

up and down the great river, with the town-clad rocks and their declivities immediately fronting the city: and from the Levis side, or the deck of a steamboat, Cape Diamond and its Citadel, and, as a separate and beautiful feature, the lovely valley of the St. Charles, with the amphitheatre of the Laurentian Chain in still increasing elevation and distance forming the sky-line. These have often been compared to the Hills of Judæa; and there are few things more distinct in character and beauty than the historic village of Charlesbourg, as it nestles among the hills. It reminds one of some of Gaspar Poussin's happiest efforts. But it might not have struck even the residents of the city—in all cases—that there are just two, and no more, favourable avenues along the public roads leading out of the city for viewing these fine northern shores, in what we may call a dioramic extent of line, these points of view differing considerably from one another in the field commanded. The one of these is on the St. Louis Road, near the centre of the actual Wolfe and Montcalm battle-field and the hill on which Wolfe fell, now occupied by a Martello tower; the well-known monument and scene of West's picture being the point at some distance to which he was carried and where he died. The other vista is off the St. John's Road, as the tourist approaches the column and bronze of St. Foye. These two grand and historic views have rightly been looked upon as among the lions of Quebec. Glimpses may be caught from other points of the north bank we have been describing, but not the dioramic and mountain view in its extent of outline; that is, not from any point to be gained on the roads themselves. The vistas which are thus rendered so precious are formed by large patches of Ordnance Land, reserved in all previous years under the British authorities as appendages to the Citadel, in order to permit the deploying of considerable bodies of troops, and also to afford the power of carrying the eye over a wide extent of country in military movements and the operations of defence.

The Ordnance Lands, as we know, were handed over by the Imperial authorities, who for a century had so well preserved them, to those of the Dominion at Ottawa, a few years since, in trust for the general benefit of the country; and one of the first things that strikes us in connection with them is, that if Quebec is to continue to be a garrison city, and its fortress-crowned rock to be still an element of strength and protection to the Dominion, the more important of these open spaces will require to be kept open, from the obvious consideration that an army with its brigades and detachments cannot afford to be pent in by walls, but must be able both to move about and to find facilities for the observations of its staff and directing head. Mr. Mackenzie's attention has, we believe, been awakened to this fact, and so he has hitherto confined his house and street locations to the points least necessary for the military service; and the grand new Dufferin improvements also are designed in such a way as not to obstruct the organizations of defence, or shock the professional instincts of the able commandant and his school of gunnery. We should like here to enlarge upon the plans of our excellent Governor-General, so nobly prosecuted on the eve of his departure from amongst us, for making Quebec the point of attraction it should be for the tourists of all nations; but we shall be better able to do so when those plans, in their carrying out, shall have become more advanced. Our purpose to-day is rather to call attention to a little blunder—not little in its prospective effects—that Mr. Mackenzie has fallen into, in regard to what we have termed our St. Louis Road Diorama of Mountain and Village Scenery. We are always sensible of the kindest sympathies for the athletic aspirations of our young Canadian citizens; but in the present instance it happens to be they who have been the means of drawing the Minister, amidst his distant avocations, into the mistake we speak of. A plot of ground, in extent over two hundred yards square, is now apparently about to be boarded up with that greatest of civic abominations, a ten-foot hoarding-fence, leaving only the narrowest of vistas at one extremity for a meagre glimpse of the shores of the St. Charles and Charlesbourg villages and mountains; and this, too, on the main road which will form the drive of our new Governor-General and his Royal Consort, when honouring Quebec as their residence. The object of the hoarding is to enable those young and enterprising friends to make their Lacrosse matches an object not merely of attraction, but of exclusion, and of such solid returns as will suffice to liquidate the rent of the ground, payable to Government during the lease they have secured. If all could see for nothing, the dimes would not be coming in for the lacrosse matches. That we understand. Say three public matches or so in a season; and to this end has been contrived the hoarding-fence, and the public exclusion from a daily summer delight, and the loss, for all the future, of the ever-repeated pleasant surprise to the carriage loads of tourists, whose money is always shed so freely within the city, to secure this and similar privileges. In short, we perceive here what may fairly be called a conflict of vested interests. The claim of the older and general civic interest, whether of private citizens or hotel-keepers, carriage owners and storekeepers—railway and steamboat companies—to which add the Dominion generally and the tourist body whom we are so anxious to gratify—this claim being one of great importance and long standing. The other, an interest created by an arrangement of to-day, and tending to the gratification of the few, while securing the unquestioned loss of the many, whether in pocket or objects of taste. We should be very glad to think the difficulty could be overcome in any way, and it does strike us that if a practical architect were consulted he would find some means of realizing a solution. We have no desire to dictate in matters practical, but it looks as if a four-foot fence, with sockets in the top of the pickets for iron rods upon which canvass could be strained for the great attractive matches of lacrosse, might meet the difficulty. Anyhow, something should be done at once, even though it consisted in the voting a lacrosse fund to supersede altogether the collection of the dimes, and so enable gentle and simple alike to view the games without any personal expense.

We hope we have succeeded in showing that this is no more to be considered a question of merely local interest than the loss of the grand Mountain view in Montreal could be, and certainly that would cause a wide-spread regret that would be traced over all the descriptive literature in the hands of the travelling public.

As soon as our cities and citizens learn to pull together, they will find that they are strong; and in these practical times, scenic beauty, like other commodities, has a distinct and in no improper sense marketable value.

The new and elegantly-designed gates for Quebec are proposed to be built of one of the ugliest and gloomiest limestones to be found in the Province,—about twenty shades darker than the Parliamentary buildings, for example,—it being used in them for foundation work only. It is a brilliant arrangement, but not nearly so bad as shutting out the views.

CIVIS CANADENSIS.

NO CLOUD—NO RAIN.

If the glorious sunshine
Smiled upon us ever,
Autumn's golden harvest-fields
We should welcome never.

Clouds *must* dim the radiant light
Or refreshing rain
Never upon tree or flower
Would descend again.

Earth would be a barren waste,
Birds and flowers die,
If the dark-winged cloud should never
Veil the azure sky.

Human hearts are like the earth;
If no tear-drops fall,
Love's own sweetest spirit-flowers
Would not bloom at all.

Sigh not then if sorrow's clouds
Sometimes hide the sun;
Richest blessings are in store,
When the dew-drops come.

Dreier than earth's barren wastes
Human hearts would be,
Were sweet feeling's fount unfilled
From the clouds dark treasury.

H. M.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

SEA SICKNESS.—Inhaling a few drops of Nitrate of Amyle is said to give immediate relief in sea sickness. It must be used with caution where there is suspicion of heart disease. The Acetate of Amyle is one of the most successful remedies for asthma; inhaling one drop on a handkerchief relieves the most distressing symptoms.

RIPENING OF GRAPES.—Recent experiments show that grapes at the time of ripening liberate carbonic acid both in light and darkness, the quantity produced being greater than the quantity of oxygen consumed. Grapes are capable of absorbing or losing water when kept in a moist or dry medium. As ripening advances, acids diminish and sugar increases. The theory of ripening is this: Acids and Glucose are formed in the plant, and the sap conducts them to the grape, the acids are consumed and the sugar is condensed. When the ripening is very far advanced, the sugar is consumed in its turn. Grapes will ripen to a certain extent after removal from the vine, but never completely mature after removal. An excellent system is pursued in France, and that is to construct a lattice-work fence in a well aired, cool room, and attach vials with wire. Fill these vials with water, and cut bunches of grapes with a piece of the vine. Insert the end nearest the root in the vial, and fill up as the water evaporates. Grapes will keep their plumpness and bloom better in this way than in any other. A uniform temperature will preserve grapes for several months.

OATMEAL.—Liebig has chemically demonstrated that oatmeal is almost as nutritious as the very best English beef, and that it is richer than wheaten bread in the elements that go to form bone and muscle. Professor Forbes, of Edinburgh, during some twenty years, measured the breadth and height, and also tested the strength of both the arms and loins, of the students in the University—a very numerous class, and of various nationalities, drawn to Edinburgh by the fame of his teaching. He found that in height, breadth of chest and shoulders, and strength of arms and loins, the Belgians were at the bottom of the list; a little above them the French; very much higher, the English; and highest of all, the Scotch and Scotch-Irish from Ulster, who, like the natives of Scotland, are fed in their early years with at least one meal a day of good oatmeal porridge.

One of the most refreshing beverages in warm weather is oatmeal water made by stirring a handful of oatmeal in a gallon of water with ice. Lemon or lime juice added with sugar quenches the thirst and is most wholesome. The demand for oatmeal in the States has so increased that mills for grinding and packing are quite numerous. One improvement in the preparation of oatmeal is the cutting of the oat instead of grinding, which makes a much more palatable porridge than that made from the ordinary meal. Oatmeal porridge and milk is one of the most nutritious articles of diet, and will sustain life longer than any other preparation of the cereals.

SEA-WATER SOAP.—A process is patented in Germany for making salt-water soap, which consists of adding phosphate of soda to the soap. This will answer for almost any kind of hard or sea-water.

BEES FOR RHEUMATISM.—The stings of bees is announced in Germany as a great discovery for rheumatism. This remedy has been practically known in Canada for the past fifteen years, Mr. Valiquet, of St. Hilaire, having recommended it after trying.

STICKY FLY-PAPER.—Rosin, 4 oz.; raw linseed oil, 1 oz. Melt; add honey, ½ oz. Stir well and spread on paper, which previously has been drawn through a solution of alum, else the "glue" goes through.