

SOREL.

Trois Rivières, is situated on the banks of the St. Lawrence, close to the mouth of the river St. Maurice, the largest of upwards of thirty that fall into the St. Lawrence, on the north-west side alone, between Quebec and Montreal. This river, before it unites with the St. Lawrence, is divided into three streams by two large islands, so that to a person sailing past its mouth, it appears as if three distinct rivers disembogued at the one spot; from hence it is that the town of *Trois Rivières* receives its name. The St. Maurice is not navigable for large vessels, neither is it for sloops more than a few miles above its mouth.

Trois Rivières contains about 300 houses, and ranks as the third town, in point of size, in the provinces. It is one of the oldest settlements in the country. It is a level barren tract, and so sandy, that in walking along many of the streets of the town, and the roads in the neighbourhood, you sink into the sand at every step above the ankles. The sand is of a whitish colour, and very loose.

The streets in *Trois Rivières* are narrow, and the houses in general small and indifferent; many of them are built of wood. There are two churches in the town, the one an English episcopalian, the other a large Roman catholic parish church, formerly served by the Recollets, or Franciscan friars, but the order is now extinct in *Trois Rivières*. The birch canoes made at *Three Rivers* are put together with the utmost neatness, and on the water they appear very beautiful.

The town of *Sorel*, or William Henry, is agreeably situated at the confluence of the *Sorel* or *Chambly* River, with the St. Lawrence, and contains a protestant and Roman Catholic church, and about 100 houses. The chief business carried on here is ship building.

The *Sorel River* takes its rise from lake Champlain, running north through a fertile and pleasant country; its borders are adorned by several valuable and productive farms. The *Isle aux Noix* is situated in this river, about 8 miles north of the line separat-