

CAPE BRETON.

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VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

THIS island, though politically incorporated with Nova Scotia, has occupied so distinguished a place in the political history of North America, that it is entitled to a separate account in this work.

Cape Breton, known to the French as l' Isle Royale, is so situated at the opening of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, as to be the military key to Canada, commanding all access to the St. Lawrence River, except by the distant and incommodious route of the Straits of Bellisle. It is about one hundred miles long by eighty wide, and consists of two natural divisions; the southern, comparatively low, and much intersected by bodies of water, and the northern, of high and rugged land, in a more compact form. These two portions lie somewhat in the shape of an arm bent up, their junction, answering to the elbow, pointing southwest toward Nova Scotia, and divided from it by the Gut of Canseau, which is only about a mile wide; and the two extremities, corresponding to the hand and the shoulders, ranging north of east and east of north toward Newfoundland. The space between these divisions is an extensive basin or land-locked bay, into which the waters of the ocean enter through a channel more than forty miles long, divided into two narrow ones by the island of Boularderie, extending great part of its length. The