

early life in Kildare:—"We ourselves were then very young," he says, "but being connected with the army, we were constantly amongst the soldiery, and we well remember with indignation the tales of lust, and blood, and pillage, perpetrated on the Irish peasantry, and recorded by themselves."

When a young man, Sir Wm. Napier possessed extraordinary activity, and it is told of him that he could jump his own height in a stranding leap. His regiment was the gallant 43rd, and he was severely wounded at the battle of the Coa, his arm having been amputated by the late Surgeon Lamerte, of Cork. Some few years since a gardener was excessively insolent at Bath to Sir William Napier and his son (who is dumb, but a most intelligent and handsome young man), when, with his one arm, Sir William Napier knocked the gardener down! On the case being brought before the magistrates, no fine was inflicted, as it was thought the gardener deserved his punishment. Sir William Napier married Caroline Fox, niece to the great Whig statesman, and daughter of General Henry Fox. Thus the Napier family, independently of its own ancient descent, is connected by marriage with the ducal houses of Richmond and Leinster, besides the illustrious house of Fox. The sons of the historian of the Peninsular war can thus boast that they have in their veins the blood of Charles the Second, King of England, and the family blood of Charles, the great king of all Whigs, past, present, and to come!

## THE SIKHS.

The following account of the Sikhs, the formidable enemy that has lately given such daring opposition to the British troops in India, may prove interesting to many of our readers. In the "Abbé Reynal's History of the East and West India settlements," will be found the following account of the Sikhs, as they were a *hundred years ago*. "To the north of Indostan is a nation which, though lately known, is the most formidable, from being a new enemy. This people, distinguished by the name of Scheiks, have found means to free themselves from the chains of despotism and superstition, though surrounded by nations of slaves. They are said to be followers of a philosopher of Thibet, who inspired them with high notions of liberty, and taught them Theism, without any mixture of superstition. They first appeared in the beginning of the present century, but were then viewed rather in the light of a sect than of a nation. During the calamities of the Mogul empire, their numbers were increased very considerably by apostates from all religions, who hastened to join them, and sought shelter amongst them from the fury and oppression of their tyrants. To be admitted to their society, and march under their standard, nothing was more required than to swear implacable hatred against every form of monarchy. It is asserted that they have a temple with an altar, in which is placed their code of laws, with a sceptre and dagger on either side. Four old men are elected, who occasionally consult and interpret the law, which is the only supreme power this republic obeys. The Sikhs actually possess the whole province of Punjab, the greatest

part of the Moultan and the Seinde, both banks of the Indus from Cassinell to Futter, and all the country towards Delhi from Lahore to Jerhernd. They can raise an army of sixty thousand cavalry."

## CANADA.

### INCIDENTS OF CANADIAN TRAVEL.

It was on a fine morning in the month of June, a few years ago, that I stepped on board the steamer 'Canada,' just as she was about to leave the wharf, on her way up the river, from Quebec to Montreal. Their steamboat architecture has recently much improved on the St. Lawrence; but the Canada was one of the old, clumsy, and gaudy race of boats at one time so common on the inland waters of America. She had been constructed, like all her fellows, without much regard to proportions, her hull being scarcely visible, from the extent to which her double tier of decks projected over her sides. Behind two enormous funnels, which were simultaneously ejecting dense columns of flame, sparks, and smoke, the 'working beam' rose high above the upper deck, and when in operation, was one of the most striking features in her singular *tout-ensemble*. Seen from a little distance she appeared like a huge concoction of Bristol board and paint, the ground-colour being white, with jet-black stripes traversing her whole length along the most prominent lines of her frame. To one accustomed to the sight of a British-built steamer, it seemed as if the slightest breeze could have reduced her to her original elements; and as the hot steam shot shrieking from the escape-pipes, you felt her shake like a jelly beneath your feet.

Having no further occasion for delay, we steamed with all speed up the river. The tide being in our favour, we were soon extricated from the labyrinth of ships anchored in the stream—each being surrounded with its small raft of timber, with which the crew were busily loading it. Thousands of men being thus simultaneously at work, there was something indescribably cheerful in the songs with which they lightened their labour.

As seen from the river, Quebec has a most imposing appearance. The bold promontory, crowned by the battlements of the citadel, rises like a perpendicular wall immediately behind the lower town, which nestles at its feet, and which it has the appearance of crushing into the water. The spires and roofs of the upper town, covered with tin, and glistening in the sunshine, are seen peering over the fortifications, the only connecting link between the two towns, on the St. Lawrence side, being a zig-zag street, appropriately called Mountain Street, which struggles up a cleft in the rock. In some places the battlements of Cape Diamond seem to impend over Champlain Street, a long and narrow street, which leads to the western extremity of the lower town.

Immediately on passing the city, the river expands to nearly treble width. Both banks are very lofty, that to the south sloping down to the water's edge.