

Ontario, 756 miles from the sea, and 234 feet above it. Lake Ontario is 180 miles long, from fifty to sixty miles wide, and 500 feet deep, and has an area of 6,600 square miles.* Swiftly traversing its expanse, in sight, probably, of hundreds of other vessels and steamers, we reach the outlet of the Welland Canal, through which, by means of 27 locks, we rise 330 feet to the waters of Lake Erie, 1,041 miles from the sea, and 564 feet above its level. Our progress is still on through Lake Erie, until we arrive at the Detroit River, 1,280 miles from the sea. We pass by the City of Detroit, in the State of Michigan, through Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River into Lake Huron, 1,355 miles from our starting point, and 573 feet above the ocean. We may now sail on to St. Mary's River, and passing through a short and gigantic canal, constructed by the people of the United States, enter Lake Superior, with a fresh-water sea, as large as Ireland, before us, and enabling us to attain a distance of 2,000 miles from the mouth of the St. Lawrence. Or, we may sail southward into Lake Michigan, and land at that wonderful creation of the Great West, Chicago. Choosing this latter terminus to our inland voyage, we find at our feet a net-work of railways spreading over the states and territories of the valleys of the Ohio, Mississippi, and Missouri.

Canadian vessels not unfrequently trace out this varied navigation of lake, river, and canal, we have been unravelling, but in a contrary direction, and proceed to Europe, selling their cargoes and ships. In 1856, the American vessel, *Dean Richmond*, laden with produce at Chicago, passed the Canadian canals and waters, and excited unbounded astonishment at Liverpool; but the year previous, the Canadian vessel, *Reindeer*, built at the same water-level, and traversing the same route, excited no further curiosity at London than a hopeless inquiry of "where is Lake Huron?" Since the Paris Exhibition, however, all is changed. Canada begins to be known and "demands attention," and men who formerly affected ignorance of her political or commercial existence, are studying the future of that "land of hope which is not to be disappointed." In 1859, twelve vessels sailed from Chicago to Great Britain.

The natural advantages conferred upon Canada by the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes are not merely immense, they are incalculable. Immediate and direct water-communication with the sea for 2,000 miles of inland coast, without any reference to the nearly equal extent of coast belonging to the States of the Union, or the vast affluents which feed the St. Lawrence and the lakes, striking deep into the heart of the country, appears in itself sufficient to mark out Canada for a distinguished future; but when the influence which her vast inland seas exercise upon climate, vegetation, health,