

INTRODUCTION.

To this, the first Directory of the old city of Cataraqui, it may not be inapplicable to prefix a few brief remarks concerning its antecedents and present status.

Kingston is beautifully situated in a nearly land-locked bay, at a point where Lake Ontario merges into the majestic St. Lawrence. The view of the city and surrounding scenery is not surpassed by the approaches to any other city in America. A few miles above Kingston, the waters of Lake Ontario are divided by the first of the long series of islands so well known to tourists as the "Thousand Islands," of which Simcoe and Wolfe Islands, opposite the city, may be looked upon as strongholds, designed by nature to withstand the encroachments of the waves of Ontario. A considerable body of water pours to the South, forming what is called the "American Channel," passing Cape Vincent, French Creek, Alexandria Bay, &c., being the channel which the American steamers generally follow on their upward and downward routes. By far the greater body of water, however, follows the North or Canada channel, the usual course of British American vessels.

On approaching from the West, the first object that attracts the traveller's attention, is Fort Henry, with the naval station of Fort Frederick at its base, and its attendant battlements, fortifications, towers and redoubts. Fort Henry is a favorite resort of visitors, and its elevated position affords the best view that can be had of the city. By the courtesy of the Town Major, visitors can always obtain tickets of admission.

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