

INTRODUCTION.

Cities are the centres of commerce—the reservoirs of trade—they are types of the nation. Within their limits centralize almost all aspects of a people. In this utilitarian age, the glory of a nation is in the strength of her commercial progress; and co-equal with this must be the extending of her cities. To the traveller each district, town or city he visits presents an aspect peculiar to itself; and to attract the stranger, it is necessary that we should possess objects worthy of interest. It can be safely said that no city on this continent presents more objects of interest to the stranger, and none whose approaches are more varied and beautiful than the city of Montreal. From the moment the tourist leaves Niagara till he enters the precincts of the city, one continued scene of beauty crowds upon his path. The “Thousand Islands,” dotting the river like a string of emeralds of all shades and sizes—now running like a narrow band of green ribbon, then spreading into large plains covered with verdure; again they are small, rural and abrupt. The boat speeds along its course, gliding by some, and rushing with serpentine twist around others. Then there are the rapids—world-famed and ever wondrous. Whether the traveller approaches by the mouth of the St. Lawrence, or by way of the White Mountains, his mind is impressed by the grandeur of the scenery. Montreal is itself the largest city in British America, and it is therefore supposed that no person would forego the pleasure of a visit to that city, if his course is turned through Canada. A stranger here requires a “Guide,” else he may wander about for days, and leave the city without having seen much to gratify him. This little work is issued with a view to assist strangers in their wanderings through the city. The descriptions are of course merely practical; a lofty style would be superfluous.

The American or English tourist will find it well worthy of preservation, not only as a book to refer to hereafter, but as a memento of his visit to the mercantile Emporium of British America—THE CITY OF MONTREAL.