

the west side of Lake Superior and 1600 miles from Montreal, our Traders have pursued a meandering course north westerly through Lakes and Rivers to the River Arabaska and Sir Alexandre Mackenzie has even penetrated to the Pacific Ocean.

" All the inland Rivers and Seas abound with fish; every where the shores are accessible and the soil excellent; the climate in advancing beyond the old French settlements, more and more moderate, for the water communications to the Interior Seas lead to the lower latitudes; while the mountains so near Quebec and which render it so cold retire on that side in a range to the north west.

" The Population of Canada in the French time was comprised, between Kanouraska, 100 miles below Quebec, to La Chine about 200 miles above it, and only on the skirts of the St. Lawrence and a small distance up certain Rivers that fall into it. In addition to these, there were, small settlements at Niagara and Detroit. The Colony was the weaker for cultivating in such a long thin chain, and can only to be strengthened by deeper improvements and the increase of its inhabitants, especially on the southern side of the main River; a Territory spacious enough for a Kingdom.

" The hundred leagues I have mentioned is as it were, one immense Town.—There is scarcely a position in the ascent of the St. Lawrence, without several Churches in the Prospect. The richness of the soil persuaded to close settlement, and it was encouraged by a Religion exacting from its votaries so many ceremonious observances. The number of Catholics, at present, inhabiting this chain of Farms may be about 200,000 and the Parishes are about 150.—The Churches and Places of

worship are many more, for the Parishes being populous and very large.

" It does Honor to the Zeal of the Canadian Catholics, that all their Churches are decent, many of them spacious, and some of them splendid and costly. None are without towers, spires and bells, and there are that have double and treble towers with no inconsiderable degree of taste and magnificence.

" The Peasantry sustain the whole expence of these temples as well as of the incumbent; the former by voluntary Parish assessment and the latter by Tythes which are 1-26 on all grain: no living is less than £30 a year, exclusive of the Presbytere or Parsonage House, and Glebe while others rise up to £100, £200 and more, not to mention that there are instances of 6, 7 and £800 a year, when there is a good crop. The Patronage of every benefice is in the Bishop, about a dozen excepted, where the generosity of the Lord of the Seigneurie had erected and endowed the church of his manor and Estate.

" The greater Towns of Quebec, Three-Rivers and Montreal, have also religious houses and hospitals with good landed establishments for nuns, jesuits (an order lately extinct) and the St. Sulpicians of Montreal.—The two last are in such opulence that their incomes of their Seigneuries enabled them to erect and lay out Colleges, Gardens, Seminaries, Chapels and Buildings of comfort, convenience and ornament. The St. Sulpicians are Seigneurs of the whole Island of Montreal and of divers other tracts and enjoy a yearly income of £5000 and as some alledge of £8000 sterling.

" Canada is nevertheless perhaps the darkest part of Christendom. Five