

MONTREAL.

The habitations of the principal merchants are neat and commodious, and their storehouses are spacious and secure against risk from fires ; they are covered with sheet-iron or tin.

The town was inclosed with a stone fortification, which having long since fallen to ruins, is now in a great measure levelled or removed. It was thus fortified to guard its inhabitants against the frequent irruptions of the Iroquois ; the walls were never in a state to resist the attack of a regular army. Montreal is divided into the upper and lower town, although the difference of level between them exceeds not fifteen feet. In the latter is the public market, held twice in each week, and the hotel-dieu : the upper town contains the cathedral, the English church, the convent of recollets, that of the sisters of notre dame, the seminary, the government house, and the new court of law. The religious edifices are constructed with more solidity than taste, and all of them are possessed of extensive gardens.

The hotel-dieu, founded in 1644, has a superior and thirty nuns, whose principal occupation consists in administering relief to the sick, who are received into that hospital.

The general hospital stands on the bank of the river, and is separated from the town by a small rivulet ; it contains a superior and nineteen nuns.

A natural wharf, very near to the town, is formed by the depth of the stream and the sudden declivity of the bank.

The town contains from 12 to 16,000 inhabitants. The mountain is about two miles and a half distant from the town. The land rises at first by gentle gradations, and is chiefly occupied for gardens and orchards, producing apples and pears of a superior quality. The more steep part of the mountain continues to be shaded by their native woods. The northern extremity, which is the most lofty, assumes a more abrupt acclivity, with a conical form, and the remains of a crater of a volcano are found among the rocks.