

what wasted with rust, its shape was as perfect as it was the day it was made. This lock evidently belonged to the Queen's Gate, near the eastern or sea-end of the walls of the fortification.

As the tourist stands upon the brow of the ruined ramparts and surveys the present aspect of Louisburg, he cannot fail to be deeply impressed by the intense loneliness and desolation of the scene. The contour of the grass-covered walls is boldly outlined, and the large casemates look like so many black ovens rising out of the green fields. To the southwest stretches the ocean; to the north rise the cliffs from which the lighthouse flashes forth its beacon of warning from eve to day-break. The land towards the interior is low and covered with a small growth of firs, while the houses are small and scattered. Early in the morning and late in the afternoon the harbour present an animated spectacle, as the fishing-boats, of which there is a large number, dart merrily through the water; but at noon of a summer's day, unless there are vessels in port, the scene is inexpressibly lonely. The tinkle of a cow-bell, or the cry of the circling gull, alone startles the loneliness of the ruined fortress. Our thoughts naturally fly back to a century ago, when a stately pile of fortifications and buildings stood on that low, green point now only covered by a few grass-covered mounds to tell the story of the past. Port Royal, LaTour and Beauséjour were but comparatively insignificant forts, while Louisburg was for years one of the strongest fortified towns in America; but all are now alike in their desolation and ruin.

Nothing but historic tradition remains of the old buildings in which the Frenchman of the last century talked with his comrades—

"Of sallies and retiring, of trenches, tents,
Of palisades, frontiers, parapets;
Of basilisks of cannon, culverin,
Of prisoners, ransoms, of soldiers slain,
And all the currents of heady flight."

On the other side of the harbour is the terminus of a narrow-gauge railway which connects with the town of Sydney. The action of the government, during the present session of Parliament, in giving a subsidy to a railway from the strait of Canso to Louisburg or Sydney, will in all probability assist in bringing about a great change in the fortunes of this section of the Dominion. The harbour of Louisburg is one of the most accessible on the Atlantic coast of the Dominion, for a vessel can reach its shelter in a very few minutes from the ocean, while it is remarkably clear of ice during the winter. It is probable, in the course of a very few years, Louisburg will have entered on a new era of development, and will more than realize, under Canadian auspices, the idea of a second Quebec, as the founder of the old town more than a century ago.