

R E P O R T
OF
MONSIEUR A. MICHEL, GEOLOGIST,
ON THE
GOLD MINES OF THE RIVER CHAUDIERE
AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

To the Directors of the de Lery Gold Mining Company.

GENTLEMEN,—The valley of the Chaudiere, in Lower Canada, excites the admiration of all those who visit it. After a couple of hours' drive over the macadamised highway, which leaves Point Levi, we strike the *Chaudiere* River, on the confines of the Parish of St. Isidore. Then the road, skirting the right bank of the river, passes successively through the parishes of Ste. Marie, St. Joseph, St. Francois and St. George, and opens into the State of Maine at the place called "Kennebec," from which the road takes its name. An uninterrupted succession of farm houses, cultivated lands, and agricultural establishments please the eye while animating the scenery; and when the journey through the valley is made at midsummer, the tourist meets at every step with fields which promise an abundant harvest, interspersed, here and there, with rich pasturages.

The farmers of this district are the proprietors of the soil; hence the care exhibited in its cultivation. They are exclusively French Canadians, and have preserved intact the language, customs and religion of their forefathers. This population is very sympathetic and hospitable in its character. It is a laborious and industrial population; and to the persevering efforts of several *habitans*—who became miners after the gold discoveries—are due the principal results obtained up to the present time in the auriferous region of the Chaudiere Valley.

The Seigneurie of Rigaud-Vaudreuil, which at a later period became the Parish of St. Francois, is situated at about 50 miles distance from Quebec, in the most picturesque portion of this beautiful valley. It has an extent, along the *Chaudiere* River—which flows through and divides it into two equal sections—of nine miles in length, by a depth of six miles on each bank of the river, and has a general superficies of 84,672 *arpents*.