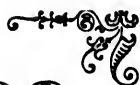


Quaint Quebec



A BIT OF
MEDIÆVAL EUROPE
IN
AMERICAN SETTING

FEW, if any, places in America rival the ancient city of Quebec in its attractiveness. The quaint old-walled place is the most interesting spot historically on this western continent, and combined with this feature is a picturesque location, perhaps unequalled in the world. Quebec is like a transplanted city—a French town of olden times set down in American surroundings, in which the chief characteristics of mediæval Europe and modern America are deftly and delightfully interwoven—and around it are clustered a host of legendary memories. Perched on a high promontory at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and the St. Charles rivers, its situation is unique and magnificent. On the highest point is the famed citadel, which has given to this city the name of the “American Gibraltar,” and everywhere around are battlements, fortresses, castles, monasteries, convents and feudal gates and towering walls. As one puts foot on the historic soil of this matchless “Mecca” of tourists, the ancient and foreign aspect of the city, so wholly at variance with the rest of the continent, is impressive. “The quaint, picturesque figures of the inhabitants,” says one writer, “their alien speech, their primitive vehicles of locomotion, their antique French houses, huddled together and poised up high on the edge of the cliff, the unrivalled citadel and menacing fortifications, the narrow, crooked streets, and winding, steep ascent to the Upper Town, recall some old world capital—a survival of mediæval times.”

All about this ancient stronghold—first of the French, then of the English—every spot has been the scene of stirring events. Here it was that the early discoverers of the northern part of America first landed, and where European civilization was first planted. Here lived those illustrious and chivalrous adventurers, whose exploits shed lustre on Old France, and from here at one time the whole country from the great lakes to the Mexican Gulf was governed. Here the French made their last fight for empire in this western world on the Plains of Abraham, where Wolfe and Montcalm heroically fell. But for over a century peace has prevailed, and while still redolent of the martial and religious flavor with