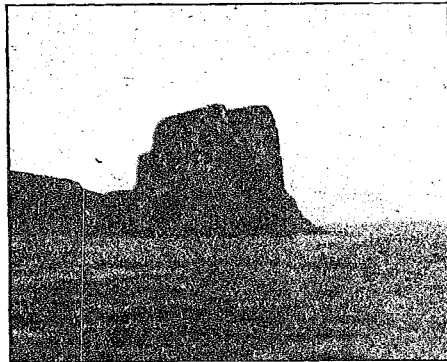


writer has studied on American shores, in northern Scotland at Scrabster and Caithness, in Hoy and the other islands of the Orkneys, are surpassed in magnitude and effect by this leviathan rock. It lies like an immense Atlantic liner, almost at right angles to the course of the South cove, headed inward to the North cove wharf. Its limestone strata, which stand vertical, rise to a height of 290 feet at its highest landward apex, where today a weathered joint face hangs out a triangular rock mass like a pennant flying at foremast peak.

From the sharp landward bow the massive widens outward to a diameter of about 300 feet and extends in length seaward 1500 feet,



Seaward face of the pillar at outer end of Percé rock; showing the arch

its top sloping with undulating surface rapidly at first and then more gently backward. Sternward stands an isolated rock pillar, remnant of a fallen arch which the seas brought down, as my good friend Philip Le Boutillier tells me, on a rough 17th of June 1845. But the rock is still tunneled aft by a fine arch through which a boat at sail might pass were it not for the breakers. On its rearward sea face is another and smaller arch. The summit of the rock is the breeding-ground of thousands of gulls and cormorants, which make an ever-moving halo of white and black about the grassy slopes and jagged asperities of the surface and whose screams and calls are as sempiternal as the breaking of the surf on the fallen rocks. The cliff is virtually inaccessible. Local traditions and Sir Gilbert Parker tell of its having been scaled, but be this as it may, the walls