

The views from the mountain are extensive and beautiful, and several pleasant villas adorn its sides. We passed through a large farm, belonging to, and occupied by, the priests, who possess a large seignory. The soil seems of good quality, but the agriculture is slovenly. Orchards are every where to be seen; and a country rich and fertile on every hand. The population of Montreal and the suburbs, exceeds, it is believed, 20,000 souls. I dined with Mr G. after our ride, with a very pleasant party of mercantile gentlemen. Our Ministers, I found, were in no great favour, from the recent attempt to alter the timber-duties, although from the best authority I could meet with, I must infer that the timber trade is not a prosperous one. The statements made in Parliament regarding the amount of capital vested in that branch, were sufficiently absurd, yet there can be no doubt that it is very considerable, and that any abrupt alteration to be followed by a stagnation in the export of timber, would create the most serious distress both to the merchants and colonists. Much was said of the rapid advances which the Upper Province is making, and of the rising value of property there. I was told of a case which occurred about thirty years ago, where a lieutenant in the army, being L. 50 in arrear to a Montreal merchant, insisted, along with his promissory note, on handing over a lot of land assigned to him somewhere in the *then* Western Wilderness, a security which the poor merchant regarded as much upon a par with the subaltern's note, who was just about to leave Canada with his regiment. The allotment consisted of 1250 acres, upon the Lake Ontario, of which *seven hundred* were sold last year for *Seven hundred pounds*, and *five hundred and fifty* acres of the best quality reserved. Such are the changes which time effects, without the aid of any other agent, and such cases, I was assured, are by no means rare.

It having been ascertained that the river was now tolerably clear of ice, the steamboat was fixed to start for Quebec upon the 23d of April. I was here to part with Mr S., the American gentleman with whom I had travelled from the banks of the Hudson, and I did so with sincere reluctance. His mild and amiable manners, with the rich store of information he possessed, regarding the Western Country, had been a source of daily enjoyment and information