



THE FERRY BOAT "CHEBUCTO,"

officers and about fifteen hundred of all ranks. Halifax is the headquarters of the Ninth District, one of the twelve district commands of the active militia of the Dominion. The force consists of a regiment of Garrison Artillery, a battalion of Rifles and one of Fusiliers, in all eighty-six officers and one thousand two hundred and forty men. There are six bands of military music in connection with the regulars and the militia, the regimental band of the regulars of course being of acknowledged superiority and an excellent model for the other organizations to profit by. The military manœuvres, sham fights and reviews at Halifax are well worth seeing and add materially to the enjoyment of visitors.

Halifax Harbor, proper, opens from Chebucto Bay and thence to the Narrows, about six and a half miles. It is narrowed at Point Pleasant to a half mile in width and then gradually increases to one and a quarter miles until at the entrance to Bedford Basin, where it decreases to about a quarter of a mile in width. Sheltered as it is by McNab's and George's islands, the harbor affords at all times a perfectly safe anchorage for vessels in from eight to twelve fathoms of water. On its western shore is located the finest dry dock in America, which has a capacity sufficient to accommodate the largest ship of Her Majesty's navy.

Point Pleasant divides the harbor proper from the Northwest Arm, a body of water two and a half miles in length and from a quarter to three quarters of a mile in width, along the banks of which one finds the most beautiful scenery that can be imagined. The hills adjoining the Northwest Arm are surmounted by fine residences, the owners of which take great delight during the summer months in boating, bathing and fishing; the facilities for such sport being unequalled elsewhere in British North America. Above Point Pleasant, on the eastern side, Halifax Harbor is divided by George's Island, a perfect emerald gem in its setting. This island is strongly fortified, and only those who have a permit from the Imperial Government are allowed upon its shores.

The appearance of Halifax Harbor, more especially when Her Majesty's fleet is in port, is an animated one. Halifax has long been celebrated for its yachting and boating advantages, the gradual rise and fall of the tide, and the prevailing southwest winds in summer, making it safe for even a novice to navigate about with but little prospect of a mishap. Bedford Basin is an ideal spot for both rowing and yachting. It has several good hotels along its shores, which, during the summer season, are continuously filled with visitors from the United States, Western Canada and elsewhere. Among the objects of particular interest about the Basin is Navy Island, on the western shore, where it is said that several French man-of-war ships were sunk in one of the old-time conflicts between that nation and Great Britain. There is also an island at the head of the Basin that is totally uninhabited and would be most suitable for camping-out purposes.