

North Sydney or "Sydney Mines"

does not present an attractive appearance to the traveller. He sees long, low ranges of dingy houses for the miners, and three or four tall chimneys and a snorting engine or two on a railway track. The district has a flat, exposed, bleak appearance. It were hard to guess from superficial appearance what immense treasures of wealth are stored below the surface of the ground. It is from this place that the best coal for household use is exported. Sydney harbor is spacious and well sheltered. It opens to the northeast, and is easy of access. A "bar" narrows the entrance and affords shelter to the shipping in the inner harbor. Inside of the bar a large number of vessels are usually seen, waiting for cargoes of "black diamonds." A village rises near the "bar." There are some handsome residences in the vicinity. Across the harbor stands the venerable town of

Sydney,

once the capital of the colony of Cape Breton. Your first glance impresses unfavorably, as there appear to be far too many old and ruinous buildings,—closed shops, decaying houses, tumbling barns, &c. A walk through the town corrects this impression, and shows that there are many fine residences, and that the ruins of the place are in the way of being repaired. The population is increasing and the value of property enhances. The town will soon be more prosperous than in the "age of gold" when it was the seat of vice-royalty. The suburbs are charming. This harbor is often enlivened by the visits of French and English men-of-war.

From Sydney there are facilities for visiting Cow Bay, Langan, and other important coal mining districts. More interesting perhaps than visits to coal mines will be a run to

Louisburg,

the French capital of the Island, where there are still sad mementos of the deadly struggle of a century ago. A rail-