

courier between Annapolis and Halifax once a week, 133½ miles at £260. A courier leaves Montreal on Monday evening for Swanton, Vt., where he waits for the United States mail and returns on Saturday night with the latest mail from Boston. (The mails from England usually come by this route.) He has a salary of £156 per annum. From the commencement of the present year a communication by post has been opened from Montreal to Kingston. The distance is two hundred miles. The courier goes once a fortnight and has a salary of £100. The reason he can do it so cheap is because he carries the newspapers on which he has his own profit. A post to York is proposed for six months, or during the close of navigation. The water-communication is so frequent during the summer as to render a post unnecessary. The expense will be about £80. The post between Quebec and Montreal is despatched twice a week from each of those towns. Couriers leave the offices on Monday evening at five o'clock and arrive on Wednesday following. They set out again on Thursday evening and arrive on Saturday morning. Between those places there are three post-towns—Three Rivers, ninety miles from Quebec and the same distance from Montreal; Berthier, forty-five miles from Three Rivers and the same from Montreal, and L'Assomption, twenty-two miles from Montreal. Eight pence is charged for postage on a single letter from Quebec to Montreal. The expense for the conveyance of the mail for twelve months is £604 stg. On the 5th April, 1800, I took charge of the Post-office department in the British provinces of North America. The net revenue for twelve months from that date was £884, and for the last twelve months it was £2,514 sterling. There are on the road between Quebec and Montreal about twenty-seven persons whose houses are seven or eight miles distant from each other and who keep four or five horses each, not of the best description, and small vehicles with two wheels of a homely and rude construction, hung upon bands of leather or thongs of unmanufactured bull's hide by way of springs, and these are termed *calèches*. They will with much difficulty contain two persons, in front of whom a man or boy is placed to guide the horse. The rate at which they go when the roads are favorable is not more than six miles an hour. Considerable time is wasted by changing vehicles, and travellers are sometimes obliged to wait half an hour, so that fourteen hours might be lost in this way alone. The legal fare is a shilling a league for a