

upon the removal of the Public Departments to the permanent seat of Government. Outside of this accession to its numbers, however, it had kept pace with the growth of the country, and was rapidly availing itself of the many commercial advantages which its natural situation had conferred upon it. Its history has been brief but eventful. The settlement of the place began, and that in the rudest fashion, but some fifty years ago, with the construction of the Rideau Canal. That work was under the superintendence of Col. By, of the Royal Engineers, from whom Ottawa derived the designation of By-Town, by which it was known until 1854. How remarkable that the Rideau Canal, which cost so much money, and to which its promoters, and especially Col. By, attached so much importance, natural and military, should already have fallen practically into disuse! Such, however, is the fact. So limited is its traffic, and so great the disparity between its receipts and expenditures, that two sessions ago the Premier announced it as very probable that the Government would expend no more money in dredging or otherwise permanently repairing it. Projected, though it was, in obedience to the dictates of self-defence, and in order to establish a system of communication between the interior and the head of navigation which would not at all times be at the mercy of our always very greedy and then not very friendly southern neighbors, there were those who from the beginning doubted its utility. Four million dollars was a large amount to pay for a work which railway communication and the improvement of the St. Lawrence system have long since rendered of no practical value whatever. \* Either its construction was never called for, or else the abandonment of its maintenance now is an error; which horn of the dilemma to choose the people of this intensely commercial age will have



CHAUDIERE FALLS IN WINTER.