

and was now about returning to it, having come to town to purchase the necessary articles for commencing with*. I ought to inform my reader—for I like to be minute in my details—I did not receive all this account of Mr. Salmagundi over the breakfast table. I have found from experience that is not the proper time and place for an Itinerant to prosecute his study of man. After dinner, and sometime after the removal of the cloth, affords him a better opportunity for exercising his talents. And, by the bye, I wonder this highly valuable plan of study has never received more parliamentary support in this our enlightened age. Should the measure ever be brought forward I would highly advise (pardon me ye matrons) an increased tax upon tea, and a proportionate decrease of duty on wine and spirits—the circulation of the latter being far better suited for the Itinerant's study than the former. The difference between tea and spirituous liquors for advancing the study of the Itinerant is not more conspicuous than that between spirits of turpentine and water for washing out spots of grease. It was on clearing the table after our dinner at Lachine that I gleaned those particulars of the former life of my fellow-traveller.

But to return from this digression. During breakfast I found out my new acquaintance was travelling the same road as myself—and as he had before gone over the same ground I expressed a wish to avail myself of the benefit of his experience. This was readily granted—and to him I entrusted the hiring a *voiture*, and other minor arrangements for our journey. All being prepared, and a caleche at the door, we proceeded. The road we had to travel to Lachine lay along the beautiful Island of Montreal, and as my companion was more inclined to taciturnity than conversation I had ample opportunity of enjoying the beauty of the scene.

The road is in exceeding good repair—it was first projected and partly made by a few enterprising merchants in Montreal, about 20 years ago, who much to their credit, raised the means by public subscription. Government being convinced of the necessity for such a road to avoid the impediments in the navigation of the river in that place—at last passed an act authorising the Governor to appoint Commissioners, and levy tolls on the road for completing and keeping it in repair. The toll is leased annually, and the lessee restricted to a certain grade of charges. Our horse and caleche paid 8 pence—a sum which will never be

* Those who commence clearing lands in the woods of America, are under the necessity of laying in a stock of provisions, and other supplies sufficient to last them for one year, as they can seldom expect any return from the soil before that time. Such as possess cash are in the habit of going to the nearest town or settlement and purchasing their things. Others are obliged to hire out to some of their more opulent neighbours, or to some of the older farmers, who can furnish them with the necessary supplies for their labour. This last method, although resorted to by many, delays the progress of cultivation. The poorer settler being in this manner obliged to abstract a part of the time and labour he ought to expend upon his own land, will be proportionally delayed in making his farm, and be for the longer time subject to the deprivations and inconveniences attendant upon a commencement.