



TRAVELS IN CANADA

AND THE

FRONTIER UNITED STATES.

CHAPTER I.

The Canada Frontier.—Canada a Battlefield.—What would that be like?—A mass levy of the adult male population a possible necessity; Under what circumstances?

ON the margin of Chicago river, ten miles from the city of that name, in the State of Illinois, you may walk and meditate on the destiny of British America as appropriately as anywhere between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. There your theme takes the form of dark and stern facts, whose shadows are even now flitting across the boundary line of Canada and the United States.

At the distance of a rifle shot from Chicago stream, you are on River Desplane, a tributary of the Illinois. The Illinois assists to carry Northern navigation to the Mississippi, and along that grandly flowing river to the Gulf of Mexico, distant from where we stand, two thousand miles South-west.

But Desplane river, when in high flood gives its surplus water to the Chicago, and small boats pass between them. The Chicago, descending about twelve feet in ten miles, surrenders its own flood and its neighbour's surplus to Lake Michigan, from whence they flow to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, two thousand miles East.