



INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY STATION, HALIFAX.

This harbor, they have been told, is one of the finest in the world—a haven in which a thousand ships may rest secure, and yet but a little removed from the broad ocean highway which unites the eastern and the western worlds. They have been told, also, that this harbor is always accessible and always safe; and all of this, though true enough, does the harbor of Halifax but scanty justice. All harbors have more or less of merit, but few are like this one. Here there is something more than merely a roomy and safe haven—something to claim more than a passing glance. To understand this we must know something of the topography of the city.

Halifax is located on a peninsula and founded on a rock. East and west of it the sea comes in, robbed of its terrors and appearing only as a thing of beauty. The water on the west is the Northwest Arm, a stretch of water about three miles in length and a quarter of a mile in width. To the south and east is the harbor, which narrows as it reaches the upper end of the city and expands again into Bedford Basin, with its ten square miles of safe anchorage. The Basin terminates at a distance of nine miles from the city, and is navigable for the whole distance. The city proper is on the eastern slope of the isthmus and rises from the water to a height of 256 feet at the citadel. On the eastern side of the harbor is the town of Dartmouth. In the harbor, and commanding all parts of it, is the strongly fortified George's Island, while at the entrance, three miles below, is McNab's Island, which effectually guards the passage from the sea. This is

a brief and dry description of the city. It would be just as easy to make a longer and more gushing one, but when people are going to see a place for themselves they don't take the bother to wade through a long account of metres, bounds and salient angles. Halifax must be seen to be appreciated.

Halifax is a strong city in every way. It has great strength in a military point of view; it has so many solid men that it is a tower of strength financially; it is strongly British in its manners, customs and sympathies; and it has strong attractions for visitors. Let us analyze some of these points of strength.

First, the military. There was a time when the military element was necessarily the first to be considered. One of the first acts of the first settlers was to fire a salute in honor of their arrival, and as soon as Governor Cornwallis had a roof to shelter his head, they placed a couple of cannon to defend it and mounted a guard. They had need of military. Indians saw in their arrival a probable "boom" in scalps, and every Indian in the neighborhood sharpened his knife for the anticipated "hum." These Indians were neither the devotional ones whom Cowper holds up for the imitation of Sunday-school scholars, nor yet the playful and docile ones who borrowed tobacco of the late William Penn. They were savages, as destitute of pity and sentiment as they were of decent clothes. It was, therefore, essential that the men of Halifax should be of a military turn of mind, and every boy and man, from sixteen to sixty years of age, did duty in the ranks of the militia. Later