

Extract from Notes of Travels in Canada West, by Alexander Somerville.

EDWARDSBURGH, County of Grenville, C. W., July, 1861.

Below Prescott nine miles, at foot of the Gallops Rapids, on upper section of the St. Lawrence Canals, the grandly flowing River, two miles wide, dotted with lovely islands; New York shore rising beautifully beyond; Family groups of islands; brother and sister islands; and a small baby island, carrying one sugar maple and no more. The place is named after Prince Edward, father of Queen Victoria. Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, landed here in June, 1793, and stayed a week at the house of Captain Fraser, at head of the Rapids, two miles above this, awaiting boats and escort from Kingston. The Prince was three weeks ascending the River from Montreal, [informed so by Lt. Col. Clarke, of Edwardsburgh, then a boy,] and many poor emigrants encountered such delays until quite recently. This day the Grand Trunk Railway Engines waft emigrants and all comers over the distance in four hours. From visiting the Great Eastern Steamship at Quebec, men whom I knew in Scotland thirty years ago as working ploughmen, and who came to Canada as such, were last night, with their wives and daughters, now ladies, carried along in the sleeping cars, reposing in luxury not always enjoyed by Princes in their Palaces. The Railways bestow upon farmers—give them a gift equal to 20 cents a bushel for all produce, and double price for live stock [and ready money at that, instead of long credits and trafficking the grain and cattle for goods not required] more than they obtained before the Grand Trunk, and Western Railways were built. Yet the Political Men of Canada seem insensible to this marvellous transition of the Province, now bounding onwards to affluence. The Victoria Bridge alone, enables merchants, in winter, to advance the price of the whole produce of Upper Canada from Montreal, six hundred miles West and North-west, about five cents per bushel.

The water flume from the Canal at this place might give the Starch Company nine hundred "horse power" if needed. They have ten separate central discharge wheels, working at flour-mill, saw-mill, and starch factory. A steamer from Chicago, distant 1000 miles, is this day delivering 30,000 bushels of corn; half of it to be prepared for puddings and custards; 25,000 bushels were manufactured in the last six months. Machinery occupies five floors. Processes intricate; yet all is order and cleanliness. Farina washed in filtered water twelve times; the solution passed through silk cloths, which are washed in filtered water daily. Purity and order within the works delight the visitor; and the situation outside charms, enchants him, with a mingled loveliness and grandeur surpassing anything he has yet seen on the American continent. 4,000 lbs. manufactured daily. Boxes, made at the saw-mill, hold 40 lbs. each. Many cattle feed on the refuse.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

PAYNE'S RAILWAY HOTEL,

At Edwardsburgh, County of Grenville, Canada West,

Is a Pleasant House ;

Best Accommodation ;

Low Charges ;

Boating and fishing among the Islands on the River ; a delightful recreation.
Steamboats and Railway Trains at all hours.