

the intervening spaces to be filled in with hollow bricks. Mr. Page, the chief engineer of the Public Works Department, in his report on the Public Buildings in 1867, expressed some fear that the large space and great weight of material in the vault, together with that in the high lantern over it, might lead to serious consequences in case of any imperfection in the works, and his counsel so far prevailed that the plans were changed and an iron roof substituted, which is equally ornate in appearance, equally substantial, and far less dangerous. The design of the building is bold and very effective outwardly, and so far as appearances go, nothing more could be desired in the way of internal ornamentation and arrangement. It is painful to learn, however, after an expenditure of somewhere in the neighborhood of \$300,000, that, instead of having accommodation in this grand structure for such a collection of books as would be in keeping with the population and importance of the Dominion fifty or one hundred years hence, which Parliament and the public fully expected, it has been ascertained with tolerable certainty that the existing stock—neither too large nor too select it must be admitted,—will barely find house-room within its walls. The old library, situated immediately between the two Houses of Parliament and the new building, has been fitted up as chambers for the Supreme Court, and is admirably suited to the purpose. The last sitting of the court was held in it—a sitting as important in its results as any that will probably ever take place, for in some of the decisions rendered there are involved principles which lie at the very bottom of Canadian nationality and prosperity—at the very bottom, be it said, of law and order, of British justice and our common liberty.

Ottawa has the reputation, and probably deserves it, of being the hottest city in summer and the coldest in win-

ter within the bounds of old Canada. Certain it is that here both extremes meet, combining to form a climate so severe as to be a serious drawback to the settlement of the surrounding country. We probably have winter from three weeks to a month earlier than Toronto, and the "inclement season" stays with us at least as much longer in the spring. However, when the snow has once passed away, and the face of nature is open to the genial influence of the bright, warm sun, the progress of vegetation is most wonderfully rapid, and its luxuriance unrivalled anywhere in North America. The streets are unfortunately almost altogether without the shade trees which form such a grateful protection from the scorching summer heat in almost every village, town and city in Ontario beside; but, to those who have the leisure, compensation for this very serious deficiency may be found by resorting to that most delightful retreat—the Lovers' Walk—delightful for the prodigality with which nature has bestowed upon its surroundings her most precious gifts, delightful for the magnificent panorama which is presented to the eye of the beholder, turn which way he pleases. The walk consists of a terraced footway cut into the almost perpendicular side of the eminence from which the Parliament Buildings look proudly down, and winding completely round it. Below, the noble river sweeps majestically about the base of the hill, and from various points may be seen the canal locks and the Majors' Hill; Gatineau village and the confluence of the river of that name with the Ottawa; Hull city, and its saw mills, match factory, and immense piles of lumber; a considerable stretch of the Chelsea Road, with finely cultivated farms skirting it on the south, and hemmed in on the north by the Laurentian mountains, rich in their iron ores that but wait enterprise and capital to develop them; and the Chaudière, with its renowned