

capital of the island, strongly fortified, and garrisoned by the French with 7000 men, from whom it was twice taken, once in 1746, and again in 1759; after which, the fortifications were ruined, and the place abandoned to its fate. Spanish River is a good harbour, on the east side of the island, well sheltered from all winds, and, though possessed of but few inhabitants, is well situated for the fisheries, and abounds with pit-coal, which is exceedingly sulphurous, but is sent off in large quantities to Halifax, and other places.

The west coast of this island borders upon the east end of Nova Scotia, being separated from it by a small navigable strait of two miles wide, called the Gut of Canso, through which strong tides run from the gulph of St Laurence, into which it leads. No inhabitants reside upon this part of Cape Breton, though the seas abound in every direction with fish; and the whole island is covered with wood, which