

PILOT COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

OFFICE OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PILOTAGE FOR N. J., }
Jersey City, N. J., Jan. 5th, 1859. }

*To His Excellency William A. Newell, Esq., Governor of
New Jersey:*

SIR:—The Board of Commissioners of Pilotage for New Jersey, in fulfillment of the requirements of the statute, respectfully report to the Governor and Legislature, that during the past year the New Jersey pilots, acting under their supervision, have had in charge fourteen hundred and seventy-four vessels, six hundred and seventy of which have been brought into port, four hundred and sixty-nine of these having been boarded "off shore," and eight hundred and four taken out, making a total aggregate of twenty-four thousand two hundred and three (24,203) vessels thus far in charge, and the Board gladly renew their testimonial of the efficiency of their pilots, in stating the fact that to this large number no serious accidents have occurred. Masters of vessels, consignees, and owners, continue to give to our pilots their earnest support, and to the Board frequent records of the meritorious services of our pilots. One pilot, of high esteem for long and faithful service, has deceased from disease incurred in the course of his duties.

Six deputies, having served their regular term, have, on examination, been made full branch pilots. One additional pilot has been made for Elizabeth Port, and one license has been revoked. The Board cannot close their report without referring to the fact that many obstructions have been deposited by persons engaged in dredging near Elizabeth Port in the channels, near the Port and Shuter's Island, whereby their important channels have been seriously injured, the principal facts in the premises having been already reported by the Board to the Governor, on his personal examination of the channel.

The Board would respectfully urge that some prompt action be taken by the Legislature to preserve intact the waters and channels of our State, and especially a channel so much passed over by multitudes of passengers and an immense quantity of valuable freight.

Respectfully submitted.

By order of the Board.

WM. T. RODGERS, *Pres't.*

Attest,

J. M. CORNELISON, *Secretary of N. J. P. C.*

LETTER OF CAPT. MAGINN.

NEW YORK, November 23, 1858.

His Excellency Wm. A. Newell, Governor State of N. J.:

SIR:—I have taken the liberty of addressing you on a subject in which you have always taken a lively interest,—in the saving of life and property on our coast. I was witness to your efforts on the getting up of the surf-boats and life-saving apparatus for the coast of New Jersey, when you were in Congress, and that is one of my reasons for now addressing you as the Executive of the State of New Jersey, and to call your attention and raise your interest in behalf of the establishment of a light house at the south end of the Woodlands. I could say much in favor of it, which a letter will not admit, and will only call your attention to the fact that more vessels are run on shore and lost between Barnegat and the Highlands of Navesink, than on any other part of that coast from Sandy Hook to Cape May.

By a reference to a chart of the coast, you will see that there is no light between Barnegat and the Highlands; and vessels coming in from the South East, or from the North East or East, too often fall in between these two places of darkness and *deep coasting* soundings, and before they are aware of any

danger, they are drawn into this eel pot and sucked ashore. But I must be brief as possible; I will therefore only now refer you to your own speech on the life-boat question, for losses on *that part* of the coast up to that time, and I will also refer you to the wrecking masters on these districts, for better information than I can furnish. I will also refer you to Capt. Ezra Nye, one of your Jersey Pilot Commissioners, and also one of our ablest navigators belonging to the United States, for his opinion, and I must also call your attention to Com'r. Kearney, who is at the head of the light house department, and an able officer; and with the assistance which you can make through the members of your State, I think there can be no doubt of an appropriation being passed by Congress to build a light on the high part of that land which can be distinguished at all times from any other light on our coast of Long Island or New Jersey.

I have the honor to be,