

half of the building, is composed of heavy masses of grey granite, very handsomely dressed, and is used as a jail. The upper story is built of wood, and contains the court room,—the Judge's and Jury's rooms, &c., which are furnished in a very superior style, the whole structure having cost the county nearly five thousand pounds. A little to the south and eastward from the Court House, the stranger may behold one of the most handsome residences in the whole country—viz: that of THOMAS RITCHIE, Esquire, one of the late puisne Judges. It is surrounded by the most beautiful quick-set hedges, while the enclosed grounds attest the taste of the owner, in the manner in which it is laid out, and divided into gardens and shrubberies.

The nature of the country around this ancient village, may account for the eager settlement of it, by the simple and pastoral, though subsequently injured and betrayed Acadians.—Fertile and productive, the rich meadows yield uncommon quantities of fine and coarse hay—an article which is almost invaluable to the farmer. The neighbouring high lands afford the best of pasturage—itselves alone is almost sufficient to entice such people to locate—the facility of water communication, and the surprising natural richness of the soil.

With this imperfect sketch of Annapolis and the immediately surrounding country, I must beg of you, gentle reader, to continue your journey still farther eastward towards the source of the river, and to suppose yourself to be a passenger on board one of the fine little schooners that navigate its waters, and unfolds its gay streamer to the gentle zephyr which bears balm on its kindly wings, to the happy inhabitants of this lovely valley. As you leave the "narrows," and enter the upper basin, and from thence onward, you will discover an increase to the beauty of the scenery. The river suddenly becomes narrower till you find yourself hemmed in by the encroaching banks to within a stone's throw of either side,—though your bark will be in perfect safety,—the water being deep and the shores bold. The borders of the river are literally covered with orchards of apple, pear, plum and cherry trees, whose variegated blossoms (if your visit be in June,) will meet your view in the most pleasing contrast, while your ears may drink in music most sweet and melodious, from the feathered songsters of nature;—and you will be apt to exclaim with the Poet, Cowper:—

"Lovely indeed the mimic works of Art,  
But Nature's works far lovelier."

Proceeding still onward, the celebrated marsh-ground, known as the upper and lower Belle-Isle, come into view—first the lower, then the upper—clad with the most luxuriant growth, presenting to the eye—as the freshening breeze sweeps over it—the undulating appearance of the

"Billowy breast of ocean."

Here is the great hay emporium of the county, and most of the farmers who reside within ten or twenty miles of it, are owners of certain portions, or lots, from which they almost invariably derive a certain and abundant crop. The country around this prairie is very rich and fertile, and may be considered as at least the second best location in the county. On the high ground, to the northward, stands one of the most showy country residences that can be imagined; very near to it a new church is gradually assuming a finished form. But

"Prospects, however lovely, may be seen,  
Till half their beauties fade."

And bearing this truthful couplet in memory, you will proceed—without allowing the impression made upon you by the noble Belle-Isle, to fade into "airy nothingness" away—still onward, toward the village which lies at the head of the tide navigation—viz: Bridgetown. But before you arrive there, you will find almost an entire change in the character of the scenery,—which here partakes more of sylvan appearance—the banks of the river being here and there studded to the very brink, with groves of the spruce and fir-tree—while in the distance it is more diversified with high-land ridges and neat residences.

The river's course becomes still more sinuous in its placid course, its breadth still narrower, but the channel not more dangerous, as you approach Bridgetown, which meets your view probably when you least expect it, as the turning of an elbow of the river, opens it immediately to view. It is situated on the left bank of the stream, at the head of the tide navigation, and presents to the eye a very neat, and thrifty appearance. There are about seventy-five dwellings, besides a great many merchants' and mechanics' shops in the village. An English Church, a Baptist and a Methodist Chapel, and an Academy, are also to be found in it. A fine new and substantial bridge connects it with the township of Annapolis, and affords a very pleasant promenade for the lady residents, and others of the town, who choose to accept its open accommodations.

Of the inhabitants, it may be said, that