

HISTORY

OF

CAPE BRETON

ETC.

LETTER I.

TO THE YOUTH OF CAPE BRETON.

I AM AWARE, my dear friends, that you, who have the happiness of calling Cape Breton your home, are well acquainted with its vast natural resources ; but as there are many persons, both in England and the United States, deeply interested in their successful development, I hope you will not consider that I am neglecting the special object of these Letters in here giving a short account of the physical geography of the island for their information. I am the more inclined to adopt this course, because I hope it will be the means of dispelling some very erroneous notions which have been widely circulated respecting the soil, climate, and capabilities of your highly-favoured island.

If you refer to a map of North America, you will observe that the island lies between the parallels of $45^{\circ} 27'$ and $47^{\circ} 3'$ north, and the meridians of $59^{\circ} 47'$ and $61^{\circ} 32'$ west ; and is bounded on the north-east and south-east by the Atlantic Ocean, on the south-west by George's Bay and the Gut of Canso, and on the north-west by the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Its length from north to south is 110 miles, and its width from east to west 87 miles. On the south it is separated from Nova Scotia by the Gut of Canso—a navigable strait 15 miles in length, and about 1 mile in width. Cape St. Lawrence—its