

TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTICES—continued.

are great and varied, and will well repay a residence of a few days. The chief Hotels are St Lawrence Hall, Montreal House, Ottawa, and Western Hotels.

Quebec, the Gibraltar of the American Continent, being naturally as well as artificially a very strong fortress, situated on the summit of Cape Diamond, 840 feet above the St. Lawrence. The Town extends in a N. E. direction down to the water's edge. The houses are wholly built of stone, and the public buildings are substantial and handsome. The population is about 45,000. Quebec after being alternately in the hands of the English and French, was taken from the latter in 1759. The British and Canadian forces under General Wolf, attacked and defeated the French under Montcalm, on the heights of Abraham, Wolf fell in the moment of victory, and Montcalm who was wounded expired soon after. A monument was erected inscribed to the "Immortal Memory of Wolf and Montcalm." (See Smith's Canada.) The Hotels are Sword's, The Albion, The Ottawa, and the City.

We have thus traversed a considerable portion of one of the largest rivers in the world, noticing some of the principal Towns on its banks, and we close for the present with a few remarks on the River itself, which forms the boundary line for a considerable distance between Canada and the United States. Its remotest source is the St Louis, an affluent of Lake Superior. It receives different names in different parts, of its course being at first as we have seen, the St. Louis; between Lake Superior and Lake Huron the St. Mary; between Lakes Huron and Erie the St. Clair and Detroit; between Lakes Erie and Ontario the Niagara; and from Ontario to Montreal, the Iroquois from Montreal to the sea being the St. Lawrence properly so called. Its entire course then from the St. Louis to the sea, the intervening Lakes being mere enlargements of its bed, is upwards of 2,000 miles, at its source it is 1192 feet above the sea, giving an average fall of 6 inches per mile, tho' this fall is unequally distributed owing to the many cataracts and rapids along its course, on the Niagara River the descent in 86 miles is at least 884 feet 164 of which are contributed by the Great Falls, and the rapids between Kingston and Montreal are so numerous, and the descent so great, in a comparatively short distance that an extensive line of Canal navigation has been cut to enable vessels to avoid them. These magnificent works, the Beauharnois, Cornwall, Lachine, Rideau, and St. Lawrence Canals, together with the Welland Canal, form an enduring monument, to the energy skill, and enterprise of the Canadian people. The basin of the St. Lawrence is said to contain more than the half of the fresh water on this planet, and it has been curiously calculated that there is sufficient to envelope the entire earth with a watery covering 8 inches in depth.