

T O R O N T O .

TORONTO is one of the wealthiest and most important cities in British America. It is the capital of Upper Canada, the centre of commerce, and the seat of the principal Educational Institutions, and is destined from its position to exert a powerful influence on the whole affairs of this Colonial Empire. It is beautifully situated, on a gently sloping plain on the northern shore of Lake Ontario, 45 miles N. E. of Hamilton, 165 miles W. of Kingston, 340 miles W. S. W. of Montreal, and 500 miles N. W. of Washington, the capital of the United States. It is in latitude $43^{\circ} 39' N.$, longitude $79^{\circ} 21' W.$ The southern portion of the city is low, but the ground rises gradually—almost imperceptibly—from the Bay to upwards of 135 feet above the level of Lake Ontario, at Bloor Street, the northern limits of the city. The streets are well laid out, crossing each other at right angles, and forming, very nearly, a parallelogram. Though destitute of the scenic beauty of Montreal, or the picturesque grandeur of Quebec, Toronto has a more southern latitude, and enjoys a more genial and salubrious climate, and has many local advantages which render it a more desirable place of residence than either of these cities, or than any other city in Canada. Its principal public buildings are the Legislative Assembly Hall and Legislative Council Chamber, with the Government offices, a large pile of plain unpretending brick; the Post Office; the Court House; the St. Lawrence Hall and City Hall; the Exchange; the Mechanics' Institute; Osgoode Hall, the Seat of the Law Courts; the University; Trinity College; the Lunatic Asylum; the General Hospital, and the House of Providence; besides quite a large number of ecclesiastical edifices of more or less pretensions, the localities and general features of which will be noticed as we proceed.