

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF PILOTAGE.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF N. J. PILOT COMMISSIONERS, }  
Jersey City, N. J., January 7th, 1857.

*His Excellency* RODMAN M. PRICE, *Governor of the State of*  
*New Jersey:*

SIR:—The Board of New Jersey Pilot Commissioners, in compliance with the requirements of the statute, respectfully report, that during the past year the New Jersey pilots have brought into port seven hundred and fifty-eight (758) vessels, four hundred and sixty-two (462) of which were boarded *off shore*, and taken out of port six hundred and thirty-two (632) vessels; and the commissioners have much satisfaction in the fact, that no accident has occurred to vessels in charge of their pilots. The total aggregate of vessels thus far, in charge of New Jersey pilots, is twenty-one thousand four hundred and fifty-eight (21,458).

The past year has been marked by some events which have brought grief in their train! Soon after our last annual report, in January, eighteen hundred and fifty-six, two of our pilots—Mr. Charles White, the second pilot appointed by the board, and for many years well approved by service and character, and Mr. James S. Johnson, who has creditably passed through all the grades of service—were drowned off the Highlands, by being washed overboard from the pilot boat

Sylph, in one of our fearful wintry gales; they met their fate at the post of duty.

In February, Captain Garret Hiers, for several years an active and intelligent member of this board, was removed from his sphere of usefulness by sudden death. In March, Mr. E. B. Baker, one of our oldest and most efficient pilots, deceased. On the third of November, the pilot boat H. B. Hall was run into, in a dense fog off the Highlands, by a vessel bound to New York, and sank in a few minutes after the occurrence, giving only time for the persons on board to save themselves.

During the year, the board have licensed two pilots for Elizabeth Port, where a growing trade is springing up, consequent on that place being made a coal depot, with a prospect of a large business being done there and thence hereafter.— The board regret to say, in regard to this point of future usefulness, that due attention has not been paid to the preservation of the depths of the channel, deposits of mud having carelessly been thrown where every care should be exerted to keep that channel and its contiguous waters as free as possible from any additional obstructions.

Like recklessness as to the channel of the Hudson river, opposite Jersey City, by the deposit of mud from the slips of Jersey City, is also to be complained of, injurious as well to the interests of New Jersey, as to the general interests of the harbor of New York; and the legislative authority of New Jersey is earnestly invoked on these subjects.

Six apprentices, having served their time, and having passed their examinations, have been licensed as deputy pilots; and three deputy pilots, having served their legal term, have, on examination, been made full branch pilots. One pilot has been struck from the list, in consequence of continued violation of the laws of the State, and the by-laws of the board, it being our duty to keep inviolate the authority of the State.

The list of apprentices affords us the hope for a continuation of efficient men, as time and the wants of the service may bring them forward.

The recent losses of life and property on our Barnegat shores, awakens our deepest sympathies; and our connection with pilotage on our coast, will plead our excuse for urging on the authorities of our State to obtain from the general government more facilities to aid the shipwrecked, and to provide more comforts to such as may providentially escape "death in the breakers."

All which is respectfully submitted, by order of the board.

WM. T. ROGERS, *President.*

Attest,

J. M. CORNELISON, *Secretary.*