

HARBOURS AND PORTS.

NOTICE.—The depth of water given in the various Ports is the mean or average depth taken in the month of August: at the opening of the navigation in the spring, when the Lake level is higher, this average will be exceeded by from ten to fifteen inches; in the autumn, before the rainy season sets in, it will be decreased from six to twelve inches.

TORONTO HARBOUR, OR BAY.

This spacious anchorage is without doubt the best natural harbour on Lake Ontario. It is nearly circular, being formed by the main land on the north, and by a long, low, and narrow spit of sand, on the east, south, and south-west, called the Peninsular or Island; it extends in a south-westerly direction from the highlands in the township of Scarboro', and terminates in a point which suddenly turns to the north opposite the Old Garrison, and upon which trees of stunted growth are thickly scattered: thus is enclosed a beautiful basin of about two and a half miles in diameter, capable of containing a great number of vessels.

LIGHTHOUSE.

The south-west extremity of this island is called Gibraltar Point, on which is erected the Lighthouse, 66 feet high, having a fixed bright light.

CHANNEL.

The entrance to the harbour is by a narrow channel at its north-west corner between the Queen's Wharf and a row of buoys south thereof, which are placed in about ten feet water. The present channel is 300 feet wide, and about 600 or 700 feet long, having an average depth of 11 feet; but owing to the extreme narrowness of this passage, large and heavily laden vessels often find it difficult, sometimes impossible, to beat in or out against a head wind.

This channel, however, is being widened from year to year by the constant use of the dredge; and I believe it is the intention of the Harbour Master to continue this useful work until a clear available space of 400 feet has been obtained.

HARBOUR LIGHTS.

On the Queen's Wharf are placed the Harbour Lights—the northernmost a fixed red light, the other a bright beacon light on the western extremity of the pier. These lights when brought into line indicate the entrance to the channel. They bear N. by W. of the lighthouse on Gibraltar Point.

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