

OUR SITUATION.—The region to which the name Acadia is here applied embraces the so called maritime provinces, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. If Newfoundland be added, they represent that portion of the continent attaining the most easterly meridian, and therefore approaching most nearly to Europe. This fact alone is of the utmost significance, because it gives us the shortest line of ferriage to that continent, as it was also, probably, the first portion of America to be reached by Europeans. The latter fact helped to give prominence to its early history; the former is now becoming of increasing importance in connection with the construction of the great trans-continental lines of travel and the shortening of inter-communication between the west and the east. It is this which gives prominence to the port of Halifax; it may in time give even greater importance to the still more easterly port of Sydney.

Acadia is also situated in a comparatively northern latitude. This is an important factor in its climate, but that it is not the only one is indicated by the fact that the parallel of latitude which passes through southern New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is also that which passes through the sunny climes of southern France. We need not just now consider the cause of the contrasts between the two—the one characterized by the length and severity of its winters; the other constituting a region to which, in the winter season, flock so many thousands of those who would seek mild and equable climatic conditions—but, in passing, may note the fact that while our winters are undoubtedly long and cold, they are also very invigorating, while the delightful summer climate is each year attracting in ever increasing numbers those who would escape the heated cities of the States farther south.

The two great factors referred to, our northerly and easterly position, bring us into such relations with the great oceanic currents that our coastal waters remain cool throughout the year, and thus help to make our fisheries the finest in the world.

If now, with the aid of an atlas, we consider the relations of the Provinces enumerated above to each other, we find them, except P. E. Island, distributed around the sides of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and, in a general way, sloping towards the latter. Then, with the Gulf of St. Lawrence they constitute one of the great depressions of the continent, a depression which may be termed the

Acadian Basin, comparable with the great Mississippi basin, and though much of this is now submerged, the submergence is only to very shallow depths, while in Prince Edward and some other islands the bottom rises to the surface. Moreover, while New Brunswick constitutes a portion of the mainland, Nova Scotia is almost, and Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton are wholly, surrounded with water, so that the one may be conveniently termed Continental Acadia and the others Insular Acadia. We shall hereafter see that these relations, too, are not without most important consequences.

THE CONFIGURATION OF ACADIA.—The Province of New Brunswick, or Continental Acadia, lying in a general way between the meridians of 64° and 67° west longitude and the parallels of 45° and 48° north latitude, has the general form of a parallelogram, the longest diagonal, which is also the shortest direct line of railway from the Province of Quebec to the boundary of Nova Scotia, being 246 miles. The total area has been computed as embracing 17,677,360 acres, or 27,260 square miles. The Province of Nova Scotia, lying south and southeast of New Brunswick, has, in general, a triangular form, the apex being at the isthmus of Chignecto, while the base, excluding Cape Breton island, is two hundred and fifty miles long, the extreme breadth being about one hundred miles. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, together with Cape Breton and Newfoundland, surround the St. Lawrence basin, along the western side of which lies Prince Edward Island, curving like a crescent, parallel to the adjacent shores. Between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia lies the funnel like trough of the Bay of Fundy, separated at its head from the waters of the Gulf by an isthmus only sixteen miles in breadth. All these features, together with their minor details, such as are depicted in any good atlas, are, as will later appear, most intimately connected with the history of Acadia, both past and present.

Another important element in the physiography of Acadia is that of its *Relief*, i. e., the inequalities of its surface. Without presenting any extremes, it shows the usual geographical contrasts of highlands and lowlands, plains, plateaus and hills, a few of which rise to the dignity of mountains. Thus a great variety of scenery is introduced, while "divides" or water sheds are formed, and these, besides acting in many instances as the chief con-