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The wind was still ahead the following morning, but we concluded to take advantage of the ingoing tide and beat up as far as Hawksbury. But the rest of the fleet decided to wait for a change of wind. The tide through the strait of Canso, or Canseau, when going with the current, runs from five to seven miles an hour, and when opposed by a south-erly wind, produces a violent sea, which it is impossible for a vessel to breast. But with the aid of this tide a fore-and-aft schooner can beat up when it is not blowing too hard. The strait averages from one to two miles in width, and is about twenty-five miles long. The entrance is very beautiful and impressive, and the prospect increased in loveliness and variety as we proceeded. On one side we had Cape Breton Island, and on the other the shores of Nova Scotia.... By noon we succeeded in anchoring in a snug berth at Port Hawksbury, where we were forced to lie two days with a fleet of vessels waiting for a change of wind, which had set in with vexatious persistence from the north-east. But we might have been in a worse place, for the scenery is of the most exquisite character, and I often wondered while there that so little has been written about the loveliness of the Strait of Canso. The shores of Cape Breton are here more varied and picturesque than in any other part of the island, while the opposite shore of Nova Scotia rivals it in attraction. There is, also, more of the human element in this neighborhood than one sees in many of the prettiest parts of the maritime provinces; and this, in my opinion, always adds greatly to natural scenery, by contributing aids to sentiment, such as old mills, old granges, old orchards, leafy lanes, dilapidated wharves, church spires, quaint inns, and the like. Now, the region around Port Hawksbury and Port Mulgrave, which lies directly opposite, is abundantly provided with all these features, which make it of especial interest to artists, and, in fact, to all of cultivated minds. In a lesser way, of course, it reminded me frequently of the finest parts of the Bosphorus. There are some delicious bits of picturesque-ness at Port Mulgrave, to which we crossed by a steam ferry-boat.

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