As neer *facsimile* as possible

A

# T O U R,

THROUGH

# Upper and Lower Canada.

*By a Citizen of the United States*

CONTAINING,

*A View of the preſent State of Religion, Learning, Commerce, Agriculture, Colonization, Cuſtoms and Manners, among the Engliſh, French, and Indian*

SETTLEMENTS.

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# *Introduction*

*THE Discovery of America has opened a new Field for Improvement in the commercial and busy World. To become intimately acquainted with the States and Provinces of North-America, is an Employment worthy the Attention of the greatest Statesman and humblest Peasant. While Travellers constantly present to our View their accurate, entertaining, and edifying Observations in Europe, Asia, and Africa, we are not fully possessed of those which give us a View of our own Country, and the contiguous Provinces.*

*The Recapitulation of many of the following Observations upon the Provinces of Canada to Individuals, has led them to suggest to the Author the Gratification it would afford to have these presented in a Volume.*

*In Obedience to their Wishes, I have undertaken to present such Remarks and Information, during my Travels through these Countries, as may perhaps amuse, if not edify.*

*While Wars convulse foreign Countries, and fluctuating Politics agitate the public Mind; while we are extending our commercial Connections, forming Alliances and drawing Intelligence from every quarter, it is hoped that this small Work may contribute a Mite to increase our Acquaintance with those who are now connected with us by Treaties, as well as a Similarity of Laws and Customs.*

*Our former Intercourse has been chiefly by War; but Peace, Commerce, and Emigrations are extending our Connections, and awake a Solicitude for more particular Accounts than any one has yet detailed.*

## A TOUR, &c.

OUR principal communication from Lower Canada to the States, is by the way of Lake Champlain and St. Johns, by a water conveyance from Skeensborough, or the roads through Vermont.

Admission into the province of Lower Canada was secured by the visitants reporting themselves at the Isle of Noix. Their names are also taken at the custom-house in St. Johns, and a passport obtained into that province, in order to a proper introduction either on business or amusement. A fort, garrison and magazine, are at St. Johns. The trade is inconsiderable. Time and enterprise may convert it into a place of distinction, as it is at the extremity of the northern part of Lake Champlain, where the waters of the river Sorel, formed by the lake, pass into the river St. Laurence.

The rapids not far from St. Johns are not so great as to impede all communication with the lake and rivers. Rafts constantly pass at the seasons when the waters are high; but boats are so far impeded that merchandize is conveyed by land from St. Johns to Chamblee, about nine miles.

A regular stage passes from St. Johns to Montreal, by the way of Lapararie. In the spring of the year the roads are wet and heavy; but the excellent Canadian horses, and dexterous drivers, conveyed us in good season to the above village, which is opposite to Montreal.

The decline of day and the expediency of waiting for the boats, which set out in the morning for the city, tempted us to amuse ourselves with a walk through the settlement, along the pleasant banks of the river.

The most distinguished object is the parish church, situated in a small open square near the centre. The curate resides near it. His mansion is the public property of the church, and is sufficiently large and commodious. The church is spacious and venerable, and constructed upon a species of architecture which is not modern, but so far reduced to rule as for a long time to please the eye, and entertain the curious. It is strong and lofty. Heavy arches within support the roof; and the serious mind cannot fail of being impressed with devout sensations, while passing through it. The chancel is well finished and decorated with carvings, and the furniture upon the altar. A number of historic scripture paintings adorn the walls.

Contiguous to the chapel is also a female academy, or country nunnery, where the village girls are instructed by their own sex, and others are received as boarders. Besides these, there are about one hundred houses built of stone or hewn timber, and chiefly made white and plastered with lime.

The whole country is flat; and except the mountain of Montreal, at nine miles distance, the horizon only bounds the view. The island, city and mountain of Montreal, with a number of other islands, variegate the extensive scene, west and north from Lapararie.

The conveyance from hence to Montreal is in flat-bottomed boats, which are managed by the inhabitants with great dexterity. They pass the rapids safely; and the distance is forgotten amidst the hilarity and music of these watermen, and the villages on the shore we had left, and that to which we approached.

This city is defended on the river side by an high wall, and entered by gates. The whole presents an handsome view of well built houses and churches. The streets are regular and commodious. The walls which surround this place are out of repair. They inclose the public buildings and squares, and the most valu-

able part of the stores and business. Extensive suburbs contain the laboring people; and when united with the above described part of the city, make it large and respectable.

At the head of the deeper and more navigable waters of the river St. Laurence, and at the confluence of the immense lakes and large rivers, north, west and south-west connecting with a flourishing country, Montreal will ever hold a conspicuous station among the busy towns of North-America.

The merchants who traffic with the Indians, in the north-western country, reside and have their factory here. This valuable business imploys many artists: it may be said to be the main-spring to the mercantile affairs of these regions. Many European merchants have settled here, and compose part of the agreeable society we meet with.

The rapid and extensive western settlements, since the last war, call for a large supply of merchandize; which is paid for in wheat, lumber, and many other articles of produce, with some furs also.

Great attention is paid to religion by the Catholics. The parish church, in the centre of this city, is a magnificent fabric and is built of stone, in the form of a cross. Its elegant steeple is covered with tin, and furnished with three well-toned bells. A carving of the Crucifixion, as large as life, is placed over the chancel, at the east end of the church. The furniture and decorations of the chancel are rich, and the historic Scripture paintings numerous and well executed. In the gallery at the west end, is a good organ.

The sacristee, or vestry room, is large and richly supplied with everything that is used in the solemnities of their religion. The vestments of the priests and ornaments of the altar are superb. This edifice affords an extensive field, for the curiosity and inquiries of a Catholic or Protestant.

A large painting, which is intended to afford an idea of Purgatory, is hung at the right side of the entrance into this building: It exhibits an angelic being or the divine Saviour descending from an opening cloud, and with a most benign countenance, extending his delivering arm to the distressed, condemmed, and desponding spirits, represented in the lower part of the picture. This group are drawn with a variety of countenances; some in all the distortion of agony and despair. Others, with the cheering lines of hope. Others, who have passed the season of confinement, are reaching forth their hands, to accept a rescue by the Heavenly messenger.

The design and execution are ingenious. The lesson taught from this representation, is obedience to virtue's laws, that we may escape the place of torture in a future world. In this extensive fabric, all the solemnities of religion are celebrated with great pomp and decorum.

Contiguous to it, and connected by a long covered walk, is the seminary or constant residence of the clergy. They eat at one common table, and have their separate apartments for study and retirement, with a common library.

In the rear is a garden, arranged in regular order, stored with much good fruit and affording a pleasing spot for air and exercise.

A college of considerable size in another part of the city, is under the care of the clergy. In it young men are taught the learned languages, and many branches of literature. Here is a library and good accommodations for the students.

The college, of the order of the Recollett Friars, is out of repair;—the fraternity is almost dissolved, by the death of its members; as none could be added to it, according to stipulations at the conquest. Mass is constantly celebrated in their chapel.

The college of the dissolved order of Jesuits is converted into barracks for soldiers, and a prison, The chapel is repaired and decorated for an English church.

Large gardens are connected with these institutions, and take up a very important and useful part of the city. They however subserve the purposes of health, while the suburbs furnish room for the abodes of the industrious and poor, and gardens for the citizens.

Three nunneries are within the city. One is devoted to the education of females. Two are hospitals for the sick, and asylums for the poor. Both are well regulated and valuable institutions. They are supported from the early benefactions of their founders, who were females, and other property owned by their respective communities, joined to their earnings from various specimens of ingenuity and industry, which they constantly vend.

The nunnery in the city, which is an hospital, lost part of its funds in the late seizure of the property of the monasteries in France. These women, wishing to preserve their sisterhood and to perform the accustomed acts of charity to the sick and poor, supply the deficiency in their present incomes by making up the articles of Indian dress, sent by the merchants among the western tribes. This is the chief asylum for the distressed. The nuns have provided an apothecary's room, which is well stored with all necessary medicine, and the king's chief physican directs the administering of it, and constantly visits the patients gratis.

The buildings for courts and public business are not distinguished for convenience or taste, while the edifices dedicated to religion and piety do honour to their proprietors.

The market is well furnished with the produce of the season, cheap, good and in great variety.

The Champ-de-Mars, or field of military parade, is on the ramparts, near the north gate. It is a pleasant walk, and at the hours of bringing on and relieving the guards, affords a lively scene.

From this city we have a view of the mountain, which is at a

small distance. It is ascended by a good road, which rises gradually, and presents a variety of interesting objects such as gardens, orchards, and country seats. From the summit the eye beholds many lively landscapes.

The city and the islands in the river, or rather lake which surrounds the island and mountain of Montreal, and Isle Jesu, unite in entertaining the sight in endless variety. This is the magazine for fruit, in particular for apples for the province. These are raised in abundance, are excellent in their quality, preserved with ease and sold at a moderate price.

Several parishes and parish churches are on this Island. At Lachine is the landing place from the upper countries; rapids making any further progress towards the city, by water, very difficult. Boats are built at this place, and loaded for the Indian and western traffic. A canal is meditated, but not begun, in order to remove the difficulties which prevent the loading at Montreal. A convenient valley presents for this purpose. The expence would be amply compensated by the facility with which business would then be executed.

The private villas, country houses, gardens and highly cultivated mountain and island, intice the visitor to spend some time among the delightsome scenes. The roads are good in summer and winter. The soil is rich and air exceedingly salubrious.

A part of the army is stationed in Montreal, in barracks erected for the soldiery under the French administration, and those formed lately in the college of the Jesuits.

An happy harmony prevails among all orders of the inhabitants, which are composed of English, French, Scotch and Irish. An urbanity, hospitality, and interesting gentility of manners pervade most classes of people.

Since settlements have been made in the northern parts of

Vermont and its neighbourhood, on the Canada side of the line, an extensive traffic has been introduced into this city from thence. This will increase with the population, and for a long time be unrivalled. In case of war, Montreal is exposed to invasions by land, should the States take a share in the contest.

Religion appears to have its proper influence upon the inhabitants. Churches are thronged. Peace takes place among professors of every name. The clergy are well supplied. The English priests have their rewards from England joined to an annual salary paid by their parishioners. The Catholic ministers have certain rents, which are competent to their necessities. From their wealth and good offices, the poor and distressed find great relief from want and woe. The clergy of all ranks are pious, polite men, of good learning and abilities.

Some schools are erected under European instructors. Their progress has not yet been such as to become distinguished seminaries in the city or its neighbourhood. Females are generally taught in the nunneries, and by an ordinance of the Catholic church, boys and girls are not educated in the same school.

After an agreeable abode of a fortnight at Montreal, we set out for Quebec by the way of William Henry, a town which received its name from a prince of England, who visited the provinces not many years since. It is situated at the easterly point of land, where the rivers Sorel and St. Laurence unite their waters. The ground is advantageous for forming a town. It is laid out for the purpose, and a number of houses are erected. Part of the army are quartered at William Henry to guard the pass to and from the country, by the way of the river. As settlements increase in Vermont, and on the south side of Canada, near the States, the town of William Henry will increase also. The easy water conveyance down the river, impeded only by the rapids above Chamblee, and the small streams and mill seats upon them, will tend to encourage every kind of industry.

The English church is the second that has been built in the province. A small one had been previously erected on the opposite side of the St. Laurence, rather as a monument or mausoleum for the dead, than a chapel for a numerous congregation.

A minister of the English church, a man of fortune, resides and officiates at William Henry, and among the troops at St. Johns.

The Catholic have a large stone church, which is not far from the mansion of their minister. In no parts of this province do the Catholics appear negligent in providing for the institutions and support of religion.

This town is about forty miles below Montreal. As we came hither by water, we were constantly amused with a pleasant country. Villages are in view on both sides of the river. Many of them are decorated with spires made brilliant by a covering of tin.

For their better accommodation with water, the inhabitants build their houses near the banks of the river, and the farms are consequently narrow in front and their houses not far from each other. These are formed of stone or square timber; being made white with lime, the contrast between them and the verdure of the trees and fields, causes a picture-like scene. We in reality passed one continued village.

A decent, respectful affability of manners prevails among the French peasantry; the roads and houses being near the margin of the water, we frequently conversed with the inhabitants on the shore.

Our watermen were civil and attentive. We were often indulged by them with a French song, and with gratification saw their attention to their religion, as they passed the churches. These they visited at the hours of devotion.

Having spent some days at William Henry, we proceeded down the river; but having reached the center of the Lake of St. Peter,

a south wind caused a dangerous swell, and we landed at the river De Loup, from whence we took carriages and were conveyed to Three Rivers.

The islands formed at the mouth of the river Sorel, extend from William Henry to the Lake. They are flat, variegated by trees, cultivated fields and small farm houses. Our passage in different directions among these islands, and the width of the Lakes, deprived us of our former views of the country; but these were exchanged for objects equally amusing, as the islands afford a great variety.

The town called Three Rivers is built upon a rising ground. The front towards the river is generally a high steep bank of sand and gravel. It is the only place of consequence, as to trade, on the north side of the river St. Laurence between Montreal and Quebec. While the province was under the administration of the French, some superior civil and military officers resided at Three Rivers. A large parish church, a nunnery which is an hospital, and place for female education, are possessed by the Catholics. The college erected by the Jesuits is now a prison, and place for public offices. Its chapel is improved partly for civil courts and a congregation of Protestants of the English church. This union of religion and law under one roof, is uncommon. The chancel is circular, and converted into very commodious seats for judges, jurors, and other attendants upon judicial proceedings. On the south side of the same chapel is erected a decent pulpit, reading desk and pews.

This town enjoys some trade with the Indians, who often visit it with their furs, belts, and other manufactures. The soil of the neighbouring country is barren and sandy. About nine miles in its rear is a large settlement formed by a furnace, which is the chief factory for cast iron. From hence the whole northern country is furnished with that immense supply of stoves, so uni-

versally used in those provinces. European artists, distinguished for their ingenuity, are employed as superintendants and conductors of this extensive business. In every part, ability and enterprize are discovered, and a better regulated factory need not be sought for in North-America.

The mechanism of the extensive works, the mode in which water is conveyed to the various parts where it is wanted, cause great dispatch in business.

The town of Three Rivers obtained its name from its neighbourhood to the river, which has two islands at its mouth, as it enters the river St. Laurence, and this forms the appearance of three streams.

The central situation of this town, between the cities of Montreal and Quebec, has led many to project the erection of a college in it, for the instruction of young men.

An English clergyman and two Catholic ministers reside here upon handsome stipends raised by their respective communities.

Locations are made in the lands south of Three Rivers, on the opposite shore, and a communication between Canada and the States will shortly be opened from thence, by the way of the river Connecticut.

The road from the river De Loup to this place is good, and like the country already described, well settled and well cultivated. We passed the late cantonments of those called the Loyal corps, during the late war, and the guards on the point of the Lake of St. Peter, where the waters assume a narrow course, and become part of the river St. Laurence.

A new scene opened upon our arrival at Quebec, the key into the province by water, and the theatre of many military operations, where the members of two European nations have ruled, and the inhabitants of the States have distinguished themselves by their valor.

Unfavorable winds and the impediments of a tide, frequently detained us on our way to this city, as the waters flow up the river as far as Three Rivers. This left us to attend to its progress, and to regulate our voyage accordingly.

From Montreal to Quebec we have again found an almost continued village. Good accommodations by night and day, and easy conveyances by land and water, all at a moderate price.

Religion appears truly venerable, not only in its temples and other edifices, but in the hospitality, politeness, and genteel deportment of most of its prosessors. To the clergy and other gentlemen of rank and information we have been indebted for many civilities. At Cape Santa and Point-au-Tremble, we were politely entertained, while the winds and tide delayed our voyage. The first of these villages is made conspicuous at a considerable distance, by a large church adorned with five steeples—all covered with tin.

This temple stands on a rising ground, and was founded by three ladies of great estate. It is called the Church of the Three Sisters, in commemoration of this their piety. It ranks in size with the Cathedral of Quebec and the parish church of Montreal.

Point au-Tremble is eighteen miles from Quebec. The late suffragan or assistant bishop, called the coadjutor, resided in this parish. He was greatly esteemed by Lord Dorchester and the court at Quebec. Through the influence of this nobleman, that worthy prelate was advanced to the Episcopal chair. He attended Lord Dorchester on a voyage to England, and was formerly a Catholic missionary among the Indians at Penobscot, in the State of Massachusetts, and received a stipend from the general court there for those services. A specimen of policy or liberality at that time, which is to be applauded but not easily accounted for. This dignitary joined to a zealous attachment to his religious profession, the Christian gentleman, the friend of learning, and patron of useful

arts, and men of merit. He died in Quebec, and the curate of Longuile,* near Montreal, was elected to the same dignity.

The bishops of the Catholic church preserve the succession of episcopal power with great care, and no one is consecrated without the approbation of the bishop of Rome, and the governor of Canada.

Thus preserving the distinction of ecclesiastical powers, the rights of patronage, and the duties of allegiance, and removing jealousies and discontents on all sides.

One bishop only is necessary to deliver the sacerdotal power to another, and a suffragan is always elected upon the decease of either of the two, that the diocese may not be destitute of a superior. The other bishop resides with the clergy in the seminary of Quebec. His former palace is converted into land and other offices and its chapel into a court or parliament house. The clergy teach a number of young men in the seminary, and are the principal instructors through the province.

It is a commonplace remark that the clergy of the church of Rome wish to keep the people in ignorance. This charge has given offence in Canada. At the first settlement of this province, large reservations of lands were made for the promotion of learning, and commodious and excellent colleges were erected. These were under the superintendance of the society of Jesuits. Instructors were placed and every needful endowment and arrangement made for disseminating knowledge. But upon surrendering of the province to the British, after the conquest, these colleges were converted into barracks and prisons, both in Montreal and Quebec. The funds are appropriated to other uses after the decease of the longest liver of the fraternity.

All attempts to erect substitutes for these have been abortive. The nation of England has not made amends for the loss, and the

*Longueuil.

Catholics have been defeated and chagrined. The Anglo-Americans who abode by the British standard, and wished to provide for the education of their children in Canada have endeavoured to form academies and schools after the example of the States. The Catholic bishop has been consulted, and he gave his opinion without reserve, that the colleges and property of the Jesuits ought to be restored to their original uses in promoting knowledge; that they were amply adequate to every purpose. He was asked to give a statement of the present revenues of the clergy, with a hope that a fund might be raised from thence for the purpose. His answer was that the incomes of the clergy were barely sufficient for their necessities,—that these depended upon certain parts of the products of the country, which were frequently diminished by blast, drought, and unfruitful seasons,—that the clergy were constantly obliged to resign their dues to relieve the poor, and thus neglected exacting justice for themselves.

After deliberating on the subject the governor and the English party relinquished the design. Colleges are not erected. Young men are sent into England and the States for education. The clergy of the Romish church proceed to educate all who are placed under their care, and some Protestant schools are taught in the towns of Montreal, William Henry, Three Rivers and Quebec.

This last city is composed of two parts, called the Upper and Lower town. The latter is erected under a precipice, and upon the beach on the banks of the river. It is connected with the Upper town by a winding street, and a footway up winding stairs. In it are the public and private stores and wharves. The depth of the water, the height to which it rises, and the commodious beach formed during the ebb of the tide, afford many conveniences to facilitate business. One street of houses, with the above stores and wharves, compose the principal part of the Lower town.

The Upper town is built upon an eminence which commands the country and river. The fortifications are strong, the city is entered by gates, and must be reduced only by great military force, regular siege and persevering operations. Every apparatus and provision for its defence are prepared and in readiness, in great quantities. Surprize, stratagem, and starvation are scarcely practicable, especially when the rigors of winter are to be surmounted by assailants and besiegers.

Within the walls are the Chateau or Governor's house, all public offices, the churches, seminary, Jesuits and Recolletts colleges, and two nunneries.

The Chateau is a large stone building, with a commodious spot as a court yard, or place of parade in front towards the town. Joined to this is a large dining or banqueting hall. On the summit of an inaccessible precipice in front from this house and its gardens, we view the country east and south across the river, and the whole of the Lower town.

The most remarkable building in Quebec is the Cathedral church, which is large, and attended by a numerous congregation. It is well adorned at the east end near the altar, but doth not make the same splendid appearance with the parish church of Montreal.

The seminary and former college of the Jesuits are large. Elegant chapels are joined to each of them. The Recolletts college and chapel have been demolished by fire, and are in ruins. The nunneries are also large. One is a place of female education, the other is an hospital: A third is without the city, and an hospital. These institutions, the property of females,—the receptacle for the sick and wounded, are conducted with great order and economy. Human woes are alleviated by them in a manner that does honor to human nature and religion. They contain large apartments for sick men and sick women. They are the only alms houses in the province, and are supported from the property of the

nuns. These women are the nurses and attendants. Apothecaries' rooms, supplied with medicine are in each, superintended by a nun. This is her principal employment. The hospital rooms are connected with the chapels, and by the opening of folding doors the sick may attend the devotions. They are screened from public view by a curtain and lattice work. Great gravity and decorum are observed through the whole. On the side opposite to the apartments of the sick is the chapel of the nuns, opened and secured in the same manner. The main chapel is accessible to all visitors, as are the churches through the province. Such sacred respect for religion, and such integrity prevail, that the churches are open night and day. The hand of sacrilege has seldom deprived the temples of the smallest article. Contiguous to each of the colleges and nunneries are gardens which occupy a considerable part of Quebec. Many private gardens are also within the city. Perhaps no more ground is taken up in these than is necessary to preserve the health.

Fires have frequently ravaged the Upper and Lower town, and the suburbs.

The most memorable spot contiguous to Quebec, is Abraham's plain. This is an extensive flat ground about a mile in width, extending in a line with the river towards the south-west. Near the river the bank rises suddenly, and forms a precipice not easily to be ascended. On the north side this hill gradually descends to the river St. Charles. The neighbouring region then rises in a gentle slope, and we are entertained with a view of the pleasant country, farm houses, and villages, until the prospect is lost in the distant hills and the horizon. On this plain Wolfe fell. The spot is shewn, but it is not marked by any monument to distinguish it. He landed at a place now called Wolfe's cove, made by the river, covered by the circular form of the neighbouring height or precipice. He ascended by an hollow way, which nature had formed by a small rivulet caused by rains from the water collected on the plain.

Nature had thus prepared a landing place and a pass from the beach, which was covered from the view of the besieged and gave an opportunity to surprize the enemy within the walls.

The public road runs along this plain, and is decorated with gentlemen's country seats and fertile fields.

Beyond this cove is Powel place, the residence of the Protestant bishop. It is an elegant house, and the farm and gardens are in English style.

A large area in front, with irregular clusters of trees, a walk on the banks of the river, and the descent by steps, lead the visitor around a seat of the greatest distinction in the neighbourhood.

In surveying Abraham's plain, we were pointed to the places where Montgomery, Wooster and others quartered and carried on their military operations.

The country around Quebec exhibits many enchanting prospects. The villages and settlements across the St. Laurence, towards Point Levi and the States—the Isle of Orleans—the country towards the falls of Montmorency—Dorchester bridge—and the nunnery without the city, give beauty to extensive prospects. The falls of Montmorency, at the distance of seven miles, tempted us to a ride through the French villages and farms east of the city.

This admired prospect is made by a small river, which descends at least two hundred feet in one sheet of water. A bason below receives it, and it is conveyed from thence a small distance into the river St. Laurence. We beheld the beauties of this place from a summer house, which General Haldimand erected over the river, to which we descended by several flights of steps, made of wood by some ingenious artist. The summer house is really hung over the river, and the fall must be from the above height, whenever it gives way to the decays of time. The varied tinges of the rainbow, formed amidst the water and vapors in a clear

day,—the diminished stature of the fisherman below, and the ingenuity of the artist, afforded us much amusement.

This house is elegant, but not large. It is accommodated with all the offices needful for a place of retreat for an hour or a night. It is too costly for a peasant and man of business, and is not sufficiently commodious for the permanent residence of a gentleman of leisure, rank, or fortune. Much taste is displayed, and some considerable expence has been bestowed in decoration.

The Indian village of Lorette is visited by strangers, where intercourse with civilized nations, and the superintendence of the Catholic clergy, exhibited the descendants of the aboriginals of America in a well regulated settlement; pious, industrious, and moral.

A chapel, parson's house, and the usual institutions of this country for the benefit of its inhabitants, are found in this place also.

Referring particular remarks upon the customs, manners, and peculiarities of this country to the close of this work, we proceed to other parts of the provinces.

Upon leaving Quebec we revisited some of the country through which we passed on our way thither. We found the river Sorel to be much narrower than the St. Laurence, and the margin equally well filled and decorated with handsome villages, through a fertile country. An uniformity of fashion prevails in their churches and houses—but the variety of views is great. The narrowness of the river presented objects on each side, as we progressed slowly against the stream.

Bellevieu and the neighbouring mountain exhibit an alluring, noble prospect. This mountain rises in a conical form, and is conspicuous at a great distance. Apple and other fruit trees flourish upon it, and it is not inhabited except in a few places.

Chamblee Bason at the head of navigation, is about one mile across. Its form is circular and its banks inhabited. A church and village on one side, and an old stone fortification on the other, and the entering of the waters from Lake Champlain, down the rapids, give variety to the objects which engrossed our attention. The fort is square, inclosing a barrack, and guarding the water conveyance and entrance by land.

The rapids are seldom passed except in the spring, and some have projected a mode of clearing out the rocks. Time will, by some work of art, open an easy water communication between the river and lake.

Very costly and excellent mills are erected on the side of these rapids. The carrying place from hence to St. Johns is about eight miles. The road is good, boats are often taken across, and but little interruption to travellers takes place between Lake Champlain and Quebec.

Lower Canada appears upon examination to enjoy as many of the blessings of life, as are needful to make man happy. The government is mild and energetic. The ancient French code, and the present system of English laws, are conducted in such a mode as to secure the citizens at large in every valuable right. A representation, by the election of the people in a provincial legislature, and the privilege of trial by jury, are established by the constitution.

The civil and military list are maintained by the British nation, and the people pay few or no taxes to defray the expenses of government. Salaries are paid to the English clergy, and to some of the Catholic and Presbyterian ministers, by the crown.

The militia are officered by men elected from among themselves, and their respective companies have alarm posts assigned, and the officer's residence is marked by a pole with an evergreen top. In this mode, in all cases of distress and danger, a resort is immediately pointed out for the inhabitant and stranger.

To the south-east of this place near the States, settlements are rapidly forming within the province. The settlers are chiefly from the loyalists of the late army, and emigrants from New-England. Already has considerable land been improved and brought into cultivation, and as these extend along the lines, and advance toward the river St. Laurence, they will greatly increase the prosperity of this province.

The hardy manners and industry, the successful mode of clearing lands, in which the northern colonists excel, give them many advantages. They cultivate the older farms, through the ancient settlements, among the French inhabitants better, and landholders in general prefer such upon their estates.

This province affords as many of the real enjoyments of life, and the people are as happy, peaceable, and prosperous as in any part of North America. Few conquered countries have been better protected or governed. Religion, while it restrains the people within the bounds of morality, has a large share in teaching them to obey government. The principles of liberty and religion, which have placed all power in the hands of the people, and destroyed many of the laws and customs of countries governed by absolute monarchs and nobles and clergy with superior powers, are gradually extending. This in consequence of the use and administration of the English laws and their opinions, customs, manners and religion.

The monastic orders decrease gradually and few offer themselves for admission into the nunneries. The order of Friars and Jesuits were permitted to enjoy their estates at the conquest, but to enrol no more in their fraternities. These orders are therefore almost extinct.

An order called the Grey nuns, are school mistresses, who instruct the girls only in the French and Indian villages. They are not confined to the cloister, and are very attentive to their pupils

whom they early initiate into an acquaintance with the catechisms, smaller rituals and the principles of religion. They have maid-servants, who attend their domestic concerns, and the institutions may be considered as well regulated boarding schools. Females who perform the more laborious part of the economy of the nunneries, are called Lay Sisters, and have not taken the vow of single life.

Protestantism has made but little progress. The universal toleration which is established by law,—the peaceable temper of the governors of the Catholic church,—and the civil and military characters at the head of the province, have preserved general harmony.

The English bishop in Quebec is a gentleman of great learning, eminently qualified for his office. His moderation and discretion are very acceptable to all parties. So little zeal for proselyting from the Catholics has prevailed, that more have joined these from the Protestants than have been converts to the English church or the Presbyterians.

Although a bishop, priest, and deacon officiated in Quebec, yet an English church has not been erected for the use of the English congregation, and divine service is celebrated in a Catholic chapel. The politeness and hospitality of the clergy were displayed in a manner which demands our highest acknowledgments of gratitude.

Our very genteel reception by the assistant bishop of the Catholic church, opened a source for much information. We found him easy of access, affable, and dignified in his manners. He also performed the duties of a parish priest and received a reward not superior to most of that order. He frequently administered medicine to the sick, having been called in his missions to study the healing art.

By his letter we became acquainted with the bishop of Quebec,

a much esteemed ecclesiastic. In Quebec we met these dignitaries together at the seminary, and dined with the former at the Chief Justice's, in company with three of the clergy of France, gentlemen of distinguished rank, learning and abilities.

The intercourse among all descriptions of the heads of departments and communities is such as displays great order and confidence among each other, with a happy effect upon the people and subordinate stations.

The common habit of a bishop is a purple stuff, with a velvet collar and cuffs. A gold cross about three inches long is worn around his neck, and a broad silk sash with gold tassels at the ends around his waist. This dress is fitted to the body but spreads in the skirt, reaching to the feet. It is closed from the neck to the bottom with a large number of buttons. The habit of the inferior clergy is black, but is similar in its fashion.

On our return from Quebec we found the bishop at Point-au-Tremble, celebrating the anniversary of his consecration, attended by the head of the Recolletts, three of the clergy from France, and some of the parish clergy from the city and neighbourhood. Perfect ease prevailed among all. Towards the evening the bishop accompanied us to the banks of the river, attended by the head of the Recolletts, a gentleman far advanced in life, but retaining a fund of vivacity and a sprightly fancy and humour, which make his company acceptable in all circles.

When the sun was near setting the parish bell rung, and the company taking off their hats, conversation was suspended and devotion engrossed a few minutes. This appeared to be a signal for presenting devout thanksgivings to the Father of mercies, and is observed accordingly by the whole parish and country.

In the chapel a body of Indian men, women, and children were upon their knees, totally absorbed in presenting their evening, adorations. We passed them, apparently without being noticed,

and as far as external deportment authorized us to judge of the employment of the heart, no supplicants could be more sincerely devout. They were part of a tribe who were upon a visit to the bishop their former priest, and were treated with great tenderness and kindness by himself and his family.

The weather was pleasant and we had seen them in their encampment near the margin of the river. They had made their voyage in a birch canoe, which was now their shelter from the sun. The women were busy in manufacturing articles for sale in birch bark, which they decorate with the porcupine's quill. Diligence and innocence marked their demeanor. These temporary defences by their canoes are made more convenient, by the birch bark which they carry with them; which answers as a floor to sleep upon, or as tents to ward off the wind and rain. The birch canoes are made of the bark of that tree and are of different dimensions. Those used in the North-western trade are large. They are constructed for expeditious sailing,—are light, and easily conveyed over portages or carrying places. Great attention must be paid to the motion at entering or while within them, as the smallest accident will overturn them if this is not observed. When they are properly loaded and ballasted, they are safe and pass dangerous rapids without difficulty or damage.

While the Canadian men have not generally the benefits of schools, and want colleges and instructors, the women are well educated in city and country nunneries. The Ursuline nuns teach in the cities and towns, and the Grey nuns in the country.

The country nunneries are large well built houses, with gardens and needful court yards for safety, exercise and ornament. One of these is to be found in every village. Girls from a distance are received as boarders, and the village girls as day scholars.— They retire at regular hours and are removed at the pleasure of parents. Being contiguous to the chapel of the neighbourhood,

all attend devotions morning and evening. The effect is pleasing, as the women obtain good educations in reading, writing, and many of the useful and ornamental branches of industry which are peculiar to the sex.

Religion is venerated in every quarter—Its temple, its humane, and benevolent institutions—its monuments and memorandums in cities and countries are numerous. Historic paintings and pictures cover the walls, and the crosses by the way constantly lead to mind to devout reflections. It would be foreign from the design of this work to enter upon a detail of the peculiarities in the opinions and rites of the Catholic church, which we call superstitious. Many ingenious arguments are given for their faith and institutions. Protestants when they stripped the churches of historic Scripture paintings, deprived themselves not only of the rich productions of eminent artists, but of valuable means for instruction. The animated canvas in Catholic countries, gives us more just and lively ideas of the Nativity, Resurrection, and Ascension of our Lord, than can be afforded by the tongue or pen of the learned, nay, than by the language of Scripture itself. That the painter has given us the scene in reality is not pretended, but as exact a representation of it as human ingenuity can devise. To this custom of decorating churches it is to be attributed, that Italy produced so many eminent painters, and became a school for men of that profession, The charge of idolatry has been carried in the opinion of sober Protestants, beyond all bounds of decency. The representation of the person or event is preserved to instruct and solemnize. The most powerful arguments are used to deter the people from praying to images or pictures.

While candor and charity lead us not to censure or condemn what we are not thoroughly acquainted with, we should guard against those violences and convulsions which would make a prey of professors of religion of any kind to gratify spleen, bigotry, avarice, or any hateful passion. Reformation is to be effected by wisdom, gentleness, patience and more exemplary piety.

Travelling in this province is easy and expeditious. A public mail-stage runs from St. Johns to Quebec. A calescha, a species of chaise or chair drawn by one horse, is used by all classes of citizens. These are to be had at most of the peasants' houses, and obtained at pleasure in the cities. For a moderate price travellers are conveyed in them sixty miles a day—As the driver passes the churches and crosses, he checks the speed of the horses and stops for a minute, and taking off his hat repeats a small prayer, and replaces it upon his head and drives on. Some have profanely resisted and ridiculed this practice; but to be conducted as a stranger by attendants who constantly pay their homage to the Creator and Preserver of men, must console every considerate mind. It is more commendable to encourage such devotions, than to interrupt them and give needless offence.

Water conveyances in small and large vessels are also constant between the cities of Montreal and Quebec. Whenever wind or tide detained us contrary to our inclination, we found ready transportation by the peasants on the land.

Water voyages are peculiarly entertaining: The expedition and convenience by which they are conducted lead many to prefer this mode. The canoes and flat bottomed boats pass safely and are managed with dexterity. To the orderly and respectful deportment of the boatmen in general, they joined a scrupulous demeanor as they passed the churches and monuments of religion. The watermen constantly amused us with their singing in a measure which is harmonious, and animates them to greater dexterity and expedition.

The foregoing describes a summer's visit and tour. A winter is scarcely less pleasant. The country is then covered with snow —the waters congealed, and pleasure and business create an active season. The roads are good. Fat horses and good sleighs, called carioles, are plenty. Dressed in fur and prepared for the climate,

the cold and storm makes but little impression. They cause but little complaint by either night or day, and the houses being heated by stoves a temperature is formed to that degree which causes flowers to appear in full bloom, and citron trees are to be found which have not been injured by frost for many years.

With a warm dress, a buffaloe skin over our feet and lap, a fur cap, muff, mittens and buskins lined with fur, we visited the village of the Algonquin and Iroquois Indians, about forty miles from Montreal—This is the residence of the descendants and remnant of two tribes, who dwell in two streets or small cantonments in houses formed of hewn timber closed with lime. The distance between these cantonments is but a few rods. In each is a small chapel of a regular form, about fifteen feet square, These edifices are frequent in these provinces and they are improved in the Catholic processions, in villages, as a substitute for large churches in the cities. Certain solemnities are attended in them on public festivals.

The Indians appear to be totally converted to Christianity, and reduced to order under the government. No attendants upon religious worship can be more punctual or reverential, and the singing of their women is soft and enchanting. The large chapel is decorated with a number of excellent historic representations taken from sacred Scripture.—The altar, vestry room, vestments of the priests, and the furniture at large used in this temple, are exceeded by few of the French churches.

The Indians do not confine their devotions to the public assembling in the church, but are punctual in their morning and evening ejaculations before and after their meals, and in all cases of difficulty and danger.

After the season of hunting expires, these two tribes return to their village. One of them permits the women and children to attend them into the forest:—in the other, the women abide at

home. In summer the land is cultivated, and bread and many other necessaries raised for their consumption during the year. They have horses and other cattle, and vehicles for winter travelling. The women are diligent in their domestic concerns, and manufacture belts, mockasons, and various parts of the clothing of their families. Furs and skins are dressed by these prople, and their whole time appears to be industriously employed in the manufactures peculiar to themselves. A large surplus is sold to the merchants in this village and Montreal. Traders are established in all these settlements, who enjoy a lucrative traffic and possess the confidence of the Indians.

The felicity and prosperity which prevail afford strong arguments in support of the policy of both the French and English governments, and the good effect of the Catholic religion. These tribes are useful auxiliaries in all confusions with the western tribes, and are employed as ambassadors and runners.

About forty miles above this settlement, plantations are forming on the Ottawais river into a region but little known until late years. A large country is now opening by water upon this river, which will be the principal channel of communication with the north-western country. The neighbourhood of this territory to Montreal, and the easy communication by water to every part of the provinces, make it very valuable.

At the mouth of this river is the Lake of the two mountains, known by its vicinity to two high hills, which are to be seen at a considerable distance. Many fertile islands and small streams are connected with this Lake and the river.

Opposite to this Indian village is a French settlement, to which we passed thro' an avenue of evergreens of about twelve feet in height, placed in the ice in regular order, equidistant from each other. This is a common practice, and very necessary, where roads are exposed to be destroyed by new snows, or the traveller may lose his way in a storm.

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A stone fortification formerly defended the entrance into the Lake and river at this place, and some of its remains are to be seen, contiguous to the chapel and parish house. These are erected on a point of land where commanding views present in every direction. Time may make this a place of importance, and a large city may be formed where the natives have resided unmolested for many years. A road is opened from Montreal in the rear, and a winter journey is made across the islands and frozen waters in front.

The customs and manners of the Indians have been very generally and accurately described by those who first visited them, in what we call their rude and savage state. An intercourse with those who have emigrated from Europe, has changed the scene in some degree among the tribes in Canada. They have assumed the short surtout which is generally used by the peasantry. The children are nursed upon a board, and the blanket is retained by men, women, and children, as the outer garment in rain or cold. The Indian stocking and mockasins, are well adapted to the climate. The French peasants wear a shoe of tanned leather, constructed in the same form.

The French government early countenanced matrimonial alliances with the natives, and a great similarity of features and complexion appear in all parts of the country through which we have passed. This affinity is evident in both the French and Indian settlements, and men and women of these respective tribes and nations live happily together in domestic and matrimonial state. Their progeny marry together, as children of one common family. Was this virtuous and rational matrimonial alliance encouraged by the European emigrants into the American regions north and south, many confusions and outrages would be prevented.

From this village we passed through French settlements into the upper province, and the townships possessed by the late Loyal corps and the adventurers from Europe and the States. People



of every language and nation have come hither and formed prospering colonies. Heaven has blessed their labors, industry and enterprize. Few have experienced greater success. The nation of England has fostered them with great care, and bestowed rations of provisions, clothing, materials for house building, husbandry tools, and continued the pay of the late officers and soldiers for three years. Each of the emigrants also had a quantity of land bestowed upon them.

In return for this bounty, the nation vends her manufactures, and must enjoy a lucrative commerce with countries that are increasing in wealth and numbers, whose consumption of foreign commodities will increase in proportion also. The advantages to the nation from this justice, policy, and mode of colonizing will be immense. The country is fertile, well timbered and watered. Commodious locks are formed near the rapids, which facilitate transportation. The winter is peculiarly favorable for conveying the produce of the country and commodities of the merchant to market, as the roads are good, the country flat, and waters frozen.

At St. Regis on the south side of the river a number of Indians reside in a small town, built of hewn timber, who are occupied in hunting, fishing, farming, and the manufactures of their tribes. The most distinguished object on this place is a very large Catholic church, inferior to few in size, which has been lately built by the Indians themselves, with a small assistance from the clergy and some gentlemen of rank and fortune. Men, women, and children in this village assisted the masons and carpenters in procuring timber, stone, and lime and in every possible part of the labour.

It is a work which does honour to their zeal, and is an ornament to a very pleasant country, contiguous to fertile islands, and the waters of the river St. Laurence. Mountains towards the southwest are seen, which are in the State of New York, and neighborhood of Lake Champlain. Roads from hence, and from an

American plantation, making on the side of the States opposite Johnstown, or Oswegatche, will expedite the communication with Albany and New-York, and shortens the present route more than one hundred miles. The country is well calculated for this purpose.

The British nation pay a salary to the Catholic minister of St. Regis, and a Presbyterian minister on the opposite shore. At Cornwall and Johnstown, they are about to erect and maintain churches and academies, and a sum is assigned for the purpose.

Kingston is a considerable town in the Upper province. It is erected near the old fort, called Frontinac, part of which remains with the barracks, and are improved by the garrison which is stationed there. Many large houses, stores, and some convenient wharves are built near the river or lake. Being at the extremity of that inland sea called the Lake Ontario, and near the outlet from thence which forms the river St. Laurence, this must be a town of considerable importance. A number of large vessels are constantly passing from hence in every direction across the Lake, and boats are arriving to, and passing from hence and Montreal. The country is clearing and cultivating. Numerous bays and rivers are connected with the Lake, and wealth must reward the industry of a busy, enterprising people. Wheat, lumber, cattle, horses, and pot-ashes will compose the principal exports. The constant influx of inhabitants will for a long time, consume the produce of the farmer, and spare the trouble of exportation. With the numbers that have entered these regions, government has been established, similar in its form to the constitution of England and the other royal governments. The civil, military, and ecclesiastical officers are chiefly supported by the crown, and the Legislature meets on the other side of the Lake.

An English church is erected, and a missionary, who is the bishop's commissary, is inducted into the cure. He visits the Mohawk Indians, and has translated the Gospels and liturgy into that language.

The object of the British nation is to people and cultivate this country, and to make it as perfect a part of the Empire as possible. Dreading revolutions, they are cautious in receiving republicans from the States, and wish to encourage husbandmen and labourers only. Clergymen, lawyers, physicians, and schoolmasters from the States are not the first characters who would be fostered. Many congregations would have been formed, and schools opened, if the policy in this particular had been different.

An extensive field is opened for men of letters in every profession. Destitute of colleges, academies, and schools, and confiding in the qualifications of the clergy ordained by the bishops in the States, Governor Simcoe wished to have introduced such, but an act of the British parliament disconcerted his design.

When the bishops of England were permitted to consecrate bishops for the States, a clause was inserted in the act passed by Parliament for the purpose, that nothing therein contained should enable such "bishops or clergymen ordained by them, to exercise their function within the limits of the nation." This act was drawn by the archbishop of Canterbury, and has been obstinately adhered to.

While the States are open to the clergy from England, and some since the peace and the above law have been received into our parishes, the clergy born and ordained in the States are excluded from the parishes in the provinces.

Some of the latter, by reason of our popular elections, have given way to these emigrants from Europe, to the distress of these American clergymen and not for the greater good of our flocks. By means of this law, these new countries have been destitute of ministers, and lament their exposure to the inroads of infidelity and enthusiasm.

Wise dignitaries and able statesmen on both sides of the At-

lantic; Christian ministers and professors agree that the law is illiberal, un-Christian and unequal. Much complaint and clamour have arisen, but no remedy has been provided. In the provinces, they say that clergymen from Europe are not acquainted sufficiently with the custom, manners, and habits of Americans, to serve with them successfully. In the States, it is agreed that this law, and our unrestrained mode of receiving clergymen from the British nation, is not consonant with the opinions of our country as to aliens, and the practice of the Europeans, in their respective countries, who retain all places of influence, honor, and profit in the hands of their own sons and citizens. The unity of the Christian church, in heart, faith and devotion, is too far sacrificed to State policy and Ecclesiastical establishments. This law has certainly defeated the extending of religion and learning in the provinces.

All the attornies in this province have not been regularly bred to the profession. Many are admitted to the bar because they have been adherents to the government, and reside in particular neighbourhoods where a practitioner is wanted. The order of attornies is not numerous in Canada. Men of distinguished talents and acquirements are in the profession, and justice is well admintered. Controversies among the Catholics are generally adjusted by the clergy, and litigations are not frequent. Pension, place, and favor are reserved for the English and Scotch adventurers, and the sons of Oxford and Cambridge.

A taste for literature, and desire after mental and other improvements is prevalent, and science will extend its happy effects among these new settlements.

Mechanics of every kind are established. Ship builders and mill-wrights have produced excellent specimens of their abilities. Most of the mills which are erected upon the larger streams and mill seats are the labors of ingenuity, and bring profit to the proprietors.

A water voyage through these provinces from Kingston to Montreal is enchanting and entertaining,—cheap and expeditious —while much delay and many impediments put the patience to the proof, in attempts to pass into the country against the stream.

New objects present every moment to draw the attention. The river,—the broader waters of the Lake of St. Francis—the rapids and islands, are full of novelty.

Among the first which attract notice, is a cluster called the Thousand Islands, where at least that number are collected together, not far from Lake Ontario, of various forms and sizes. Sometimes they are exhibited in a regular line, and then surround us, where to a stranger, no certain outlet appears. These islands are not inhabited except by birds and wild animals. Fish are taken in abundance in most of the northern waters.

The rapids at the outlet of the Lake of St. Francis,—below the Cedars,—and at the cascade, are entertaining to the eye, but cause the heart to tremble. These the Indians encounter without damage or much anxiety: No adventure appears to be more hazardous; but the skillful Indian navigator conducted us safely through all. To the Catholic priests we were indebted for recommending such for boatmen, as were temperate and faithful. Upon our parting with our attendants, they generally asked whether we were satisfied, and they had fulfilled their engagements? This is a practice among both French and Indians, and renders travelling more pleasant, where such persons may be called to respond for insolence or dishonesty, and by habit are taught to be decent and respectful to employers. In no instance did one of those who escorted us offend by their neglect, indolence, impertinent language or intoxication: And on our return we were frequently asked whether our attendants had done their duty. All travellers would wish that similar care was universal.

The mutual attachment of the clergy and their Indian parish-

ioners to each other, appears to be the result of those reciprocal good offices, which bind generous souls together, and of that particular attention which is paid to the natives. Instances of this kind are often repeated. A priest, who had lived a long time among the Indians, was about to be removed to another cure—Intelligence of this reached the Indians, who sent an aged chief to him as a messenger. Having delivered his errand, and used many arguments to dissuade him from removing, he asked for an ancient, valuable belt, which had been deposited with the priest for safe custody, and was the testimonial of an alliance between the natives and the administration of that time. When the belt was delivered, the chief examining and recognizing it, spread it around the feet of the priest, and asked him whether he could walk away from the affection and bonds of union which that belt reminded him of? The belt was restored to its cabinet, the priest remained, and the Indians were satisfied.

In the church at Kingston we saw an Indian woman, who sat in an honorable place among the English. She appeared very devout during divine service, and very attentive to the sermon. She was the relict of the late Sir William Johnson, superintendant of Indian affairs in the then province of New-York, and mother of several children by him, who are married to Englishmen, and provided for by the crown. She is the sister to the celebrated Col. Brant, and has always been a faithful and useful friend in Indian affairs, while she resided in Johnson Hall, and since her removal to Upper Canada.

When Indian embassies arrived, she was sent for, dined at Governor Simcoe's and was treated with respect by himself, his lady, and family. When treaties or purchases were about to be made at Johnson Hall, she has often persuaded the obstinate chiefs into a compliance with the proposals for peace, or sale of lands. She retains the habit of her country women, and is a Protestant. During the life of Sir William, she was attended with splendor and

respect, and since the war receives a pension and compensation for losses, for herself and her children.

Soon after the arrival of the Protestant bishop, he visited the diocese, and on his way accidentally passed a party of Indians, who recognized their former missionary, the present minister of Kingston, in company with the bishop, and followed them to the inn where they halted. The bishop's attention was drawn to the affectionate meeting of the Indians and their old friend. This led the Indians to ask who the bishop was? Being informed that he was the spiritual guide, who was sent by the Great Father across the water to preach the Gospel and regulate the concerns of religion, they solicited the privilege of making a speech to him, which was done accordingly through the interpreter, in which they expressed their joy and gratitude to God and their earthly guides who led him to this undertaking. The bishop in return addressed them, and agreeable impressions were made on all sides, by so sudden and unexpected an interview.

The clergy of Montreal are proprietors of an estate near the Algonquin and Iroquois towns, and maintain the incumbent, whom we found to be a sensible, polite, affable and hospitable man. His assistant was an accomplished young Ecclesiastic, who had escaped from France, since the present wars, and was one of the priests in Lyons. He retreated by the way of Geneva into England, and since his arrival in Canada has devoted himself as a missionary to the service of the Indians. He has learned their language, and constantly attends the duties of his function with great punctuality. Gratitude to his Almighty deliverer appears to have dictated this measure. He was a youth of good talents and education, adorned with many elegant endowments, acquired amongst the literati of a polished city, in a once civilized country. His parents were cast into prison, and probably fell a sacrifice to Jacobinism and Robespierre.

The clergy of the church of Rome are early inspired with an ardent desire to be sent on distant missions, and to propagate the gospel in every part of the world. They sacrifice ease and affluence for those employments, with great zeal and alacrity. From hence it is that they have planted Christianity in the most distant parts of the globe. From their consequent successful labors, and greater experience, they are in due time advanced to the station of bishops and superiors.

They are appointed to their various errands by the bishop of the diocese, and removed at his discretion, and upon the decease of a parish priest another is immediately placed in the cure. If his administration is not acceptable, he is made the minister of some other place.

Discords seldom break out with virulence between the clergy and their parishioners, and great reverence is paid to the priesthood as an office of divine appointment. Aaron when consecrated to the priesthood in the church of Israel, was not more revered than the Catholic priests are in all public performances.

Their robes are made in imitation of those used by the Jewish priests, and in commemoration of the garments worn by the Saviour of men. Different prayers are connected with these vestments, and used at the time of putting them on or taking them off.

So minutely are these devotions, and the instruction or moral connected with them attended to, that the glove or slipper, used at a bishop's consecration, are not put on without praying that the person about to be elevated may be blessed, as Jacob was blessed by his father, when he put on the hairy gloves, and that his feet may be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Politeness, prudence, liberality, and discretion lead the clergy of Canada not to introduce the subject of religion precipitately, before men of other persuasions. They enter upon such themes with

caution and gravity, carefully abstaining from them in public places, which are not devoted to religion.

Instances are often repeated of their respect to the British government. When Prince William Henry was publicly received in Montreal, many of the clergy of the church of Rome were present, and paid him the respect of kneeling according to the ancient customs of Europe. The prince, however, politely requested them to dispense with that ceremony, and was obeyed.

The Protestant bishop, Doctor Mountain, arrived with the title given him in England of bishop of Quebec. This was the title also of the superior in the Catholic church, who immediately directed his clergy to address him in future, by his surname. Such cordiality is observed, that when the late superintending bishop of the provinces (Bishop Inglis) visited Canada, he called upon the Catholic clergy, and was received by them with great respect. Upon leaving the province he lamented the desolate state of the English church, and in a farewell sermon preached in Quebec, caused the governor-general to wipe the tear from his eye.

The feasts, fasts, and different ceremonies and processions of the Catholic church are yet observed; except that by a late ordinance, the prople are not compelled to attend all those which are appointed in the calendar. This dispensation was obtained through the influence of the English and Protestant party; but it has not prevented the accustomed observance of those seasons on the part of the people.

The festival of Corpus Christi, in commemoration of the institution of the sacrament of the Lord's-Supper, is observed as an high day in mid-summer, and a sermon is preached on Transubstantiation. The great dignity of the holy Eucharist, which is daily celebrated, led the Catholic church to set apart one day in the year, in which the prayers, selected scriptures, and sermons direct the attention more particularly to that ordinance. They are

not silent on the theme at other times. On that day the streets are adorned with branches from the trees, and processions pass from the churches. The priests appear also in their most splendid robes.

A gentleman in Quebec, being in company with the late worthy Chief Justice Smith, who was born and educated in New York and lived and died a Presbyterian, called these processions "fooleries." The Chief Justice with his accustomed mildness and good sense, requested the gentleman to recollect what he had said, and to consider when these things called 'fooleries' were adopted, and what was their design. That they originated at a time when Christians lived among heathens, whose false worship was full of ostentation and splendor; that the Christian processions were exhibited in superior magnificence, and that some duty of piety and morality, or some important fact in the gospel history and the life of our Lord, was commemorated in every part; that our candor and moderation were therefore to be exhibited, when we commented upon the usages of the Catholic church. The Chief Justice at the same time used the most respectful language concerning the wisdom and piety of the English church, and extolled the moderation and candor of the present bench of bishops in England. What ever specimens of bigotry his history of New-York, and other writings might formerly be supposed to exhibit, his demeanor in Canada appears to have been that of a friend to universal toleration, liberty, and forbearance, among professors of every kind. Had he lived to have inspected his history of New-York, it would not have appeared in it present form. Certain things there recorded have been investigated, and ought to be corrected, because they are contrary to known facts.

The houses of Canada are well calculated for the purposes of all seasons. Those of the rich have generally an half story beneath the surface of the earth, a second story is of a good height, and a third is formed in the roof, which is steep, that the snow may

not remain long upon it. This middle story is divided into three large rooms in front, and three smaller, with a kitchen in the rear.

Two stoves and the kitchen fire warm these apartments in such a manner that the inner doors are open night and day, during the coldest weather. A large stove is usually placed in the center of one of these rooms, which is at the entrance and end. This stove guards the other parts of the house from the intrusions of frost. The walls of the houses are thick, as stone and lime are plenty.

The windows are closed by folding sashes, hung upon hinges, which open the whole in case of necessity, in summer.

The art of improving the benefits of the heat communicated by the stoves, consists chiefly, in making the pipes very large, of a diameter of seven and eight inches. In the court-house of Quebec, a stove is fixed with three perpendicular pipes, which communicate with each other. After the smoke has passed through these, it is conveyed across the hall. Fires have so frequently taken place, that a law now prevents the pipes from being conveyed out of the houses, except through a chimney.

Stoves are never used in the Catholic churches, and a portable wood or tin stove is seldom seen. The English congregations in Quebec, Montreal, William Henry, Three Rivers, and Kingston have stoves in their chapels.

Protestant zeal is perhaps not more cold than Catholic; but after the celebration of Mass, Catholics may retire and not wait for the sermon. Protestants who are such advocates for preaching as to give up praying in public, rather than part with the sermon, cannot endure the cold until the whole is ended, and therefore, provide for the warming of their churches. But another reason is, that stoves would deface the paintings and ornaments of the church, and expose these costly edifices to be destroyed by fire.

The mild and affable administration of Lord Dorchester made him very dear to the people of Canada, and they take pleasure in repeating anecdotes of his agreeable intercourse with all orders. The head of the Recolletts was a gentleman far advanced in years. He retained great vivacity and a sprightly humour and fancy, which rendered his company very acceptable in all circles. The severe weather increasing at the beginning of winter, Lord Dorchester informed this father, who had the direction of the church in which the English congregation assembled, that it was time to place the stove in the chapel, as Lady Dorchester had complained that the cold was disagreeable on the preceding Sunday. "I hoped, my Lord," replied the father, "that her ladyship's devotions would have kept her warm this winter."

The common vehicle for conveying passengers in winter, is called a cariole, and is constructed in a commodious form. It imitates a chair or chaise without a top, and is not unlike a calesche or summer vehicle. The sled or runners which support the cariole are made of plank, and elevate the machine about eight inches. In front is a seat for the driver, and the whole is defended bv a work which rises as a guard against the snow which is collected by the machine, and impedes the progress of the horse. Another use of this invention is, to enable the driver more readily to raise the cariole over such obstructions. This form adapts it for making new roads in snow over which it slides, leaving a smooth track, while the snow is made more compact. An inconvenience soon takes place in roads which are constantly used. The snow collecting in front, and the machine being lifted over it, by the driver or the strength of the horse, it soon imitates waves, and the motion becomes very uneasy.

Attempts have been made to lead the peasantry to adopt some improvement in their carioles, in order to remedy this, but without success.

Carioles used by gentlemen of fortune, are constructed and

decorated at considerable expence. They are light, airy, and elegant. The fur blankets used in them, and the fur which is worn by the proprietors, exhibit great taste and wealth.

The horses are not harnessed by the side of each other, but draw in a line. This creates an impediment to those who pass to and from the States, and Canada in winter. The roads of neither are adapted to the vehicles used and the mode, in which horses draw them, in the other.

A luxury is enjoyed very generally in ice, during the summer, which is easily preserved in houses of a very simple contruction. These are small cellars, about twelve feet square, formed in gardens, or on the north side of their houses. They are secured by hewn timber instead of stone, and covered with plank or slabs, which are supported by a pole which rests on two standards. Upon these planks earth is cast, and the whole covered with green sods. Small bushes, such as the rose and goose-berry, are set in this layer of earth, and trees are planted around the whole to increase the shade. The ice is taken in winter from the lakes and rivers, and cast into these houses, where it is broken into as small pieces as possible, and water poured in, which is congealed by the frost, and forms a solid mass.

To Protestants the peculiarities of the Catholic religion afford much amusement. Burials are attended in the churches with great pomp. During the celebration of the religious offices, the corpse is placed upon a stage, which is ascended by steps and surrounded by candles. These stages are painted black and adorned with representations of sculls and bones. Aromatic gums are burned in censers in honor of the dead, and to prevent infection or offence from putridity.

Crosses stand in the burial places as well as in the roads. Indeed they are seen in every direction through the country in places of sepulture. Where casualties, disasters, or deliverances have

taken place, these are fixed as monuments. They generally call the mind to devout ejaculations. In the grave yard in Montreal, are several marble monuments, made with urns standing upon pedestals, and surrounded by iron rails.

The monuments of religion reared for the dead are decent, but those for the benefit of the living must engross the unavoidable attention of travellers. Such have been already mentioned, in the description of the churches, colleges and monasteries. The uncommon privilege we were indulged with, in visiting three nunneries, will afford an opportunity to gratify the curiosity of such as have not travelled into Catholic countries.

Admittance into these is gained with great difficulty, only by the permit of the superior of the church, or his vicar in the neighbourhood. Great neatness, order, convenience, and industry are exhibited in all of them. The apartments are well finished and furnished, and the walls are decorated with paintings and pictures, drawn from historic events recorded in sacred Scripture. Portraits of the foundresses of the nunneries, and of the most pious nuns who have died in these institutions, are seen in their parlours; carvings of the Crucifixion, as large as life, are also frequent.

The cells of the nuns are small chambers, about twelve feet square, containing a bed for a single person, a bureau for clothing, a desk where devotions are attended, and two chairs. A number of these chambers, with a window in each, and furnished in the same manner, occupy the center of the buildings.

The habit of the Ursulines is black, and that of the order of St. Joseph is white. They are uniform in fashion and quality, and are not expensive, while no emulation in dress can take place. The veil is black gauze, and is placed before the face in their devotions, in imitation of the angels. The nuns eat at one common table, and during their meals a total silence is observed, while they attend to one who reads aloud from a small pulpit built for

the purpose. The Lady Abbess instructs them in their religious duties every morning, and this employment, with their devotions, takes up an hour. She has an assistant, who presides in her absence, and a separate desk or pew is built for them, which is decorated with many ingenious carvings and representations of angels. Hospital rooms are also devoted to the sole uses of the sick nuns, that they may be attended more conveniently, and their mansion be preserved from infectious disorders. Persons of considerable distinction are taken to the nunneries when sick, and the late bishop died in one in Quebec. In that within the city we saw a citizen of Vermont, who was wounded as he was conveying a raft down the river St. Laurence. No patient need be better attended by the physicians or nuns; and this was done *gratis*.

A gravity or sedateness marks the countenances of the nuns, which some have construed into the gloom of discontent. It appears to be no more than the effect of a constant reserve, which is observable among many other sects of Christians, increased by the singular dress of the head, which covers the forehead, and conceals part of the face. They appeared sufficiently cheerful, and expresed the most perfect attachment to their mode of living and retirement. One of them observed, that twenty years was but as one day, so pleasantly did time pass with them. She was born and educated in Boston, in Massachusetts.

After so circumstantial a detail of the state of these countries, and its religions and policy, it may not be amiss to remark that it cannot be surprising that the natives who receive the benefit of these regulations, who are constantly amongst them, and are early taught their nature and design, should be converts to Christianity, and live in peace and friendship with the dependants from the Europeans.

The Indians are numerous in the trading towns, after the season of hunting and in every place are scrupulously observant of all

the rites of the church. Several circumstances conspire to produce this effect, such as—

1st. Their marriages, which were encouraged, and took place between the natives and original French settlers. These contracts are solemnized in the churches.

2d. The restraint caused by confession; experience has proved that this custom detects crimes committed against each other. The missionaries lead the offending party to make restitution to the injured. In this way they are protected in their property and persons, from the superior power and art of Europeans.

3d. The benevolent services of the priests and nuns, who have taught the young savages the principles and rituals of religion, very early in life. These chaunt and respond the service, and observe the ceremonies of bowing, kneeling, and crossing themselves, with great punctuality.

4th. The frequent and splendid processions, decorated temples and representations to the eye, by paintings and carvings. These savages, habituated to the use of hieroglyphics, are thus in a degree, compensated for the want of a knowledge of letters, and the art of printing. The historic Scripture paintings in the Indians' chapels are excellent performances, and make serious impressions upon a people averse to study.

Religion appears to have been an object of the chief care of the first and succeeding inhabitants. Early reservations and purchases of lands were devoted to the purposes of piety forever, and to secure so desirable an object, the clergy and missionaries endured many hardships, and submitted to the pains of poverty, while the lands were uncultivated. They devoted their labours and incomes to the erecting of churches and colleges very early. Vestiges of their economy and good management are constant. The self denials, pious benefactions, and successful exertions of the

Catholic clergy to provide for the service of God, and the support of Christianity, exceed every Protestant country in any other northern state, colony, or province in North America.

The present government has also in all their locations of lands reserved a due proportion of pious uses. As few oppressions and clamours exist in supporting religion, as possible, consistent with the present state of human affairs in both the provinces.

The surface of these provinces is flat and the soil good, being well wooded, and furnished with many streams, rivers, and lakes.

The river St. Laurence cannot be exceeded in the endless variety of objects which are connected with it. It begins at the outlet of the Lake Ontario, seven hundred miles from the sea, and is navigable for large vessels as far as Montreal, which is five hundred miles from the mouth, where it is ninety-miles wide. The tide flows as far as Three Rivers, eighty miles from Quebec. In its course it forms an endless variety of bays, islands and harbors.

A general fertility prevails on its shores, as we advance into the country. It is evident that many of the islands have been formed in the revolutions of the seasons, by the altered courses of the river, by the lodging of floating trees and sediment, which have collected together during the floods. The bed of the river is left dry in many places below Quebec. Its bottom is chiefly composed of flat rocks in such places, and pilots are obliged very carefully to keep the channel. The constant current has worn away the bottom and shores so far, that the water has subsided below its ancient high water mark, and the lower town of Quebec is said to be built upon a bank, which was regularly overflown, when the country was first discovered by the Europeans.

The pencil only can give a stranger any just idea of the entertaining water scenes at the rapids. The principal are those of Richlieu, Montreal, La Chine, the Cascade, Cedars, Coto-du-Lac, and those above Cornwall, in Upper Canada.

The Richlieu rapids, are passed without much difficulty. Those at Montreal prevent all further progress in large vessels. The shore is so bold and perpendicular at this city, that vessels are loaded and unloaded along their sides, and wharves and piers are not wanted. The current, however, and contrary winds, make it necessary to warp vessels, with the help of men, to these stations.

At the Cascade is a rapid which is dangerous, and a great natural curiosity. We passed it with two Indians, in a birch canoe, upon the ridge of the wave made by the current, when the smallest error on the part of our boat-men would have plunged us into a whirlpool some feet below us. Advancing near this place, the Indian in the stern with a smile, pointing to the shore expressed that he wished we were on it. The smile was returned to animate him: He gave the sign, that no motion of the body must take place. Laying aside his hat and crossing himself, he spoke to his companion in the bow; both redoubled their exertions, and in a moment we passed all danger, and found ourselves gliding down with the current. Curiosity led us to land and view the dangerous place where we had passed unhurt.

Part of the British army perished at this place, by following the pilot's boat in front, which from his skill went safe, where wind, compass, and deep water are not all the requisites for successful navigation. A lock and canal convey boats now, without risking the dangers of the rapids.

The Isles of Montreal and Orleans are the most noted. The first has been described, and is made remarkable by its mountain, which in English, is the Royal Mountain. The second is near Quebec:—It contains several villages, and is under high cultivation. The meadows and low lands, near the river and lake, yield good crops of grass.

The rivers which unite with the St. Laurence, are the Oswagatchie, Ottawas, Sorel, L'Assumption, St. Francis, and Three

Rivers. The first settlements were formed upon the banks of the river and lakes, for the convenience of water. Few farms in the lower province are cleared at any considerable distance from these waters. Many mill seats are upon these streams, and wind-mills are frequent near the shores where the waters are smooth.

The vegetation is rapid, and the summer season short. The ice melts gradually by the influence of the warmer waters from the southwest. In winter it is sometimes suddenly broken in some places for a few days, and floating and crouding together by the force of the current, and the confinement of a narrower part of the river below, it is congealed together. One of these collections of ice is formed opposite Montreal, and a road is cut through it with axes, before a passage can be obtained to the south shore.

Business is conducted with facility, as regular posts pass into Canada from the States, and through the provinces, as far as Halifax.

Newspapers are printed at Quebec, Montreal, and Newark, in Upper Canada. They are carefully guarded against every thing that may excite discontents among the inhabitants, or encourage assaults upon religion and government. Books are seldom printed, as the communication with England is constant and all literary productions are obtained early, at a moderate price. No paper-mill has been erected, and that article is imported from abroad.

The climate is more congenial to commerce and agriculture, than is generally imagined. Accessible to the ocean, and vessels of heavy burden coming up the St. Laurence, as far as Montreal, great amends are made to those who do not reside on the borders of the sea. It is evident to every honest man that it must be the wish of the people of the provinces to be at peace with the people of the States. No substantial good could be gained, but much might be lost by the contest. No advantages could be derived to the States, as a government, by a war with Canada. Individuals

actuated by a thirst for spoil, and by a love of disorder, have sought to embroil both, but hitherto without success. It is a well known fact, and openly confessed, that the British nation does not derive a revenue from those provinces which is equal to the sum expected (expended) by the crown in protecting, governing, and providing for its adherents.

When the Governor General's speech to the Indians appeared, by which they were in danger of being instigated to war, the wise and good were pained. When the proclamation of neutrality was seen, under the signature of President Washington, an universal joy was circulated. Similar sensations were exhibited when the treaty of peace was ratified. While these events took place, agents from the French republic were actively exciting the people to insurrections, and the laws of the province were violated by smugglers. A late trial has illucidated facts which were well known before. Men from the States, who had been received into the provinces as subjects, permitted to establish themselves in business, to repair their fortunes, and obtain credit, were too active in attempts to destroy the government, to plunder public stores, and make spoil of the treasures of the Catholic church.

Publications had been issued through the newspapers in Philadelphia, to sound the public opinion as to a war with Canada. Every misrepresentation as to the state of the popular opinion was sought for, and great encouragement was given by many in the States, to such as were solicitous for convulsions. At this time the people of Canada were not projecting trouble for the States, but as far as possible encouraging a friendly intercourse, and reciprocal good offices.

The Catholic religion had been assaulted, and treasures devoted to pious uses were seized upon in France. Armies, and the leaders in the new government, were dividing the property of temples, religious houses and asylums for poverty and disease, and for the young and defenceless.

Reformation was the pretext. This flame was begun in a great degree in the States, and a few were ready to give it free course in the provinces. The clergy from France at this time took great pains with the Canadians, to lead them to subordination to government, and to preserve themselves from massacres and destruction. They saw that the Catholics were proscribed, and that the property devoted to religious uses was doomed to spoliation. History can scarcely afford a more diabolical design, Religion is protected by government, in the same manner as in the States. The people are satisfied with their religion. It preserves order, and no substitute was offered; we had no right to impose another upon them. The revenues of the clergy were not excessive, and they were benefactors to their flocks,—had patiently endured poverty and hardships, until the lands were brought to their present state of cultivation. They protect their aged parents and other relations, maintain great hospitality, and are the patrons of the people. Such is their duty and interest. So important have the parish priests been, (and few others are now in Canada) in the esteem of the British government, that great tenderness and respect have always been paid to them. It is an incontrovertible fact, that those persons in the States who wished to pillage the clergy of Canada, have to the utmost of their power injured the order of clergy in their own neighbourhoods. They do not support Christianity, but are among its inveterate foes.

The rancour against the Catholics is most severe in those States where they have few or no Protestant ministers. The people of the States are divided into parties about religion, and are not at unity among themselves. Union, order, harmony, and prosperity universally extend among the Catholics, in Canada.

It is well known that the principles of liberty and law, which give dignity and happiness to the States, are derived from the maxims adopted in the government of England. These principles must extend through the provinces. Legislatures elected by the

people, and trials by jury, put new powers into the hands of the Canadians. Civil courts are regularly and frequently holden,—no taxes are levied, and no extortions made.

Madness, avarice, bigotry, and intolerance alone could wish to carry war into Canada. Commerce and colonization, under the banners of peace, will give happiness, wealth, and prosperity to every part of North-America.

# A

# LETTER

FROM A GENTLEMAN TO HIS FRIEND,

*Descriptive of the Different Settlements, in the Province of*

# UPPER CANADA.

## INTRODUCTION.

THE valuable information contained in the following Letter, and the very respectable character of the Author, lead the writer of the Tour to subjoin this also, that the Volume may be more useful to the public.

## A LETTER.

*New York, 20th Nov.* 1794.

My Dear Friend:

SINCE I had the pleasure of writing to you from this city, in which I gave you a particular description of the lands in this State, and in the State of Pennsylvania, together with the mode of settlement and the manner in which they are be to purchased, I have made a tour through the province of Upper Canada, and shall endeavour to give you a particular and impartial account of that country, so far as I have travelled through it, with its laws, government, and commercial advantages. In my letter from Albany I mentioned that I went to that city by water, from thence I proceeded to Schenectady, fifteen miles, by stage. Schenectady is a handsomely situated little town, on the banks of the Mohawk river, inhabited mostly by Low-Dutch; but from the appearance of the place, one would imagine it a deserted village, the houses being generally old, small, and mostly shut up, but surrounded by the finest flats of intervale land you can possibly imagine, which continue to the source of that river. The desolate appearance of this town was accounted for to me by the current of Indian trade turning down the river St. Laurence, since the revolution. It has, however, the prospect of becoming a flourishing place ere long, by the vast increase of the settlements to the west of it, the produce of which must centre there. At this place I took an open boat, navigated by three men, in which I passed to Lake Ontario, without any other interruption than two short portages, one at the Little Falls of half a mile, round which they are now cutting a canal; the other of one mile, at Fort Stanwix, about one hundred miles west of Schenectady; at which place we leave the Mohawk river and descend the current to Oswego, one hundred miles more to the west, where the British hold a post at the entrance of Lake Ontario, commanded by a captain, from

whom I received every mark of civility and attention. A custom-house officer is also stationed there, to prevent an illicit trade being carried on between the United States and the British colonies. No merchandize in, nor furs out, are permitted to pass this post without a passport from the governor of Upper Canada; but settlers moving into that province to reside are permitted indiscriminately to pass with all utensils of husbandry, household furniture, and stores for their own consumption. The high prices which hatters' fur at present command in the United States, is the only inducement I conceive for smuggling past that post; for except a few articles imported from the East-Indies, I found the retail shops at Kingston and Niagara selling as low, and many articles, particularly woolens, lower than in the city of Philadelphia.*

From Oswego vessels sail to Niagara, Kingston, and any other port on the Lake; but settlers more frequently continue along the south shore of the Lake to Niagara, about one hundred miles, in the same open boats which bring them hither, as they are generally manned by themselves. But finding a vessel here ready to sail for Kingston, I dismissed my boatmen, and embarked in her for that place, about twelve hours' sail.

*Kingston* is a new but growing town, situated on the north-east corner of Lake Ontario, where that lake empties itself and forms the river St. Laurence, the banks of which are thick settled down to Lake St. Francis, where the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada are divided. This river is navigable for vessels of one hundred tons and upwards, to Oswegatche, seventy miles below Kingston; but vessels seldom go down the river, as the fort which is at Kingston serves as a deposit for all the public stores, provisions, and merchandize for the upper posts.

The land immediately about Kingston, is covered by valuable quarries of lime-stone, and thro' all the settlements round it are plenty of thin valuable stones, which are considered by the inhabi-

*This was written previous to the late treaty.

tants rather as an acquisition than detriment to their plantations. The most flourishing part of this settlement is round the Bay of Kenty,* the soil of which is rich, easy worked, and produces from one to three crops, without any other cultivation than what is done by the iron-tooth harrow, and yields from twenty to thirty bushels of wheat to the acre;—those lands are somewhat heavy timbered, having vast quantities of the sugar maple, hickory and bass wood, and in some places, white pines of a surprising height; but where the latter grows, the land is more sandy, and although it is warm, sweet land, it is not so stony as the maple or oak land. This Bay is seventy miles in length, beginning about twenty miles southwest from Kingston, leaving a neck of land from two to twelve miles wide between it and the lake, all of which is settled, and round the whole Bay so thick settled, that their improvements already meet and form the appearance of a beautiful old settled country. This Bay and the creeks emptying into it, abound in great quantities of wild fowl, and fish of various kinds.

From Kingston I proceeded to Niagara, in a schooner of upwards of one hundred tons burthen across this little sea of fresh water; a sea it may justly be called, for we were a great part of the time for three days out of sight of the land, though passages have been made in twenty hours; we enter the Niagara river between the fort and the town called Newark, with a beautiful prospect of both.

The fort stands in a commanding situation, on a point formed by the junction of the river and lake, upon the east side of the river, and is a regular fortification, in good repair and well garrisoned.

The mouth of this river affords a safe and copious harbor, sufficiently large for half the British navy.

The town of Newark is situated in lat. 43 north, on the west

*Quinte.

banks of the river, extending along the Lake about a mile enjoying in the summer the fresh breezes from this little sea, in almost every direction, plentifully supplied with fish at all seasons of the year. In the winter here are caught by seines, quantities of white fish, which seem to be peculiar to that river; they are generally from two to six pounds weight, and are considered the best fish in the lakes; besides, there are sturgeon, bass, and many other excellent fish, in great plenty; salmon are taken in all the creeks round the Lake; these varieties of fish are not only esteemed a luxury, but a great assistance to new beginners in supporting their families, many laying in a half a dozen barrels or more for their winter's use.

The land about the town of Newark for many miles, though not so good as the land further back, is well inhabited each way upwards of fiftv miles around. What gave me a more particular knowledge of this settlement was being intimate with the Surveyor-General, a gentleman of liberal education, good information, and indefatigable in the duties of his office, by which means he has collected notes, from the different field-books of his deputies, of the soil, timber, and streams of all that country; and in such parts as I went over, I found his notes very correct, and by no means exaggerated. In many places there is little more for the farmer to do than cut a sufficiencv of timber to fence his fields, girdle or ring the remainder, and put in the harrow, for in few places only is it necessary to make use of the plough, till the second or third crop, there being little or no under brush; yet in many places there is beautiful white pine, oak, and black-walnut timber; sugar-wood which is also found here in great plenty, mixed with beech, hickory, and bass wood.

At Newark resides the Governor, whose character is well known in England, and is deservedly held in high estimation. Here are also most of the principal officers of government, besides many other gentlemen of respectability, who form a very intelligent and agreeable society.

Besides Newark there are several important situations in this part of the province, which bid fair to become places of consequence, the most distinguished of which are the landing places at each end of the portage, Fort Erie, the head of Lake Ontario, and York, *called by the natives* Torento.

The lower landing or Queenstown, is about seventy miles up the river from Newark, where the vessels discharge their cargoes, and take in furs collected from three to one thousand five hundred miles back; there have I seen four vessels of sixty and one hundred tons burden unloading at the same time, and sometimes not less than sixty waggons loaded in a day, which loads they carry ten miles to the upper landing place or Chipawa creek, three miles past the great falls. This portage is an increasing source of wealth to the farmers for many miles round, who carry from twenty to thirty hundred weight for which they get one shilling and eight pence N. York currency, per hundred weight, and load back with furs, &c. From Chipawa the merchandize is transported in batteaux to Fort Erie, a distance of eighteen miles, and are shipped there on board of vessels for Detroit and Michilimakinac. Detroit, I was told, was a pleasant country, though a low and marshy soil, more noted for its fur trade than its agriculture.

At the head of Lake Ontario, about fifty miles west from Newark, a small town is laid out and stores are building, being a central place between Newark, York and Detroit, from thence a road of twenty-two miles to the Grand River is cut out, and crosses that river about fifty miles above its entrance into Lake Erie, and continues in a southern direction to the river La Trenche, now called the *Thames.* which empties itself into Lake St. Clair about twenty miles above Detroit. Settlements are making on this road, and along the river *Thames* partial ones are made for an extent of eighty or ninety miles in length. On these two rivers are extensive open flats of land, equal to those of the Mohawk river, on

which may be cut a sufficiency of hay for many thousand head of cattle yearly; the lands on this road are of an excellent quality, and in many places light timbered, in others covered with thrifty oak, black walnut, sugar maple, beech and lindar.*

*York* formerly *Torento*, is situate on the best harbour round the Lake, opposite Niagara, and about forty miles distance across the Lake, but round by land near one hundred miles, along the shore of which great quantities of fish are caught; a town is here in great forwardness, and should the seat of government be removed from Newark thence, as is contemplated, it will soon become a flourishing place. From this a road is cut out across to Lake Simcoe, or the Rice lakes thirty-three miles, the outlet of which empties itself into Lake Huron, a distance of forty-five miles from Lake Simcoe, thirty-six miles in length; this rout affords an easy communication with Michilimackinac. From York to that Lake, a tier of lots of two hundred acres each, is laid out on each side of this road, called *Dundas-street*, granted on the express condition of building and improving on them, within one year from the time they are taken up; many of these are built upon and occupied.

On the east side and joining the rear of these lots is a settlement of near one hundred German families, on an excellent tract of land, much of which is open, white oak woods; these Germans came on this summer, furnished with every thing to make their situation comfortable and enable them to improve their land to advantage, and no doubt in a short time will make a fine settlement; they are supported by a company who have liberally supplied them with teams, farming utensils and provisions, sent them a clergyman of their own country, and are about to build them mills, a church, and a schoolhouse.

If this generous example was with equal spirit followed by a few more companies, it would add to the population of the country, more than any other mode yet pursued. There is still plenty of

*Linden.

vacant lands of the best kind, and such as shew a disposition to settle and improve them, meet from the Governor every encouragement they merit, who makes liberal grants to all such as do actually bring on settlers, and prove themselves desirous of promoting the interest of the country, the whole of which is well adapted for raising wheat, Indian corn, and other summer grain; flax (where the land has borne a few other crops) succeeds remarkably well, and the face of the country yields grass in abundance; hops of a good quality grow here spontaneously, also a variety of wild fruits such as plumbs, mulberry, blackberry, strawberry, raspberry, and grapes. Orchards are in great forwardness, for the age of the settlement, some of which already bear fruit. Peaches, cherries, and currants are plenty among all the first settlers. The farmers raise a great quantity of pork, without any other expence than a little Indian corn for a few weeks previous to killing, and often kill their hogs out of the woods, well fatted on nuts. In many places salt springs have been discovered, and some of them already worked to such advantage that in all probability that article, which generally comes heavy in the interior part of a country, may in a short time be afforded here as low as in many of the old settled places in the United States. Many valuable streams for water works run in every direction through this country and upon some of them are mills built, which prove very lucrative to the owners, particularly saw-mills, from the quanitty of good timber and great demand of boards, as more buildings are going on than carpenters and masons can be found to finish. Stones being scarce, bricks are generally used in mason work.

This settlement was begun by a few disbanded troops after the peace of 1783, and being but little known by the people of the United States, who had imbibed an opinion that it was entirely under controul of the military, few emigrants bent their course this way, till they were convinced of the civil government being well established, and upon a constitution happily adapted to the minds

of the people, since which numbers of respectable inhabitants have come in from the different States. Some of whom have come in their waggons quite from North Carolina, but as there is a space of country, for about seventy miles, between Niagara and the Genesee country, where the roads are not sufficiently open for waggons, they transport them from the mouth of the river to Niagara in boats. However this obstruction will probably be soon removed, when it will be a pleasant jaunt to get into a carriage at Niagara, and drive to this city, which may be effected without difficulty, in about two weeks, particularly by sleighs in winter. The mode of settlement generally pursued here, and which seems best calculated to save expence, is by two, three or more men coming on in the summer, who throw up a log house each, put in a field of wheat, and return for their families, which they bring on the following spring, by the rout before described past Oswego, if by water; but such as come by land, bring their families as far as the mouth of Genesee river, there take boat and send their cattle by land. This country from the reduction till the year 1790, was included in the province of Quebec, and from the year 1774, the civil administration was vested in a Governor and Legislative Council, at that time best adapted to the ideas of the people, who were most entirely French, and from prejudice, preferred that form of government, being most analogous to what they had been accustomed to prior to the conquest of Canada, but at the conclusion of the late dissensions between Great-Britain and America, Upper Canada, then called the back posts, was held out as an asylum to those who had adhered to the unity of the British empire, and who generally came under the denomination of loyalists. From the peace to the year 1790, government delegated to land boards the power of granting lands to any applicants, if men of morality and sobriety.

In the year 1790, the wisdom of the British government was eminently evinced in dividing that large country into two separate governments, and granting to each a constitution, on the most li-

beral and disinterested principles, a constitution for freedom and the rights of man perhaps unequalled in the historic page, with all the advantages enjoyed by the British colonies in America previous to the revolution, and with many additions, the British parliament having renounced forever the right of taxation. Here no man's property for any cause whatever, is taxed, directly or indirectly; the British government most generously paying for even the surveying of lands, and the whole support of the civil establishment.

You will naturally wonder how with all these advantages this country has hitherto escaped the notice and keen observations of Land Speculators, and the eulogiums of Pamphleteers, too frequently the hired and useful assistants of the former class of men, but this I have found is accounted for on the best of principles. The Indians being undoubtedly the original proprietors of the soil, and it even has and continues to be policy of the British government to extinguish their right by fair and equitable purchases. Large purchases of this kind has been made from time to time by government, as the population of the country required, and as yet there is not a single instance of dissatisfaction on the part of the Indians; having thus liberally paid them for their lands, very advantageous terms are held out to actual settlers, (the only class which at first can enrich any country) who get a grant of two hundred acres each. However for the encouragement of men commanding the means of improving on a larger scale, by proper application they get a handsome additional quantity. By this means the substantial farmer becomes the inhabitant, and large tracts to the detriment of any country, never lie waste.

Had I not resolved on examining minutely and judging for myself, I should never have become acquainted with a country which for richness of soil, agriculture and trade, in fact every thing that will conduce to make an industrious man happy, yielding to none I have as yet seen.

Niagara is at present the temporary seat of government, consisting of a governor, a legislative council, and house of assembly chosen by the people; here annually in the month of May, they meet for the purpose of legislation. Members of the assembly are chosen for four years, and have already sat three sessions. In this time they have made many wholesome and necessary laws. Week ly courts, called courts of request, are held throughout the province, by two justices of the peace, who have cognizance of all debts under half a Joe; there are also district courts every three months, in which a judge presides and gives trial by a jury of twelve men, in sums not exceeding twenty-four pounds Y. currency, whose judgment is unappealable, and all sums above that are tried by a jury before the chief justice and two associate judges, who make an annual circuit through the province; from them is an appeal to the governor and council. The people have it fully in their power to regulate all local matters which respect their several towns, such as constables, path-masters, and other town officers, in the same manner as formerly in the other colonies, now United States of America. The militia in the several districts have an annual meeting, and all males from the age of sixteen to forty-five are mustered, except the Friends, Tunkers, and Menonists, and those of that religious description, who are exempted from bearing arms. In short, Sir, it would swell a letter to too great a bulk to give a more minute account of the local laws that have been already made for the public good, suffice it to say that with respect to that government and its laws, its administration is conducted with every wish and attention to render the situation of those who may settle under it comfortable and happy, being neither land tax, quit-rent, or any other tax whatever, excepting the county rates, to be paid by the freeholders, for the regulation of their internal police.

The noble river St. Laurence supplies this country for an extent of two thousand miles, with commercial advantages inferior to no e on this side of the Atlantic. Conceive to yourself vessels

of six hundred tons burthen, unloading all kinds of British goods at the port of Montreal, five hundred miles from the sea, and again receiving in return furs from the interior parts of the country, as far as the Mississippi is known to the westward, and the waters emptying into Lake Superior from the northward. This town, when the banks of the different lakes and rivers are settled by husbandmen, which is at no distant period, must have a vast increase of trade, for without doubt all British manufactures, thro' these vast water communications, will come much cheaper, through the whole course of its windings, than can be afforded from any other quarter. Goods on importation being liable to no duty, which will undoubtedly give this country a vast advantage over the new settlements that I described in my former letters; indeed Nature points out this place as the emporium of trade for the people inhabiting both sides of these lakes and rivers emptying into them as far as they extend to the west. From Montreal, boats called by the Canadians *batteaux* containing twenty-five barrels' bulk, are worked by four men to Kingston, a distance of nigh two hundred miles up the river in the course of six or eight days, and again return in three, loaded with furs, pot-ash, and other produce of the country. Vessels, generally schooners, receive the goods at Kingston, and convey them in a short time to the landing or Queenston, below the great falls of Niagara. Here the portage gives employment to a number of teams in transporting them to Chipawa, as before described; they are again received at Fort Erie in vessels of the same burthen as formerly, which navigate all Lake Erie, Huron, and Michigan. The expences incurred during all this rout are comparatively trifling, as you will observe there is but one portage, and that only ten miles in the course of this communication. And when one reflects on the temperate climate, rich soil, and other natural advantages of this interior country, you anticipate a great population in a short time. The streights of Niagara, from its peculiar situation, being the channel through which all the produce of the vast country above must pass, is looked forward to

as a place of the first consequence, and where a farmer will at all times find a market for his produce, the transport being easy from thence to the Atlantic. Here have I seen with amazement that famed cataract, which exceeds every description I have ever heard of it, but it would be idle in me to pretend to give you an idea of it. It strikes the eye with more grandeur and sublimity than the pen can convey. Amongst many other natural curiosities, a spring about two miles above these falls, attracts the attention of the curious,—emitting a gas, or inflammable air, which, when confined in a pipe, and a flame applied to it, will boil the water of a tea-kettle in 15 minutes: Whether this may hereafter be applied by machinery to useful purposes, time will determine.

It was lately discovered in clearing away and burning the brush under the bank of the river, to erect a mill, and was observed after the brush was consumed to burn for days together, to the great astonishment of the inhabitants.

About three hundred miles west of this is Fort Detroit, situate on the east side of the streights, between Lake Erie and Huron, around which, a French settlement was established before the reduction of the province, but attending more to the Indian trade than agriculture, made but little progress as farmers. The English settlements lately begun on the opposite shore are already in c higher state of cultivation; however, the French have fine orahards, from which Niagara is at present supplied with cyder and apples. About one hundred miles west from Detroit lies a valuable country on the waters emptying into the Mississippi, now unhappliy contested by the United States and the natives of the soil.

To the northward of Detroit, about three hundred and fifty miles, lies Fort Michilimackinac, on an island between Lake Huron and Michigan, is about five miles round, and an entire bed of gravel incapable of cultivation, but most remarkable for being the general dépôt and grand rendezvous of all the Indian traders, who

meet in the month of June from every quarter, deliver their furs and receive their outfits for the ensuing year. Spanish settlements many miles down the Mississippi are supplied with British goods through this channel, to much greater advantage than from New-Orleans, where the rapids of the Mississippi oppose almost unsurmountable difficulties in ascending it.

This fort, the forts of Detroit, Niagara, and Oswego, fell within the United States when the lines of separation were drawn as the treaty of peace, in the year of 1783: Fort Miami, which was built by the British lately, is also within those lines. Previous to that peace stores of deposit had been occupied at the foot of the Miami rapids, where the Fort now stands, and the annual presents to the Indians, which they have long been in the habit of receiving from the British government, were there issued. This place was prudently chosen for that purpose, in order to prevent the Indians from coming through the settlements, crouding about and mixing with the troops at Detroit, where the too frequent use of spiritous liquors would have occasioned numerous quarrels and accidents, which might have terminated fatal to that friendly intercourse and good understanding which has ever prevailed between the English and the natives of America.

Hitherto have I said little respecting the aborigines of this country. Various are the opinions entertained by different people, and different historians have risked conjectures how this continent was originally peopled; their own ideas of it are not less curious than extraordinary. They do not believe, nor have they the smallest vestige of traditional memorial to induce them to believe, but that they are a distinct race of men from the whites, some of the most intelligent amongst them will at this day relate in detail the natural and original history of themselves and the contiment they live upon. They fully believe in a good and evil spirit, and in a future state of rewards and punishments, and have certain times in the year for their particular modes of worship, when they

more generally endeavour to appease and avert the wrath of the bad, than invoke the Good Spirit, to which, however, after favorable crops, a good hunt, or success in war, they in a fervent manner, return thanks. They say that the face of the globe was first covered with one great water, in which the turtle was the principal inhabitant, That the Great Spirit caused this turtle to grow to such a size that the waters could no longer float it, and in consequence, it became stationary, continuing to grow until the moss and rubbish collecting on his back became a soil, and shot forth herbs, bushes, and at length trees, and now forms this great island (as they term it) upon which they were created a distinct race of men, and that the Great Spirit made, after them, every kind of beasts and birds of the forest, for their food and use (from the first twelve of which they took the names of their twelve tribes) and that these are as different in their kind, from those given by the Great Spirit to the white people, for their use, as they are themselves from us. That they encreased in strength and numbers, till the white people came amongst them, and introduced their habits, with the use of strong drink, *to which* they justly impute their degeneracy.

When the feeling mind reflects on the former situation of these credulous people; the various deception practiced on them under the mask of friendship, the artless, and faithful attachment they bear to the white people where they are treated with upon seeming principles of justice and candor, it must truly sympathize with them in their present gloomy prospects.

This people who were two centuries ago possessed of the whole of this vast continent, affording them spontaneously every comfort of life, without rivals in the enjoyment of it, now driven back step by step, to the last spot of their fertile soil, and that contested. Contested by the very people whom they have been led to consider as their brothers, fathers and protectors, Prejudice from education, habit, and particular situations in life may warp the minds of

the best men, but a virtuous and penetrating mind will always estimate in a proper degree, the relation and ties they have a claim to on us, if it is only from our superior cultivation of mind and manners. Would it not therefore argue a greater degree of virtue, and redound more to the honor of humanity, for Christians, bordering on the remains of their country, to turn their attention to the civilization of these people, than to endeavour by art and arms to extirpate them from the face of the country which they conceive to have been given by the Great Spirit to them alone? It is idle to say that people of their quick ideas and lively imagination are incapable of civilization, for where education, and a proper attention to their morals has been bestowed, there are proofs to the contrary. Instance Jos. Brant a full blooded Indian, who having received an early education, though residing still with the Indians, is much the gentleman, easy in his manners, mild and friendly in his disposition, regular and methodical in his whole deportment, and has by his good example brought many of his nation into a regular system of husbandry, and a decent way of living in their families.

Thus have I now as generally made you acquainted with this great country, as correctly as by short stay in it would admit of; but I cannot conclude this without giving you a piece of information equally new to every body here as to me.

For many years past adventurers have attempted without success to cross to the Pacific Ocean. The honor of this arduous task was left to a Mr. Alexander Mac Kenzie, a partner in the North-West Fur Company, who lately returned by the way of the Lakes, having fully accomplished the object of his undertaking in the course of two years, by traversing the continent of America to the northward of west, over vast mountains covered with ice, which obliged him to make new canoes wherever he had the waters in his favour. On his arrival on this coast, seven weeks' sail from Canton in China, and two degrees to the north of Nootka Sound,

he found the Indians without fire-arms, but furnished with some clothing and ornaments, principally Spanish manufacture. The Indians accompanying him were not understood by those on that coast, and appeared to be perfect strangers to one another. It was with difficulty he could reconcile them to him as a white man, on account, as he understood, of some injury given them by people of his colour a few days before that time. These are supposed to have been the Americans from the port of New-York, who had touched there in their trade with China.

After remaining a few days and making the necessary observations, he returned and bro't along with him some valuable skins of the sea otter, and other natural curiosities peculiar to that coast; but as the gentleman himself has it in idea to go soon to London, I have little doubt but he will meet with the reward due to his exertions, and give to the world an account of the wild and uninhabited tract he traversed.

FINIS.