

the locks. This was her first trip, and she had been built without due regard to the width of the locks. As a consequence it became necessary to unship the paddle-boxes before she could be passed through. After another night spent on the river, the travellers reached Bytown at six a.m. on June 14.

Let us attempt to see the little settlement of Bytown as it appeared in 1845. As the steamer ploughed her way through the dark waters of the Ottawa, the banks of the river below the town gave little indication of the presence of man. The low northern shore and the higher ground on the south side, rising to imposing cliffs, on which the city now stands, were still for the most part clothed in the same *primaeval* forest that Champlain had seen first of white men two hundred and thirty-two years before. Parkman's inimitable word-picture was as applicable to the river in 1845 as it was to the scene that met the astonished gaze of Champlain in 1613. 'The still surface of the river was flecked with spots of foam; islets of froth floated by, tokens of some great convulsion. Then, on their left, the falling curtain of the Rideau shone like silver betwixt its bordering woods, and in front, white as a snowdrift, the cataracts of the Chaudière barred their way. They saw the unbridled river careering down its sheeted rocks, foaming in unfathomed chasms, wearying the solitude with the hoarse outcry of its agony and rage.' Except that in 1845 a rustic mill stood above the Rideau Falls, and a graceful suspension bridge spanned the Chaudière, Parkman's description was as applicable as ever. As the boat rounded Nepean Point, however, and drew into the wharf, an entirely different scene opened up before the travellers. Before them rose the massive tier of locks leading to the Rideau Canal, spanned above by the Sapper's Bridge. On the heights to the right, now crowned by the splendid Gothic group of the Houses of Parliament, stood the barracks and stone hospital built by Colonel By, and a few scattered public buildings and private dwellings could be seen among the trees on either side of the canal.

While the boat made her leisurely way through the locks,