

that they were not all delighted; for I have seen the ships in which some of them have crossed the Atlantic, and should think that any thing would be preferred to life on board of them.

I asked an old Scotchman one day, just arrived, whether he had had a pleasant passage. He pointed down the half-closed hatches and said, "In that hole there were above ninety of us; and yet this was the only ventilator we had during a voyage of six weeks, except three days, when the after-hatches for a short time were removed. On account of the impurity of the air, I used to come on deck at night, and could scarcely persuade myself to return." I confess that the sight presented below sunk my ideas of human nature to a grade that always makes me feel uncomfortable for a day or two. The sounds which rose together reminded me of Bunyan's pit of Tophet, though the old man did not answer my idea of a shepherd of the Delectable Mountains.

A few days may be agreeably spent at Montreal and Quebec, and in visiting the environs: for, although there is little to excite interest in the literary institutions (knowledge, in all its branches, being at a low ebb), the foreign air of the people, their habitations and manners, the appearance of activity which pervades every thing during the brief summer which the climate allows, and the peculiar features of the natural scenery, present considerable attractions. Time is not allowed to enter into detail. Let us see, then, whether any idea of the variety and nature of the objects, most striking to a traveller, may be conveyed by a rapid mention of them.

The approach to Montreal, in one of the Laprairie ferry-boats, allows you to contemplate it at leisure. The distance is nine miles: the river, which is three miles broad, being crossed transversely. You are excited by the rapidity of the powerful steamboat, and of the current, bearing you like a bird over a ragged channel, which often is visible, covered with crags, apparently ready to tear the bottom of the vessel. French, of a harsh and uncouth dialect, is dinned in your ears by market-men and women,