

and sterile valleys where the sun does not penetrate, and which the snow and glaciers, that never melt, render unapproachable.<sup>1</sup> The sea is open only from the beginning of July to the end of September,<sup>2</sup> and even then there will be met at times icebergs of immense size, which cause navigators the greatest embarrassment; for at the moment when it is least expected, the tide or a current strong enough to sweep the ship along and render it ungovernable, suddenly invests it with so great a number of these floating shoals, that as far as the eye can reach nothing can be seen but ice.

1682-3.

There is no other means of protection against them than to make fast to the largest and keep off the others with long iron-pointed poles, a supply of which must be laid in when one of these perilous voyages is undertaken.<sup>3</sup> But as soon as a passage is opened, it is necessary to profit by it at once; for should a storm unfortunately come on while the ship is thus besieged by icebergs, it is a great chance if it gets clear. These icebergs are generally formed by the waters of several torrents which empty into the bay. The heat of the sun, even in the dogdays, cannot melt them, and can at most loosen them, when they come down with a fearful noise, bringing a quantity of earth and sometimes rocks of considerable size.<sup>4</sup> As rumblings are quite frequently heard in this bay which might alarm navigators, it is well that they should know that besides the part contributed by the torrents which dash from the high rocks into the sea, the chief cause is a kind of boiling up caused by the islands and cakes of ice which line the whole coast of the bay. This, it is presumed, occurs in this way :

Observation  
on the ice  
of these  
seas.

<sup>1</sup> De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale, vol. i., Lettres 3 and 4. Jeremie, Relation de la Baye d'Hudson; Voyages au Nord, iii.

middle of July to middle of October.

<sup>2</sup> Jeremie, Relation de la Baye d'Hudson, p. 306.

<sup>3</sup> De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Sept., i., pp. 61-2.

<sup>4</sup> Jeremie, p. 306, says from the