

THE ST. LAWRENCE PILOT.

PART III.

CHAPTER XIII.

GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE ; WEST COAST,—CHALEUR BAY.

VARIATION $22\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ W. in 1860.

CHALEUR BAY, on the western shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, is the largest bay in the Gulf, being 25 miles wide, on a S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. line across its entrance, from Cape Despair to Miscou island ; but the entrance is more generally considered to be at Macquereau point, from which the north point of Miscou island bears S.S.E., and is distant $14\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The depth of the bay, from Miscou to the entrance of the Ristigouche river, is about 75 miles, and its circumference, from Cape Despair round to Miscou, is 185 miles.*

The northern or Canadian shore of the bay is of moderate height, but an irregular range of hills, of considerable elevation, is everywhere visible a few miles back from the coast, the predominating features of which are red cliffs of sandstone and shale, with intervening shingle and sand beaches. Trap rocks and limestone are occasionally met with also, but more sparingly. The southern or New Brunswick shore is, generally speaking, much lower, and for the most part composed of similar rocks ; but between Bathurst and Caraquette the cliffs of red sandstone rise to the height of 200 feet above the sea. The sandstone either belongs to, or is very nearly connected with, the coal formation, fossil vegetable remains of which, as well as thin veins of bituminous coal, being not unfrequently met with.

* See Charts :—Gulf of St. Lawrence, General Chart, No. 2,516 ; scale, $d = 3.7$ inches : and Chaleur Bay, with Plans of Paspébiac, and Dalhousie Bays, and Heron Island, No. 1,715 ; scale, $m = 0.25$ of an inch.