

nowhere does it present any great irregularities. It averages about 70 fathoms throughout, deepening to 100 and upwards in approaching the outlet of Hudson's Strait; while in the strait itself the soundings along the centre vary from about 150 to upwards of 300 fathoms. The bottom appears to consist almost everywhere of boulder clay and mud. Near the shores a stiff clay, affording good holding ground for anchors, is almost invariably met with on both sides.

James's Bay begins at Cape Jones on the east side, and Cape Henrietta Maria on the west, and runs south about 350 miles, with an average breadth of about 150 miles. The east side of Hudson's Bay, including its southern prolongation, is known as the Eastmain Coast. Between Cape Jones and Cape Dufferin on the Portland Promontory, and again in approaching Cape Wolstenholme, at the northern termination of this coast, the land is high and bold, some parts attaining an elevation of nearly 2,000 feet above the sea. The country on the south-west side of the main bay, as well as that lying to the west of James's Bay, is low and generally level, with shallow water extending a long distance out from shore. Both sides of Hudson's Strait are high and rocky, but the northern is less precipitous than the southern.

Of the numerous rivers which run into Hudson's Bay from all sides about thirty are of considerable magnitude. All those which enter on the Eastmain Coast appear to flow with a uniform course directly west or parallel to one another, and as the height of land in the centre of the Labrador peninsula is furthest inland towards the south the rivers which fall into the southern part of this coast are the largest, and the remainder become progressively smaller as we go north. Numerous streams converge to the head of James's Bay from all points southward of an east and west line passing through its southern extremity. The Moose, about a mile wide, is the principal of these. On the western side the Albany and the Churchill are the longest, but the Nelson, with a course of only about 400 miles, discharges the greatest body of water into the sea. Indeed, this great artery of the Winnipeg system may be considered as one of the first-class rivers of the world. Few of the rivers of Hudson's Bay afford uninterrupted navigation for large vessels to any great distance from the coast. During the season of high water, shallow-draft steamers might ascend the Moose river and two of its branches for upwards of 100 miles. Hayes river and two of its branches might apparently be navigated by such craft in the spring to points about 140 miles inland, and the Albany for nearly 250 miles; while large steamers might ascend the Nelson for seventy or eighty miles from the open sea. The Nelson is the only muddy-water river entering Hudson's Bay. Most of the others have a slightly brownish tinge, but their waters are perfectly wholesome and contain only very small quantities of foreign matter. The Churchill, which is the second largest river of Hudson's Bay, is a beautiful clear-water stream, somewhat larger than the Rhine. It is remarkable for having at its mouth a splendid harbour with deep water and every natural convenience for the purposes of modern commerce.

The only harbours on the west side of Hudson's Bay are those formed by the mouths of rivers, but none of them, with the exception of Churchill Harbour, can be entered by vessels drawing more than ten or eleven feet, and only at high water even by these. The Churchill is unlike all the other rivers in having a deep, rocky, and comparatively narrow mouth, which can be entered with ease and safety by the largest ships at all stages of the tide. On the point at the west side at the entrance of the harbour stands the old Fort