

and Duncan reef; and Sandwich point in line with Chebucto head, bearing N. $\frac{1}{2}$ E., will lead one mile to the eastward of them.

The lead will give little or no warning when approaching these ledges from the eastward, on which side the bank is very steep, the depth being 45 fathoms within less than half a mile from the Sisters.

CATCH HARBOUR, the entrance to which bears North from the easternmost of the Sambro ledges, and is 2 miles to the S.W. of Chebucto head, has 9 feet water on its bar, and 16 feet, mud, within, where its shores are occupied by the houses and stages of fishermen. At its head there is a chapel, and a fine stream, the outlet of the waters of several small lakes which lie about a mile to the northward.

THE BELL ROCK, with 7 feet least water on it, lies East half a mile from White head, and 4 cables off-shore, with Chebucto head bearing N.N.E., distant one mile. Another rock, with 27 feet water on it, was discovered lying one cable N. b. W. from the Bell rock; and as Duck reef extends $1\frac{1}{2}$ cables from the shore towards them, the channel between them and the land is reduced to this breadth, and is moreover nearly overlapped by Duncan reef, and it therefore cannot be recommended. Duncan cove, on the south-west side of Chebucto head, affords shelter to boats.

HALIFAX HARBOUR*, one of the finest in the world, affords space and depth of water sufficient for any number of the largest ships with safety; and although the dangers off its entrance are such as to render great caution necessary, especially in the fogs which usually accompany all winds from the sea, it is yet easier of access and egress than any other large harbour on the coast. It is $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide at its entrance, from Chebucto head on the south-west to Devil island on the north-east, and it continues inland 15 miles, in a northerly direction, to the head of Bedford

* **Ice.**—Halifax harbour has the advantage of never being closed by ice, for although in very severe winters, when the low temperature has been accompanied by a continuance of calm weather, the inner part of the harbour has been frozen over, yet this has occurred only at intervals of many years; and even then, as the ice never extends beyond George island, there is always a sufficient space of open water, between it and Macnab island, in which vessels may anchor in safety. Even when the ice has formed opposite the city, it has never remained long, having been broken up by the first southerly wind of sufficient strength to send a swell into the harbour.

The smaller and landlocked harbours of this coast are in general all frozen over during the two or three coldest winter months; and so also are the larger harbours, excepting for short distances within their entrances, which are kept open by the swell from the southward. The coasting vessels are usually laid up in consequence, from about the middle of December to near the end of March.