Bedford Basin, into which the harbour opens out after passing through the Narrows. To the east are the low hills on the Dartmouth side, and George's Island, green and well-kept, looking as though dropped mid-harbour by some giant in his play. Beyond are the massive buildings known as Mount Hope Insane Asylum, with Fort Clarence, grim and stern, a little below. Near the mouth of the harbour is McNab's Island, the city's picnic grounds, with its beautiful groves and walks, its fort and rifle range; while on Mauger's Beach, "jutting out nose-like from the island," stands an antiquated Martello tower, turned in old age from the warlike uses of its youth, and peacefully holding aloft a bright beacon to warn the sailor off the reef below. Beyond this again is a wide sweep of sail-flecked ocean, with perhaps the smoke of a passing steamer dimly visible on the horizon. Below and around are the buildings of the town, with here and there a spire rising from among green foliage.

Halifax, however, is seen to best advantage from the water. A former writer thus refers to it: "Step into a small row-boat, such as lie for hire by the score at the various public wharves, and push out on a summer evening when the sun is setting behind the Admiral's house, and the moon waits, over the Dartmouth hills, for her turn. On every glassy ripple glimmers a mimic sun, the terraced city is bathed *en couleur de rose*, the grass in Her Majesty's dockyard, and the big tree near which his worship the Mayor stands to welcome royalty, take on a gem-like green—as though illumined and transformed by Aladdin's lamp. The windows of Mount Hope Insane Asylum are sheeted with fire, that slowly dies as the sun sinks lower; soon only the tall flag-staff on the Citadel, with its many streamers telling of ships coming home, wreaths itself aloft in the dying sunset. Myriads of pleasure boats thread their way in and out on the water-alleys among the ships at anchor. Her Majesty's flag-ship and its consorts lie motionless as forts amid the animated scene."