

with regard to the most scrupulous exactitude in their fulfilment. The extent of the building, whose form is that of a parallelogram, is considerable, and it contains a variety of apartments, neat and commodious. A superior and thirty-seven sisters compose the community. Their time which remains from the occupations of the duties of religion, and the offices of humanity, is employed in gilding ornaments for the decoration of churches, and in several other works, at which they are expert.

The streets of Quebec are, in consequence of its situation, irregular and uneven, many of them are narrow, and but very few are paved. The houses are built of stone, are of unequal heights, and covered, in general, with roofs of boards; the roughness of the materials of which they are constructed, gives them a rugged aspect, and the accommodations are fitted up in a stile equally plain and void of taste. The frequent accidents which have happened, and the extensive damage which the town has repeatedly sustained from conflagrations have suggested the expediency of covering the public buildings, and many of the dwelling-houses with tin, or painted sheet-iron.

The lower town, which is the principal place of commerce, occupies the ground at the basis of the promontory, which has been gradually gained from the cliffs on one side, by mining, and from the river on the other, by the construction of wharfs. The channel is here about a mile in breadth, to Point Levi, on the opposite shore, and its greatest depth at high water, is thirty fathoms, the anchorage being every where safe and good. Since the year 1793, ship-building has been carried on with considerable success, and vessels of every description and dimension, from fifty to a thousand tons burthen, have been constructed. The materials are found in abundance in the country, but the anchors, sails, and cordage, are generally imported. As the tide rises eighteen feet, and at spring tides twenty-four feet, there is no difficulty in finding situations for dock-yards.

The rock of which the promontory of Quebec is composed, consists of a species of black lime slate, varying in thickness; which, although apparently compact, may, by the stroke of a hammer, be shivered into thin pieces, and, by exposure to the influence of the weather, it moulders into soil. A considerable number of the houses of the town, is built of this stone, and there is a mode of placing it, by which, in masonry, its durability may be considerably prolonged. The inhabitants, comprehended in Quebec, and in the suburbs of Saint John, and Saint Roc, may be computed at about 15000.

When viewed from Point Levi, on the opposite coast of the river, an interesting variety of objects is exhibited, by massy rocks, interspersed with shrubbery, by Cape Diamond, boldly

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