

CHAPTER XVIII.

HAMILTON and Toronto are decidedly rivals in the race to wealth and prosperity. The former contains already some three or four-and-twenty thousand inhabitants, the latter three or four-and-forty thousand, yet Toronto was a city before its sister had a name or location. Toronto always affects to speak of Hamilton as that "aspiring little city," in a half-jealous, half-affectionate tone, as some young pretty mothers, who have not quite given up dancing, are apt to do when they see their daughters, just emerging from the school-room, standing opposite to them in the quadrille. In this case, however, the simile no longer holds good, for both cities may go on flourishing side by side, increasing and prospering, till they rival many of the largest in the Old World. We were truly astonished with Hamilton, with its size and evidences of prosperity, its admirable site for commercial purposes, and the beauty of the surrounding scenery; in the latter point, especially, it far surpasses all other towns in Canada, with the exception, in certain points, of Bytown and Quebec, which are, however, unique in their way.