

very valuable fisheries in its neighbourhood depend for their protection on the possession of it; as no nation can carry them on without some convenient harbour of strength to supply and protect them, and Louisburgh is the principal one for those purposes.

Great advantages are now derived from the coal mines in this island, which are situated near the entrance of the harbour, the works of which, and the fisheries constitute the chief employment of the inhabitants, but without trading at present directly to the British West India islands both Cape Breton and Prince Edward's Island serve to encrease the exports of Nova Scotia; they likewise supply Newfoundland with cattle, and with proper encouragement, would rival some of the more opulent colonies in articles of agriculture.

Prince  
Edward's  
island.

PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND is situated in the gulph of St. Lawrence near the northern coast of Nova Scotia, and was formerly called St. John's, but which was changed in 1799 in compliment to his Royal Highness the DUKE OF KENT. This island abounds with timber of various kinds, beech, birch, particularly the *black birch*, (*betula nigra*.) It is the largest of the deciduous trees, and is common throughout the island; it is much used in the northern States of America, for *ship-building*; it is nearly of the colour of light mahogany, and takes as good a polish.—A few cargoes of this kind of timber have recently been exported from the island to Liverpool and other ports in the North of England, and also to Scotland and Ireland where it is much approved; several attempts have lately been made to introduce it into the *London* market, but the timber merchants appear to be against it, and they have too much the command of the trade to render it practicable to introduce a new article without their concurrence, unless it is encouraged by bounties, or otherwise promoted by government.—This wood is admirably adapted for *stocking fire arms*, and is nearly, if not quite equal to walnut-tree, (which is used for that purpose) and can be supplied at one third the usual cost of that article\*.

The other kinds of timber are, alder, maple of different species, namely, the white, red, and the rock or curled maple, (*acer saccharinum*). The latter is highly beautiful, is close grained, and susceptible of high polish; that which is called

\* See An Account of Prince Edward's Island, by John Stewart, esq also Lord Selkirk on Emigration.