

perused or disturbed. It is about the size of a small cat, has a shining hair of a grey colour, with two white lines that form an oval on its back. The fur of this animal, with that of the ermin, otter, and martin, make up what is called the small peltry.

The ermin is about the size of the squirrel, its fur is extremely white, its tail long, and the tip of it as black as jet.

The martin, or fable, lives principally among the mountains; is as long as a common cat, but very slender: their fur is very fine and valuable.

The musk-rat resembles the beaver in every part, except its tail, which is round like that of a rat. One of these animals weighs about five or six pounds. During the summer season the male and female keep together, but separate at the approach of winter; and each seeks a shelter in some hollow tree, without laying up any provisions.

The foxes here are of various colours, as black, grey, red, and white; who, by their craft and cunning, make great havoc among the water-fowl in the lakes and rivers.

The country abounds with a vast variety of fowls, and the rivers and lakes are well stored with salmon, eel, and a multitude of various kinds of other fish.

S E C T . III.

A Description of Quebec and Montreal; with a particular Account of the Conquest of those Cities, by which all Canada became subject to the Crown of Great Britain.

QUEBEC, the capital of Canada, seated about three hundred miles north-west of Boston, in New England, is a handsome and large city, strongly fortified. The harbour is flanked with two bastions, which at high tides are almost level with the water. A little above one of them is a demi-bastion, which is partly taken out of the rock; and above it, on the side of the gallery of the fort, is a battery of twenty-five pieces of cannon: above this is a square fort called the citadel, and the ways from one fortification to another are difficult to pass. To the left of the harbour, on the side of the road, are large batteries of cannon, and some mortars. It is encompassed with walls, and has a castle on the brow of a hill, about forty fathoms above the town; but it is irregularly built, and fortified with only two bastions, and no ditch towards the town. It has also another fort at Cape Diamond of solid rock, four hundred fathoms high: but it owes its greatest strength to nature. The first place taken notice of upon landing here is a square of an irregular figure, with well-built houses on one side; on the back of which is a rock; on the left it is bounded by a small church; and on the right has two rows of houses parallel to each other. There is another between the church and the harbour; as also another long row on the side of the bay. This is called the Lower Town, which is mostly inhabited by merchants; but it is too much crowded. Between this and the Upper Town is a very steep ascent, in which are steps for the foot passengers to go up. This has noble edifices, and between two large squares is a fort, in which the governor resides. Opposite the fort the Recollets have handsome houses, and on the right is the cathedral, which is built in a mean stile, but has a large, high, and well-built tower, that may be seen at a great distance. Over-against this is the Jesuits college, which is a fine building; and between them are well-built houses. The house of the Knights Hospitallers is a stately structure, with two fine pavilions. In the second square are two descents to the river of St. Charles, an hospital called Hotel-Dieu is in the midway, and from thence are smaller houses, which reach to that of the intendant. On the other side of the Jesuits college is a pretty long street, in which is a nunnery. Almost all the houses are built of stone, and there are above seven thousand inhabitants. Besides the Lower and Higher Towns, there is another beyond the latter, on the banks of the river St. Charles, along which are several noble country seats.

In 1711 the English fitted out a fleet, with a design to conquer Canada: but the expedition failed, from the rashness of the admiral, who, contrary to the advice of his pilot, sailed too near the Seven Isles, and thus lost his largest ships, with three thousand of his best sailors. But it has since been attacked with much better success.

It will not be improper to give here a particular account of the taking of this city, one of the most difficult enterprizes that was ever effected by the united efforts of prudence and valour. The situation of the place, and the fortifications with which it is secured; the natural strength of the country; the great number of vessels and floating batteries the French had provided for the defence of the river; the skill, labour, superior force, and uncommon vigilance of the enemy; their numerous bodies of Indians, who continually hovered about the posts of the English to surprize parties and harrafs detachments; these, and many other obstacles, formed such a combination of difficulties, as was sufficient to discourage and perplex the bravest and most intelligent general.

But the spirit of Wolfe was not to be intimidated by danger; embarking the troops on board the transports, he pulled with them up the river; while admiral Holmes made a motion with his ships to amuse the enemy, now posted along the north shore. But the transports being extremely crowded, and the weather very bad, the general thought proper to canton half his troops on the south shore, where they were refreshed. As no probability appeared of annoying the enemy above the town, it was agreed to convey the troops farther down in boats, and land them during the night within a league of Cape Diamond, in hopes of ascending the heights of Abraham, which rise abruptly with a steep ascent from the banks of the river, that they might take possession of the ground on the back of the city, where the fortifications were but indifferent: but the dangers and difficulties attending this undertaking were exceed great. The stream was rapid; the shore shelving; the bank of the river lined with centinels; the landing-place so narrow as to be easily milled in the dark; and the ground so difficult as hardly to be surmounted in the day-time, had no opposition been expected. Had the enemy received the least intimation from a spy or deserter, or even suspected the design, had the embarkation been discovered in consequence of the rapidity of the river, or the sleepiness of the north shore, near which they were obliged to row; had only one centinel been alarmed, or the landing-place much mistaken; the height of Abraham must have been instantly secured by such a force as would have rendered the undertaking abortive; confusion would have necessarily ensued in the dark; and this confusion would naturally have produced a panic, which might have proved fatal to the greater part of the detachment. These objections did not escape the penetration of the intrepid Wolfe, though he readily adopted the plan, and even executed it in person, though at that time afflicted with a severe dysentery and fever.

Having prepared for this dangerous enterprize, admiral Holmes moved with his squadron farther up the river, about three leagues above the intended landing-place, in order to deceive the enemy, and amuse M. de Bougainville, whom Montcalm had detached with fifteen hundred men to watch the motions of that squadron; but the English admiral was directed to fall down in the night, and protect the landing of the forces; this he punctually performed. On the twelfth of September, at one in the morning, the first embarkation, consisting of four complete regiments, the light infantry, commanded by colonel Howe, a detachment of Highlanders, and the American grenadiers, was made in flat-bottomed boats, under the immediate command of the brigadiers Monckton and Murray, though general Wolfe accompanied them in person, and was one of the first who landed: and they began to fall down with the tide to the intended place of disembarkation, rowing close along the north shore, in order to find it the more easily. The boats glided gently along without any disorder; but by the rapidity of the tide, and the darkness of the night, they overshot the mark, and the troops landed a little below the place intended.