

pleasanter to go to those places and see for myself, than to loiter uselessly about a manufactory from day to day, whence no possible future good could be derived by me. But how could this be managed ; to travel requires cash, and although my grandfather and uncle supplied me with a liberal allowance for pocket money, I knew well that they would not spare me a sufficient sum to carry out my wishes. I mentioned this difficulty to my brother. " Why," said he, " the thing is easy enough ; why not go home to Quebec ? They will all be happy to see you. You can then decide what step you will next take. I know that the agreement with our grandfather was, that if you wished at any time to rejoin the family in Canada, he was to provide you with a passage out. Of course you cannot sail until the spring ; and, if you take my advice, you will acquire as much knowledge as practicable of the working of a ship, and the various duties required of its officers and men, while on your passage across the Western Ocean ; it may stand your friend some day, if you have a roving turn of mind. I will teach you how to pull and steer a boat, during our stay in the docks." And he kept his word. We went out in the ship's jolly boat, but I very nearly came to grief at the outset. The boat was alongside, with a quantity of water in it, and my brother requested me to bail it out. I set to work with a good will, and while so doing, I struck my hand against a wooden plug, driven into a hole in the bottom of the boat, to drain her when on deck. Now, as I always had an aversion to more hard work than was actually necessary, a bright thought struck me ; why not pull out the plug and let the water run out, as I had seen it done on board. In a moment out it came, but instead of running out, to my surprise and consternation, the water rushed in and the boat filled and sank. Fortunately, I had learned to swim while at school, or I should have paid pretty dear for my stupidity. Striking out for the first boat, I got in, and from thence on board, where I took off my clothes and had them dried—using a suit of