

## LETTER II.

Falls of Niagara. — Canada West. — Mode of Farming. — Short Wheat Crop. — Average Produce. — London. — Price of Land. — Climate. — Diseases produced by Malaria. — Rich Lands more subject to them than poor. — Proposed Route to British Columbia. — Red River and the Valley of the Saskatchewan. — The Hudson Bay Territory. — Alleged Fertility of the Country. — Failure of the Selkirk Settlement. — Plague of Grasshoppers. — Mr. Kitson's Account of the Settlement on Red River. — Policy of abandoning that Country to Canada. — Probable over-estimate of its Value.

TOWARDS evening the train landed us at Niagara, but we caught no sign, either by sound or sight, of the great Falls till we found ourselves seemingly close in front of them at the Clifton House Hotel. The doors and windows of this hotel shake day and night, though it is really a mile distant from the Falls, and the sound seems no greater when you are close beside them than it is here. Following Sydney Smith's example at Woodhouselee, I pinned or wedged my door and window with complete success, then took a moonlight view of the Falls, during which we had the good fortune to see a lunar rainbow. After a two-mile walk to the suspension bridge, I regret to be obliged to confess that my first impression was one of disappointment. The country is tame and flat though wooded, and the river leaps from this flat *into* a deep gorge, on which you look down, instead of finding yourself in a valley *from* which you might look up. During the night you are roused by a sound like a fearful storm, but it continually changes, and presently you might imagine that you were close to 1000 railway engines blowing off their steam. How eagerly one springs up to get the first view in the morning sun!