

this passage, now so awkward, into a permanently unobstructed channel

Pursuing the course of the Sounds, from Chincotigue Inlet, which is situated almost abreast of the mouth of Cat Creek, after a few miles of clear navigation, three different deep water channels present themselves: one to the eastward, under the lee of Chincotigue Island; another midway, known as the Queen Sound, the actual or supposed grave of some Indian Queen, who, in the time of the aborigines, and during the period of an invasion, preferred a death by drowning to one worse; and the third under the Main, called Wallop's Narrows. Circumstances might, at different times, indicate to the the navigator a greater propriety in choosing one or other of these routes.

The Commissioners have, however, partially surveyed but one—the Queen Sound; which has the advantage of being, if not the widest, the most direct. Different portions of this Sound, as it is proceeded upon northerly, bear different names; yet it is, in fact, but one body of water, and should be included under one appellation, until it reaches a narrow head, as it were, in Mill's Island Thoroughfare, where one of the few real obstacles, to the free and convenient use of the channel, occurs in the shape of a shoal, over which there is about two and a half feet water at mid-tide. This shoal, composed doubtless entirely at the bottom, and principally at the top, of an accumulation of oyster and clam shells, presents interstices of considerable depth, filled in, in some places, with soft mud, through which a pole or an oar may be thrust without difficulty, and in others with mud of firmer consistency. The operation of a dredging machine would here be considerably aided by the current, which, under a north, north-east, or north-west wind sets strongly down the thoroughfare. Its small extent, being not more than thirty yards, would, even were this not the case, render the dredging a very cheap process. The material extracted too would be by no means worthless, as both the shells and the mud have been, it is understood, applied advantageously to the amendment of the soils in the neighbourhood. The Commissioners would recommend the operation as one necessary to the work, and have accordingly stated in another place the probable cost of its execution. Several miles further up, another obsta-