

# CHALEUR BAY

AND ITS PRODUCTS FOR 1887--8, WITH NET AND ROD.

BY JOHN MOWAT.

The Bay of Chaleur now so well known for its cod, lobster and salmon fisheries, extends some 200 miles inland nearly parallel with the St Lawrence. Its middle forms the boundary between Quebec and New Brunswick. The Counties of Bonaventure and part of Gaspé are on its north side, and Gloucester and Restigouche on its south. From being 30 miles wide at its entrance, it narrows to 3 at Dalhousie 180 miles inward. Above this point is the estuary extending 20 miles to head of tide water. The great cod banks extend some 40 miles outside its entrance, and inward some 60 miles. The lobster fishery is on both sides on its shores. There are in the County of Gaspé bordering on the Bay 3 rivers worthy to be called salmon rivers, the Dartmouth, York and St. John. In Bonaventure there are the Grand Caspédia and Bonaventure. In Gloucester county on the south, we find the Nepisiguit, a noted river, although obstructed by insurmountable falls 20 miles from its mouth. The great Restigouche, with its branches, is its grand fresh water continuation extending north and west 140 miles, and giving a water surface or continuation of tributaries, on which salmon spawn, of nearly 400 miles, and is the nursery for the large proportion of salmon caught in the Bay. To show this, on the south side, between Nepisiguit river and head of tide water, a distance of 70 miles, are some 110 stations or stands of salmon nets, returning as their catch, by Fisheries Report of 1887, 400,000 lbs. On the north shore from Caspédia river to tide head, 60 miles, are some 60 stations returning 165,000 lbs—total, 565,000 lbs, and as no other salmon streams intervene, those must, of necessity therefore be Restigouche fish making their way upward. How many of those fish are caught between those points and the entrance of the Bay cannot be ascertained, but we do know from the size of the fish that the great majority of the Gloucester-caught fish are Restigouche salmon, and the fishermen acknowledge the fact. These fishery returns for 1887, to which I intend confining myself, are the most complete ever issued, and give us the following figures as the salmon catch for

Restigouche County	271,700 lbs.
Gloucester do.	386,000 "
Bonaventure do.	203,700 "
Gaspé County to Ship Head.	110,000 "
Add for anglers' catch	50,000 "

1,021,400 lbs total caught  
in Bay of Chaleur for 1887. The whole of New Brunswick for the