

burden; those of the little entrance of the Bras d'Or, Langan, Menadou, Baleine, Fourché, L'Ardoise, Inhabitants, Mabou, and Margarie, are only suitable for vessels of a light draught.

The most remarkable feature in the physical geography of Cape Breton is the Mediterranean Sea, called the Great and Little Bras d'Or Lakes, which occupies an area of 450 square miles in the very heart of the island. These two lakes are united by a narrow channel—the Strait of Barra—and communicate, as has already been mentioned, with the ocean by two entrances, one of which has sufficient depth of water for ships of large burthen. All the basins, creeks, and inlets of the lakes, can be navigated by vessels of a similar class. In the middle of the Little Bras d'Or, between Boisdale and Boulardarie, there is a depth of 114 fathoms, showing that the lake bottom at that spot is depressed just as much below the surface of the water as the opposite hills of syenite are elevated above it. The scenery of the lakes is exceedingly striking and diversified. Long rocky cliffs and escarpments rise in some places abruptly from the water's edge; in others, undulating or rolling hills predominate, fringed on the shores by low white cliffs of gypsum or red conglomerate; whilst the deep basins and channels, which branch off in all directions from the central expanse of waters, studded with innumerable islets covered with a rich luxuriant growth of spruce and hemlock, present views the most picturesque and diversified imaginable.

The scenery on the southern coast, from Port Hood to Scatari, and on the north-east coast, from Scatari to the Bird islands, is generally tame and uninteresting; but a sudden change occurs when we reach the rugged promontory of Cape Dauphin. From hence to Cape North, the coast-line exhibits steep ascents covered with scrubby spruce and pine, and rocky precipices rising abruptly from the sea to heights varying from 600 to 1,200 feet. Grand and very beautiful are the rocky gorges and ravines which furrow these hills and precipices between St. Ann's and Ingonish, when first the golden rays of the rising sun light up their deep recesses, and in an instant make all clear and distinct, which just before was hid in the dark shades of twilight. Equally grand and picturesque is