

To those ignorant of the geographical position, there is something in the term *Lower* strongly indicative of a superiority in climate, which is by no means borne out by actual circumstances. Winter, in the Lower Province, wears a more severe and protracted form, than it does on the great table-land above. Many decisive facts in confirmation of this might be adduced. I shall only mention, that wheat cannot here withstand the severity of winter, requiring to be sown in spring, and occasioning thereby both loss and inconvenience to the farmer in wet and late seasons; while quails, or Virginian partridges, it may be observed, which abound in the Upper, are totally unknown in the Lower Province.

The soil is generally a fertile clay, which has hardly been yet brought, in any instance, to the test of what it may produce. It is generally occupied in small possessions, which continue, with the exception of some large seignories and church-lands, to fritter more and more away, from the absence of a check in the law of primogeniture, and a want of enterprise in the people, which might lead them to counteract this effect, by entering on new land. The population is chiefly French, and the religion Roman Catholic. The *habitans* are industrious, frugal, and contented; but their condition, to say the least, is almost stationary, and the habits or practices of their fathers are far too scrupulously revered. In person, they are rather good-looking, especially the men; and to view them clothed in their home-spun druggat frocks, with a physiognomy of absolute content, peering from under the large hood so well fitted for a Canadian winter, is to obtain an assurance of unquestionable happiness and comfort. The numerous orchards and abundance of fruit evince what steady and strong heat will produce, even with a winter of the most intense cold; and while this supply contributes in a considerable measure to the wealth of the people, it adds in no small degree, with the aid of the sugar maple, to the enjoyments of a board in all respects plentifully furnished. The fine Island of Montreal is covered with orchards, and in every quarter they present themselves in rich luxuriance.

Notwithstanding, however, of these, and the many ad-