

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

OF

THE GULF AND RIVER ST. LAWRENCE.

From Montreal at the head of ocean navigation, to Quebec, may be termed the St. Lawrence River ; and from Quebec to Point de Monts, the Lower St. Lawrence. The Gulf of St. Lawrence thence extends to Cabot Strait, between Cape Breton Island and Newfoundland. It opens into the ocean by this strait, which has a width of 65 miles and a depth of 250 fathoms ; and by Belle Isle Strait which has a width of 11 miles and a depth of 30 fathoms.

The area of the Gulf is traversed by a deep channel which runs from the mouth of the St. Lawrence past the Gaspé coast, and crossing the open Gulf to the north of the Magdalen Islands, passes out through Cabot Strait. Thence it continues south-eastward, dividing St. Pierre bank on the north from Banquereau and Misaine bank on the south, till it reaches the edge of the deep Atlantic basin. A branch from this channel also runs for some distance into the north-eastern arm of the Gulf, towards Belle Isle.

The depth of this channel increases from 150 fathoms at the mouth of the St. Lawrence to 250 fathoms in Cabot Strait. It forms the main avenue by which the tides of the Atlantic enter the Gulf and travel across it to the mouth of the St. Lawrence ; whence they continue with ever increasing height to Quebec. Above Quebec the tide is still felt as far as Three Rivers.