



WITH WOLFE IN CANADA; OR, THE WINNING OF A CONTINENT.

CHAPTER I.

A RESCUE.

MOST of the towns standing on our sea-coast have suffered a radical change in the course of the last century. Railways and the fashion of summer holiday-making have transformed them altogether, and great towns have sprung up where fishing villages once stood. There are a few places, however, which seem to have been passed by by the crowd. The number yearly becomes smaller as the iron roads throw out fresh branches. With the advent of these comes the speculative builder, rows of terraces and shops are run up, promenades are made, bathing-machines and brass bands become familiar objects, and in a few years the original character of the place altogether disappears.

Sidmouth for a long time was passed by by the world of holiday-makers. East and west of her great changes took place, and many far smaller villages became fashionable sea-side watering-places; the railway which passed by some twelve miles away carried its tens of thousands westward, but left few of them for Sidmouth, and any one who visited the

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