

pounders as alarm guns. Three miles from **Halifax**, and near the mouth of the harbour, is **McNab's island**, which is three miles in length, and half a mile in breadth, and contains about 1,090 acres. On its western side is a long gravelly point of low land, called **Mauger's Beach**, on which stands **Sherbrooke Tower**, a circular stone battery. The foundation of this building was strengthened by timber driven into the ground ; but it has been found to yield to the pressure of the structure erected upon it. On the top of the tower is a lantern, by the light of which vessels avoid the dangers of the **Thrumb-cap shoals**, which extend for some distance to the southward of the beach.

McNab's Island forms two entrances to the harbour, the eastern and western passage. At the mouth of the former is **Duggan's** or **Macnamara's Island**, which is well wooded, and composed of a deep good soil. This passage, which gradually contracts in width to a quarter of a mile, is obstructed by a sand bar, and is only used by small vessels. The north end of this strait is protected by a stone tower, called the eastern battery. Immediately opposite to the town, and midway between it and **Dartmouth**, is **George's Island**, which is regularly fortified, and from its admirable position, forms one of the chief defences of the place. The beauty and safety of this harbour attracted the notice of speculators at a very early period, and many applications were at different times made, for a grant of the land in its vicinity. The famous projector, **Captain Coram**, was engaged in 1718, in a scheme for settling here ; and a petition was presented by **Sir Alexander Cairn**, **James Doug-**