

most northern extremity—is about 70 miles from Cape Ray in Newfoundland.

The whole circuit of the island, with the exception of the north-west coast, is indented by deep bays and inlets, often terminating in excellent harbours. A great portion of the interior is occupied by an estuary, or arm of the sea, called the *Bras d'Or Lakes*, which communicates with the ocean by means of two narrow channels opening into Spanish Bay on the north-east coast. These lakes divide the island into two unequal parts, or peninsulas, united by an isthmus less than half a mile in width.

Few countries of the same limited extent present such varied natural features as the island of Cape Breton. In the western division, the great promontory extending from Margarie and St. Ann's to Cape St. Lawrence, covering an area of 1,100 square miles, is one vast plateau or table-land, elevated in some places more than 1,200 feet above the level of the sea. It is bounded on three of its sides by a coast line of bold rugged bluffs and lofty precipices, furrowed by deep clefts and gorges, partially covered by scrubby spruce and pine. Three ranges of hills, as you will observe by referring to the map at the end of this volume, branch off from the fourth side of the table-land in a southerly direction. The first range extends from St. Ann's to Great Baddeck, being bounded on the east by the Baddeck river, and on the west by the Wagamatcook; the second or middle range extends from the source of the east branch of the Margarie river to Why-co-comah; and the third from Margarie river to Mabou, between Lake Ainslie and the sea-coast.

Neither the middle nor the western range is continuous, the first being separated from the table-land by the Margarie river, and the second by a deep gorge or ravine running at right angles with the course of the Wagamatcook, from near its source to the Forks of the north and south branches of the Margarie.

Another large tract of highlands lies between St. George's Bay and Why-co-comah, which throws off two branches, one running easterly, between the basin of the river Denys and