

thought ill bestowed by those whose object it is to travel on good roads. The whole lands adjoining to the road are under cultivation. The farms neatly laid out and in such a state of tillage as to approximate nearer the aspect of the old country, than any other part of Canada I have yet seen. The houses are neat, having every appearance of comfort. These are attributable to the fertility of the soil, (for the island of Montreal is justly considered as the garden of Lower Canada;) and to the land in this place being chiefly in the hands of old country farmers, who paying no rent, having in the town of Montreal a ready market for their surplus produce, and applying the improved method of cultivation brought from the parent country, have the means of comfort within their reach; and possess perhaps as great a share of happiness as any portion of people in a similar rank of life in any other part of the known world. The distance from the town of Montreal probably from 6 to 7 miles, (for it is not marked out by mile stones,) * to Lachine was easily and speedily run over, and we arrived at the latter place without any accident or any material occurrence.

I forgot to mention in its proper place, or peradventure I was too busy with something else to think of it. In passing along this road, in addition to its being thickly studded with farm houses, there is a small village situated about two miles from Montreal, and bearing the tough name of the Tannery. In this place as its name implies, and from which it perhaps originated, the chief trade consists in tanning and dressing leather. Almost every man is more or less employed in this way; some tan and dress the leather in the usual way, others reversing the maxim think, 'tis better half done than left undone; have a peculiar mode of tanning it at less expence of time and labour. This last description is used for making a species of shoes or mocassins very much worn here, called *beef shoes*. Not only the manufacturing the leather, but the making of the shoes, furnishes employment to many who reside in this place. There is a small Roman Catholic Church in this village, and abundance of filth and dirt around every door; plenty of ragged children—apparently in high health and spirits. But nothing else worth notice.

On my arrival at Lachine, I desired the postillion to drive to the Inn nearest the wharf, where we were to embark, when my fellow traveller, who had before maintained an almost unbroken silence, from the time I left Montreal, suddenly interrupted me, and told the boy to carry us, to Mrs. Bell's Inn, adding he would never enter the door of the Tavern next the wharf, as they once cheated him out of a penny in paying his bill. I quietly acquiesced in his order—and was carried past the door of a comfortable looking house, close by the wharf, from whence we were to embark, to a miserable looking comfortless hovel at some distance—and all this to gratify the capricious whim of a man whom chance had first thrown in my way; and with whom I had contracted

* The method of indicating the distance between places by mile stones, is not yet adopted in any part of Canada. The Canadians being inveterate smokers, were formerly in the habit of measuring the distance they travelled by the number of pipes they smoked—a custom which still prevails among some of them.