

Louisbourg.

Twenty-four miles from Sydney, by rail, lies the storied site of **Louisbourg**, now but a little fishing village, whose inhabitants follow their calling on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. Its population is about 1,000. The modern village lies some little distance from the ruins of the walled city which it was once the fashion to call the "Dunkirk of America." It is used in summer as a coaling-station. The harbor is spacious, perfectly sheltered, and with a good depth of water everywhere; but its supremacy has fled to Sydney, and is not likely to return, unless a certain "ocean-ferry" scheme, one of several such, should some day come into effect. This rather hypothetical proposition contemplates a fast train-service between Louisbourg and such centers as Montreal, Boston, and New York, connecting with swift ocean-steamers for the transatlantic voyage. It would greatly shorten the trials of those whose dreaded enemy is the *mai-de-mer*.

The special interest of Louisbourg lies in its history, which has been so inimitably told by Parkman that every tourist visiting the spot should take with him the volumes entitled "Montcalm and Wolfe." The scenery at Louisbourg is not bold or striking. The hills surrounding the harbor are rather low, and without impressive features; but the land lies in a shape very favorable to defensive fortification. The harbor entrance is narrowed by islands and reefs to a width of about half a mile, and was protected by mighty batteries; behind which, at the southwest point of the harbor, rose the city walls. The opposite side of the harbor-mouth is a promontory called *Lighthouse Point*, which proved itself the key to the situation, and dominated the main defense, that known as the *Island Battery*. Louisbourg arose after the Treaty of Utrecht, and in its building no treasure was spared. The best engineering skill of the time was expended upon it, and when completed the French engineers made the boast that it could be effectively defended by a garrison of women. The landward side was not defended with the same degree of care, as only a sea attack was considered practicable. The wild surf of *Gabarus Bay*, and the bogs intervening between that water and the city, were regarded as a sufficient defense against the approach of heavy artillery, and against light guns the walls were adequate.

As soon as war was declared between France and England, in 1744, Massachusetts turned her attention to Louisbourg, as a deadly menace