

QUEBEC.

The lower town, which is the principal place of commerce, occupies the ground at the basis of the promontory, which has been gradually gained from the cliffs on one side, by mining, and from the river on the other, by the construction of wharves. The channel is here about a mile in breadth, to point Levi, on the opposite shore, and its greatest depth at high water, is 30 fathoms, the anchorage being every where safe and good.

Since the year 1793, ship building has been carried on with considerable success, and vessels of every description and dimensions, from fifty to a thousand tons burthen, have been constructed. The materials are found in abundance in the country. As the tide usually rises 18 feet, and at spring tides 24 feet, there is no difficulty in finding situations for dock yards.

The rock, of which the promontory of Quebec is composed, consists of a species of black lime slate, varying in thickness; which, although apparently compact, may by the stroke of a hammer, be shivered into very thin pieces, and by exposure to the influence of the weather, it moulders into soil. A number of the houses of the town, are built of this stone, and there is a mode of placing it, by which, in masonry, its durability may be prolonged.

The inhabitants, comprehended in Quebec, and in the suburbs of St. John and St. Roch, may be computed at 15,000.

In ascending the St. Lawrence from Quebec to Montreal, the country on either side that river becomes less diversified, but richer in soil and more improved in cultivation. The banks, which are abrupt and precipitous, open into several little bays, intermixed with rocks, woods and settlements. On the north side, at the distance of two miles from the town, is Wolfe's Cove, the place at which the celebrated general of that name disembarked his army, previous to the battle on the heights of Abraham.