

that there is no point in the Province distant over thirty miles from a good seaport. Consequently the shores of the Province are rather profusely dotted with little towns, nearly all of which make their own importations and exportations direct, and not through Halifax. Again the position of Halifax has always been a virtually isolated one. It is not connected, by one of Nature's highways, with any great and productive back country. (Its connection by rail with the great railway system of the United States, Quebec, and Ontario, is complete.) Owing to these various causes, the growth of Halifax has not been so rapid as that of some other cities and towns on this continent, although it has been a steady and healthy one. Its population may now be fairly estimated at 36,000.

The natural situation of Halifax is exceedingly fine. The *city*, properly speaking, comprises the whole of a peninsula formed by the harbor, on the East, and by a river-like inlet from the harbor, called the North West Arm, on the South West. The Harbor, after narrowing very much as we proceed Northward, suddenly expands into Bedford Basin, which bounds the peninsula on the North. This peninsula extends four and a half miles in extreme length—that is, from Point Pleasant to the Basin. The width across the middle, and which is pretty nearly its average width, is two miles. The width of the isthmus, from the head of the North West Arm to the nearest point on Bedford Basin, is about one mile and a half. The whole area of the city may be roughly estimated at eight square miles. The arm of the sea, from which branch off the inlets and expansions already mentioned, is called Chebucto Bay.

Nature seems to have done everything that could be wished to make this peninsula of Halifax the site of a magnificent city. The whole of the area already described is available for building purposes, comfortable streets, parks, pleasure grounds, &c., on a regular