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MONTREAL, PAST AND PRESENT.*

II.

WE know no more lovely drive in Canada than that around the Mountain Park in Montreal, and no grander view than that obtained from its southern terrace. At our feet lies the noble city, with its busy streets, its many churches, its pleasant villas and gardens; in the distance the noble St. Lawrence, pouring to the sea the waters of half a continent. Like a gigantic centipede creeping across the flood, is seen the many-footed Victoria Bridge, and afar off on the purple horizon the leafy mound of Mt. Belœil and the blue hills of the Eastern Townships. No one familiar with the earlier aspect of this fair city can help contrasting its present with its past.

The Montreal of the present day, says Mr. Sandham, is far different to that of fifty or even twenty years ago. The spirit of improvement has been in most active and efficient operation. A few years ago St. Paul, Notre Dame, and other business streets, were narrow thoroughfares, and were occupied by buildings which were plain in the extreme, the iron doors and shutters, which were almost universal, giving the city a heavy, prison-like appearance; but these buildings were erected to meet dangers not dreaded in the present day. The old landmarks which still

* We are largely indebted for the information contained in this article to the admirable Hand-book of Montreal, prepared by Alfred Sandham, Esq., from which we have made copious extracts. For the cuts we are indebted to the courtesy of W. Drysdale & Co.—ED.