

watching their baskets of roots, herbs, &c., gathered in scanty harvest from some part of the rich but abused plain, which extends from the river's bank to the horizon, except where it is bounded by a few distant and imposing isolated mountains. If you cross in a bateau, you hear the boat song of your rowers, in which there is little sweetness or poetry. The city, spreading along the low shore of the river, shoots up the spires of five or six churches, with the domes of two convents, and the towers of the new cathedral, against the Mountain of Montreal, which alone rescues the scene from utter tameness. Those who wish to contemplate the largest specimen of barbarous architecture in North America (saving Mexico), may visit the cathedral.

What apology is there for the introduction of the Gothic style into the United States? What is there among us which is signified by it? What is there connected with it in our history or institutions; and what good influence can we expect from it upon the future? We have had nothing like a gradual progress of taste through many ages, and no successive races of men in different stages of civilization, or any period of our history at all allied to such a style. At the same time our condition is based on the foundation of universal knowledge: there is no mystery, no secrecy, no ignorance. Nothing is concealed, nothing is done through systematic imposture. Neither do we admit of any principle by which the feelings are to be influenced independently of the judgment. Why then should we meddle with other architecture, in which vastness and gloom work their effects upon the heart, without offering to the thought any distinct subject to fasten upon; in which the eyes are shown dark recesses which they cannot penetrate, and a multitude of laboured devices and ornaments the mind would in vain understand? Simplicity and use, two of the great features of nature's works, are banished hence; the light for which our eyes were formed is obscured; and the objects and ends of our creation mystified, as far as architectural objects can produce such an effect.

Why should we wish, in this country, to present vast piles to the eye, in which it can trace none of the great prin-