

THE CANADA  
EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY  
AND SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

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OCTOBER, 1890.

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THE HARBOUR OF ST. JOHN, N.B.

BY REV. GEORGE BRUCE, M.A.

*To the Editor of THE MONTHLY :*

SIR,—In complying with your request to write an article on the harbour of St. John, I understand that I am expected to prepare a plain statement with regard to the general character and prominent features of the harbour in view of its position as one of the principal Canadian seaports upon the Atlantic coast. In doing this it will not be necessary to enter into any argument on the lines of peculiar commercial or political interests. At the same time the fact that the subject is controversially discussed from different standpoints with the avowed object of advocating views affecting the estimate of the value of the harbour, makes it necessary to emphasize certain facts, and to give them somewhat greater prominence than would otherwise be given to them. Fidelity to the interests of truth requires that, as a wall should be especially strengthened where it is subjected to unusual strain, so statements shall be especially clear and explicit where ignorance or misconception prevail. With this remark I shall proceed with my subject,

and I may say that it gives me great pleasure to respond to your request, for several reasons; in the first place, from personal regard, and because I feel assured that no better medium could be chosen than your magazine for the publication of such a statement about an important subject so closely related to the welfare of our country. The number and high intelligence of your readers and their special fitness and opportunities for forming and moulding public opinion give me this assurance. I am also impressed with the fact that there is need for a plain statement on this subject being made and brought to the attention of the people. Being equally acquainted with the East and the West I know that very erroneous views on this matter are prevalent and that in many cases they have become so engraven upon the minds of the people as to form an almost invincible preoccupation of mind and that these impressions are exceedingly prejudicial, not only to the harbour of St. John but through that to the interests of the whole Dominion, since