

BOURGEOIS, (SCOTCH FACE.) No. 3.

The furthest sources of the Ottawa River are unknown. It rises to importance at the outlet from Lake Temiscaming, 350 miles west of its junction with the St. Lawrence. Beyond the Falls and Portage des Allumettes, 110 miles above the town of Hull, this stream has been little explored. There it is divided into two channels by a large island fifteen miles in length; the southernmost of these expands into the width of about four or five miles, and communicates by a branch of the river with the Mud and Muskrat Lakes. Twelve miles further south the river again forms two branches, including an extensive and beautiful island 20 miles in length; numerous rapids and cascades diversify this wild but lovely scene: thence to the foot of the Chenaux, wooded islands in picturesque variety deck the bosom of the stream, and the bright-blue waters here wind their way for three miles through a channel of pure white marble. Nature has bestowed abundant fertility as well as beauty upon this favored district. The Gatineau river joins the Ottawa near Hull, after a course of great length. This stream is navigated with canoes for more than 300 miles, traversing an immense valley of rich soil and picturesque scenery.

At the foot of the Chenaux, the magnificent Lake des Chats opens to view, in length about fifteen miles. The shores are strangely indented, and large numbers of wooded islands stud the surface of the clear waters. At the foot of the lake, there are falls and rapids; thence to Lake Chaudiere—a distance of six miles—the channel narrows, but it expands again, to form that beautiful and extensive basin. Rapids again succeed, and continue to the Chaudiere Falls. The boiling pool into which these waters descend is of great depth: the sounding-line does not reach the bottom at the length of 300 feet. It is supposed that the main body of the river flows by a subterraneous passage, and rises again half a mile lower down; below the Falls, the navigation is uninterrupted to Grenville, 60 miles distant. The current is scarcely perceptible; the banks are low, and in the spring they are generally overflowed; but the ever varying breadth of the river, the numerous islands, the magnificent forests, and the crystal purity of the waters, lend a charm to the somewhat monotonous beauty of the scene. At Grenville, the Long Sault commences—a swift and dangerous rapid—which continues with intervals until it falls into the still Lake of Two Mountains. Below the heights from whence this sheet of water derives its name, the well-known Rapids of St. Anne's discharge the main stream into the waters of the St. Lawrence.

Below the Island of Montreal the St. Lawrence continues in varying breadth and considerable depth, to Sorel, where it is joined by the Richelieu river from the south; thence opens the