

the range of the West Pier in working in, as between it and the remains of an old wharf there are two rocks and a shoal (all below water) on which he would put his vessel ashore. The piers run N. and S. to the bend, thence to the lock N. E. and S. W.; they are about 3,000 feet long, 200 feet apart, with an average depth of 12 feet water. The basin or pond to the east of the steam-boat landing is too shoal to be of any service, and it reflects no little discredit upon the Commissioners for allowing so much valuable space to be lost, when at a comparatively small cost the capacity of this important port could be so greatly improved.

It has been told me as a fact, that between three and four miles N. or N. by W. of the lighthouse, the compass dips, and for a short time becomes so disturbed as not to be relied upon. I have not been able to verify this, but shall feel much obliged to any of the Captains frequenting this Port, communicating to me the result of their experience.

COURSES AND DISTANCES.

From Port Dalhousie to Burlington Canal,	W. $\frac{3}{4}$ N. 32 miles.
" " Oakville, N. W. by N. 32 miles.	
" " Toronto, N. by W. 33 miles.	
" " Whitby, N. N. E. 55 miles.	
" " Long Point, E. N. E. 136 miles.	
" " Mid-channel between Real and False Ducks, E. by	
" " $\frac{1}{2}$ N. 174 miles.	
" " Niagara River, E. by N. 12 miles.	
" " Devil's Nose, E. by N. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.	

PORT OF HAMILTON & BURLINGTON CANAL.

The Port of Hamilton occupies the extreme Western end or head of Lake Ontario; it is separated from the Lake by a long low ridge of sand and gravel, resembling the Peninsula opposite Toronto. This ridge stretches across from the northern to the Southern Shore in a S. S. E. direction, converting that portion which is to the west into a large bay, called Burlington Bay, the entrance to which is by means of a Canal upwards of half a mile long, with an average width of 200 feet.

Unlike most canals, or piers entering a harbour, the width is not uniform, the entrance from the Lake being its widest part, that into Burlington Bay its narrowest; the former is 225 feet wide, the latter 130; while at the ferry (or about its centre) it is 150 feet across. During the year 1856 several alterations and repairs have been made. Additional crib-work has been added to the eastern or Lake extremity of the South Pier, 300 feet in length, and considerably higher than the old work. Instead of following the old line, or N. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., the new part runs a more northerly course, or nearly N. E. by N., which has had the effect of making the entrance still more difficult than it was before, particularly when the wind is strong from the east or south.

I have heard from persons residing on the spot, that it is next to impossible for sailing vessels to enter this canal during a gale from the E. or S. E. without coming in contact with the end of the north pier, whereby the weaker of the two is likely to be seriously damaged; to obviate this catastrophe, however, several oak piles have been