

ment, and succeeded, after many years of agitation, in breaking it up, and throwing the mineral resources of the province open to the competition of the world. The result has been that some of the wealthiest capitalists of New York and Boston have embarked a large amount of money in the development of several very valuable coal mines within a few miles of Sydney. Villages of large size have grown up in the course of seven or eight years, in the vicinity of these collieries; harbours have been dug out, and immense docks constructed at an enormous expense. The same spirit of enterprise that has connected the old world with the new by the telegraph wire—that is developing the great West, binding the Atlantic and Pacific together by an iron band, and opening up new channels of trade in the remotest quarters of the world—is to be seen actively at work in this little island of the Gulf.

LOUISBURG.

One fine Monday morning we started—that is to say, a Boston gentleman and the writer—at an early hour, for the ruins of the old French fortifications, which are about twenty-five miles from the present capital. The only attractive feature of the road is the river Miró, one of the largest streams on the island, at times widening into broad lakes, covered with islets wooded to the water's edge, or contracting to such an extent that persons on the opposite bank can converse together with ease. The farms in this part of the country are extremely poor: the houses small and giving few evidences of comfort in their external and internal arrangements. Nowhere did we see either vegetable or flower gardens, to indicate that the people have any ideas beyond providing the merest necessities of life. On the road we passed many women, healthy-looking, and sun-burnt, and it was amusing to see the attempts of some of the younger females to look fine with veils and parasols. The great majority of the inhabitants of Cape Breton, it may here be stated, are Highland Scotch, and Gaelic is therefore the language one hears on all sides. A Highlander, of course, is justified in considering Gaelic extremely euphonious, but the American or Englishman, who hears it for the first time, will hardly agree with him, even when it comes in gentle whispers from the lips of a fair Scotch lassie.

Now and then, as we ascended the brow of some hill, we would catch a glimpse of the Atlantic sparkling in the sunshine, or of some charming little lake, amid a wilderness of shade. At last we came suddenly out of the spruce woods and saw the harbour of Louisburg stretched out before us. No scene could be more desolate than that which met the eye in all directions: a low and barren country, only relieved here and there by some stunted trees and a few frame houses, some distance from one another. A tall lighthouse on the other side, where the land is precipitous and rocky, looked grim and stern amid the desolation. No sound disturbed the stillness of the scene except the cry of the circling sea-gull and the monotonous murmur of the surf as it rolled on the distant ledges.

The old town was built on a point of land formed by the harbour and the ocean, and occupied a considerable area of ground—the walk