

vessels of the danger of approaching the rocky shore, than as a beacon to conduct them to a place of safety. On a nearer examination of it, its strength becomes apparent, and no hostile vessel can enter with impunity the narrow chasm beneath. This structure, situated on a part of the precipice, on the south side of the entrance of Saint John, is named Fort Amherst. The inlet, called the Narrows, exceeds not five hundred feet in width. On each side, towards the north, the rocks rise to the altitude of four hundred feet; but on the south shore, they are of less elevation.

Heath, juniper, and wild spruce, the offspring of sterility, sparingly cover the rocky surface. The appearance of the harbour and its environs is, nevertheless, wild and picturesque. In proceeding further up the inlet, a battery, called South Fort, is placed on the left; and another, named Chain-rock, on the right. At a considerable elevation above these, several little forts are seen. A rock, in the form of a cone, is crowned with a battery, constructed under the direction of the late Sir James Wallace, who, in 1796, was vice-admiral on the station, and governor of the island; and with a fifty-gun ship, two frigates, and two sloops of sixteen guns each, made a gallant and successful defence against the attacks of Admiral Richery, whose force consisted of seven ships of the line, and three frigates.

Viewed from the summit of this eminence, the town, and the scaffolds on which the fish are placed to dry present a singular appearance. These scaffolds are generally forty feet high, and consist of several stages, on the rafters of each of which a quantity of brushwood is placed. They are sufficiently strong to support the weight of the green fish, and also, occasionally, of one or two men. These are erected in every situation, as well in the valleys, as on the margins of the perpendicular rocks.

ST. JOHN'S TOWN.—The town of Saint John borders on the basin, and its situation affords no attractions, except to those whom interest or necessity induces to consult the advantage, rather than the pleasure, arising from diversity of local situation. It contains a church and two chapels, one for the catholic religion, the others for persons of the methodist persuasion; also a court house, and a custom-house.

An officer of the customs was, until lately, placed at the head of the law department, and decided not only in civil, but in criminal causes. A gentleman who has been bred to the bar, at present fills the situation of judge of the island. The buildings are mean, and the streets narrow and dirty. Fort Townshend is placed above the town, and contains the house allotted for the governor, with the store-houses and magazines which form a square. From hence, the entrance, the harbour, the narrows