

ascertained with tolerable accuracy. A narrow passage of about four leagues in length, and scarcely half a league in breadth, named the gut of Canso, separates it from the eastern extremity of the peninsula of Halifax or Nova Scotia. It forms, with the islands of Newfoundland and Saint Paul, the boundaries of the entrance into the gulph of Saint Lawrence. Its figure is very irregular, and it is so intersected by bays and small rivers, that the two principal parts join, only by a neck of not more than eight hundred paces wide. The soil, in many places swampy, and covered with light moss, is, generally, ill adapted for cultivation. On the lands towards the south side, corn, hemp, and flax, are raised. Coal-mines, and likewise plaster of Paris, are here found.

All the harbours are, on the east, open to the sea; the north coast is elevated, and almost inaccessible. The harbour of Louisbourg, once among the finest in North America, is on the eastern coast, and extends into the country four leagues, in a winding direction, containing good anchorage, and every where at least seven fathoms of water. The entrance, between two small islands, is four hundred yards wide; and by means of Cape Lorembec in its vicinity, is discoverable at sea for a considerable distance. On the fortifications of this harbour, the French expended near a million and a half pounds sterling.

The island, denominated by the French *Ile Royale*, contained, while in their possession, upwards of four thousand inhabitants, whose industry was almost wholly applied to the fisheries; as, from the sterility of the soil, neither agriculture nor breeding of cattle could succeed to any extent, and from the paucity of wild animals, peltry could never become an article of commerce. The island is about thirty-six leagues in length, and twenty-two in its greatest breadth. It is environed by rocks; and the climate, although sufficiently healthy, is not agreeable, being subject to frequent and thick fogs. It was conquered in 1758, by the British forces under General Wolfe. The inhabitants are at present not numerous; and the officer who commands the troops, usually a brigadier-general, in time of war, is invested also with the powers of civil governor. His residence is at Sidney, the capital.

Canada presents few objects which can occupy the enquiries of an antiquarian; and it contains, perhaps, in less variety than many other portions of the globe, productions which can recompence the researches of the naturalist. Its lakes and rivers it is true, are the vast and principal objects which are calculated to inspire wonder and gratification. The immense volumes, the irresistible weight and velocity of the latter, tearing through and overpowering the obstacles opposed to their course, by the rugged and unequal territories amid which they roll, produce falls and cataracts of singular sublimity, and of commanding beauty; these,

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