellers mentioned, there are others pushing their way in different parts of the south, and the French are not idle in the north—they have attained to our information concerning Abyssinia, and the countries bordering on the Great Desert. But in addition to African geology, a vast portion of the interior is supposed to have been hitherto unexplored. The discovery of the Nile, the remains of fossil bones of most peculiar character have been found, but only of terrestrial and fresh water animals. 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Poetry.

THE WORKMAN'S SONG. BY CHARLES MACAY. Who lags for dread of daily work...

No! Let us work! We only ask Reward proportioned to our task; We have no quarrel with the great...

Who only asks for humble wealth, Enough for competence and health; And leisure, when his work is done...

OLD FRIENDS TOGETHER. Oh! time is sweet when youth is past; And sweet the spot when hearts are lost...

These days of old, when youth was bold, And time stole wings to speed it; And youth's 'er love how fast time flew...

The few long-known, whom years have shown With hearts that friendship blesses, A hand to cheer, perchance a tear...

Oh! this may we joy to see As those old friends together.

Boys—when they are boys—are queer enough. How many ridiculous notions they have, and what singular devices...

THE SPIRIT IS WILLING BUT THE FLESH IS WEAK.—Our eyes recently rest upon a picture in one of our illustrated exchanges...

LENS AND LEASE.—Sir J. Perry says, it is quite a mistake idea to suppose that sugar injures the teeth...

HEALTHY WOMEN OF THE DUCHESSE OF KENT.—The residents at Albergville, the summer seat of the Duchesse of Kent...

THE FATHER WHO TRAVEL NORTHWARD, MILK WILL ALWAYS BE FOUND THE RICHER.—This observation has been made by others, and I can add my testimony to it...

PROPERTIES for SALE or to LET.

FOR SALE. 284 ACRES of Freehold LAND, situate 2 1/2 miles by water and 4 1/2 miles by land, from Charlottetown...

TO LET, for a Term of years, as may be agreed upon, with immediate possession, if required...

Eligible Building Lots for Sale. FOR SALE Five eligible Building LOTS adjoining the Tan yard of Mr. Richard Hearty...

FOR SALE. THE Leasehold Interest of 100 acres of Land situate at Canon Cove, Lot 65...

Valuable Freehold Property. TO BE SOLD, by Private Contract, 388 acres of excellent cultivation of Merchandise...

West River Mills. TO BE LET, for such time as may be agreed upon, the MILLS at the head of the Elliot River...

TO BE LET OR SOLD. 350 ACRES of LAND, a GREST MILL, four Houses and other Buildings, situate five and a half miles from Charlottetown...

CIRCULAR. THE SUBSCRIBERS respectfully inform their friends, that they are established in the City of Halifax as General Commission Merchants...

HALIFAX MARBLE WORKS. CORNER of Barrington & Blowers Streets, NEAR MASON'S HALL.

MONUMENTS, TOMB TABLES, GRAVE STONES, &c. MANUFACTURED TO ORDER in a SUPERIOR STYLE, AND ON REASONABLE TERMS.

WESLEY & SINCLAIR, HALIFAX NOVA SCOTIA. Orders will be received and every information given, by applying to P. MACGOWAN, Esq., Agent, Charlottetown, P. E. Island.

The Colonial Life Assurance Company. GOVERNOR. THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

HEAD OFFICE. 22 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh. BOARD OF MANAGEMENT in HALIFAX FOR Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island.

National Loan Fund Life and Equitable Fire Insurance Companies of London. Incorporated by Acts of Parliament.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS of Fire Insurance for P. E. Island. P. H. HAVILLAND, Esq., Hon. Charles Hensley, F. Leung-north, Esq., Robert Hutchinson, Esq., Thomas Dawson, Esq., Detached Risks taken at considerably reduced premium.

NOTICE. ALL Persons who are indebted to any business done by the A. Cross Roads, Belfast, up to the 15th day of July last, by Note of Hand or Book Account, will please pay their respective amounts to Mr. JAMES SPICER, of Charlottetown, who is hereby notified to receive the same.

NOTICE. JOHN McLEAN, Agent for St. Peter's Bay, P. E. Island. Mr. EDWARD STRONG, Surgeon, Bay.

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JUDSON'S ORIGINAL EXTRACT OF CHERRY AND LUNGWORT.

FOR THE CURE OF Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness, Spitting of Blood, Night Sweats, Asthma, Liver Complaints, and CONSUMPTION.

Consumption can be and has been cured, in thousands of cases, by this only certain remedy.

Its operation is mild, yet efficacious; it loosens the phlegm which creates so much difficulty, relieves the cough and assists nature to expel from the system all diseased matter by expectoration.

It is a compound of medicinal herbs which will certainly and speedily cure all cases of Pulmonary Consumption.

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THE ROAD TO HEALTH! HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.

CURE OF A DISORDERED LIVER AND BAD DIGESTION. Copy of a Letter from Mr. R. W. Kirkus, Chemist, 7 Prince Street, Liverpool, dated 6th June 1851.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CURE OF RHEUMATIC FEVER, IN THE STOMACH OF A FISHMAN 34 YEARS OF AGE.

CURE OF A PAIN AND THICKNESS IN THE CHEST AND STOMACH OF A FISHMAN 34 YEARS OF AGE.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CURE OF THE GRAVEL AND A RHEUMATIC AFFECTION OF THE LIVER AND BILIOUSNESS.

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SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

At a Special Meeting of Rising this evening, it was unanimously Addressed by forthwith presented to be removed to Newfoundland.

As you have expressed a wish to be in this Division, to enable you to which you are about repeating...

Your zeal and devoted attachment displayed in your untiring endeavours to support the cause of the Sons of Temperance...

Do not doubt the moment of your return will be to you most precious, as a circle of friends and brothers...

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