

Halifax. So much for the most delightful trip that I have ever taken anywhere in America. If any of my readers wish to make themselves acquainted with one of the finest sections of the Maritime Provinces, and to enjoy an exceedingly cheap and pleasant trip, let them visit Cape Breton next summer, and go through the Bras D'or, and the valley of the Mabou, as I did.

My note-book is full of many references to the scenery of Cape Breton, but my pen cannot do justice to it, and I must pass on to other matters connected with the island. No one can travel for any length of time through the island without seeing the evidences that it is far behind all other parts of British America in the elements of progress. As a rule, the people are poor and unenterprising. The great majority of the people are Scotch, many of whom exhibit the thrift and industry of their race. The descendants of the old French population are an active, industrious class, chiefly engaged in maritime pursuits. A portion of the inhabitants is composed of the families of American loyalists, and the original English settlers. Agriculture is largely followed by the people, and with success in the interior, especially in the vicinity of the great lake. On the sea coast the fisheries predominate, though the people more or less cultivate small farms. The collieries absorb a considerable number of men, but only in particular parts. A good many persons are also engaged in the coasting trade, especially at Arichat, in the county of Richmond (Cape Breton is divided into four counties, Cape Breton, Richmond, Victoria, and Inverness) which, in 1866, owned 300 vessels, comprising 21,049 tons, and valued at \$575,164. The number of the present population of the island is about 75,000 souls. The Catholics and Presbyterians predominate.

There are about five hundred Indians in the island, all belonging to the Miamae tribe. As is the case in other parts of America, they are slowly dwindling away. The majority of the tribe live in a very picturesque section of Cape Breton, in the

vicinity of the Bras D'or Lake, where they have some fine farms, and worship in a large chapel. Once every year, in the summer, they assemble at Eseasoni, and have grand services. For months before, they save all the money they can collect from the sale of baskets, tubs, and fancy work, in order to display a little finery for this grand event of the year.

No part of British America is richer in natural resources, and all those elements necessary to create wealth and prosperity; but unfortunately for Cape Breton, its progress has been retarded by the want of capital. The tide of immigration to America has passed by its shores, and very little capital has come in to develop its capabilities. The new collieries are carried on for the most part, by New York and Boston capital, and no English money is invested in any of the mines, except those worked by the London Mining Association, whose establishment dates a great many years back.

Cape Breton is on the very threshold of the finest fishing ground in the world. Its coal fields are the most extensive and important in British North America. Quarries of marble, gypsum, limestone, and other valuable stones abound, and gold has also been found in several places. The natural position of the island is remarkably advantageous for trade of every kind. It stands like a sentinel at the very gateway of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which it must command most effectually in the time of war. Its coast is indented by a large number of noble harbors, one of which, Louisbourg, is open at all seasons, and is situated on the very pathway of European traffic. No one can doubt that at no very distant date, when capital and enterprise come in and develop its resources, it must occupy a prominent position in the Dominion of Canada.

[We heartily thank Mr. Bourinot for the foregoing admirable sketch of an exceedingly interesting though comparatively little known portion of the Dominion.—Eps. N. D. M.]