

Atlantic, is high, broken, rocky land, interspersed here and there with some good strips, but in general barren and unfit for cultivation. The same remark applies also to all that extensive tract of country surrounding the Great Lake, and extending several miles both east and west. But the country extending from the Great Lake northward to the head of the Minas Basin, and on both its shores, is altogether of a different quality. The land is low and fertile, adapted to agricultural purposes, filled with limestone and gypsum, and affording indications of extensive beds of coal and other minerals. This character applies to the country extending along and for several miles to the east and west of the Shubenacadie River. Again, that part of the county bordering on Northumberland Straits, and the whole district of Pictou, is every where diversified with hill and dale, intersected by streams and brooks, which form several rivers. The soil is generally rich and capable of high cultivation, and this district is in fact one of the best cultivated in the province. About half way between Halifax and the Minas Basin occurs an extensive chain of lakes, the principal of which is called the Great Lake. The Shubenacadie, the largest river in the province, takes its rise in those lakes. The point where it flows from the Great Lake is 21 miles from Halifax; and thence to Cobequid, or Cumberland Bay, at the head of the Minas Basin, where it discharges itself, is about 55 miles. It is a mile in width at its mouth, receives the tide for about ten miles, and is securely navigable for about thirty more. Its banks are generally precipitous, fringed and overhung with beautiful trees. In its course it receives several tributary rivers of no inconsiderable magnitude, the principal of which, in this county, are the Stewiack, St. Andrew's, and Gray's rivers. The navigation of this noble river has been completed, and, by means of the Shubenacadie Canal, continued quite to Halifax, whereby sea-going ships, drawing eight feet water, can be navigated from the Minas Basin (head of the Bay of Fundy) quite across the province to Halifax Harbour on the Atlantic Ocean.

The harbour of Halifax is one of the finest in America. A thousand vessels may ride in it in safety. It is accessible at all seasons of the year, and easy of approach. It is situate in latitude $44^{\circ} 39' 26''$ north and longitude $63^{\circ} 37' 48''$ west from Greenwich. It lies nearly north and south,