

These channels lead to the open Atlantic, about 8 miles from Sydney Harbor. They are divided by *Boularderie Island*, which is about 35 miles in length by 8 miles in extreme width, and owes its existence as an island to these strange and beautiful channels. The Little Bras d'Or is a deep and tide-swept passage, so narrow and intricate as to be impassable for craft of any size. In a small steamer the journey is very romantic and impressive, and one feels himself, at times, imprisoned hopelessly in the rocky clefts. The Great Bras d'Or, forming the northwest boundary of Boularderie, is a noble passage, ranging in width from 1 to 3 miles, and extending about 30 miles. It has great depth, and the scenery of its shores, overpeered by the *Mountains of St. Anne*, is bold and impressive. From this channel the steamer sails out between the surf-beaten headland of *Cape Dauphin* and the promontory of *Point Aconi*, with its coal-fields. From Point Aconi the course is S. E. for 9 miles to *Cranberry Head*, rounding which we find ourselves in *Sydney Harbor*.

Running up the harbor we see in the distance the works of the **Sydney Mines**—indeed, the whole neighborhood is studded with coal-mines, and at any time we may be passing over the deep submarine galleries in which the picks of the miners are at work with the sea-waves rolling fathoms deep between them and the upper air. The coal of this district is among the best the world produces; and among the many mines engaged in bringing it to light are, besides the Sydney mines already named, the *Victoria*, the *Lingan*, the *International*, the *Gowrie*, and the *Little Glace Bay*. These are all easily accessible by stage from the town of Sydney, and some of them have rail communication, for freighting purposes, which will furnish an informal means of transit.

### Sydney.

**Sydney**, which held the proud position of provincial capital when Cape Breton was a province; boasts one of the best harbors on all this well-havened coast. Her population by the last census (1881) was 3,667; and her trade, not only in coal, but in general produce as well, is of great and growing volume. The one flaw in Sydney's harbor is the fact that it is ice-bound for the greater part of the winter. In summer, however, it is full of life and activity; and being the headquarters of the French squadron in the North Atlantic, it becomes the scene of a delightful social activity. The harbor is divided by a penin-