

so different from what I had seen in other families in the country. My doubts however were soon solved, and on a little farther inquiry, I found the sickly hue and dirty appearance of this family could be satisfactorily accounted for without imputing the blame to the situation of their residence or the climate of the country. I have already mentioned that the father had fled from the dry land and taken refuge on the water. Here although he enjoyed the merit of having fraudulently but successfully defeated the laws of his country, * this may be considered as constituting the whole enjoyment he had. Having no landed property, his sole dependance for food to his family was the profit of his tippling shop which he expended on flour and salt pork in the Montreal market, and which constituted their daily food. Fed in this way, and spending their time in indolence and inactivity they thus contracted their *squalid sickly aspect*. They were moreover assiduous devotees to the spirit cask which with their lazy habits accounted for their *dirty and disordered appearance*, the most striking features in this family.

Although we all in conformity with immutable custom had stopped at this place, none of us had any reason for remaining long; some had disembarked to stretch their limbs, some to taste the landlord's liquor, and others like myself had been prompted by mere curiosity; so that the reader will perceive our business was not such as to detain us long, and we were soon afloat again. (I beg the readers pardon, we had never been on shore,) but to speak more plainly we were re-seated in our boat and pulling along. I am fond of children, I have always been so, although this is rather singular for an old Batchelor; and one of the greatest objects of attraction to me in the little urchins, is there fine fresh rosy complexions, which are the result of good health of the body, a cheerfulness of disposition and freedom from mental care. I could not reside in a country where the climate robbed the infantine cheek of its proper and natural glow. Although I had (as I thought) satisfactorily accounted for the sickly colour of the children I had just seen, still their aspect forced itself upon my mind; and I determined to inquire if there was any thing in the climate of Canada prejudicial to health, or tending to obliterate the infant bloom, for I decided, should this be found the case, I would proceed no farther, it would be no proper place for the Itinerant. My eye naturally turned to my friend the major for the solution of this difficulty. He had served here, for a short time during the late war, and I was aware his intelligent lady would not have fixed upon Canada for her future residence without first ascertaining if the climate was salubrious or not. He told me with all the plainness of an old soldier that he could find nothing in the climate of Canada to engender disease. That he had resided in it as well as in

* It is very doubtful Mr. Itinerant, how far this movement of the habitation would have guarded the occupant against the laws and saved his taking out a Licence for retailing Liquor, we are rather inclined to think his escape from justice was more attributable to the forbearance of the law than to its imbecility, and perhaps residing as he did at a distance from all competitors, he had no envious opponents in his business whose interest it was to have given information of his illegal proceedings.—*Edit.*