## QUEBEC.

*"I pray you let us satisfy our eyes with the memorials and the things of fame that do renown this city."*

*Shakespeare.*

Quebec, founded by Samuel de Champlain, on the 3rd July, 1608, is the capital of the province, bearing the same name—the oldest of the several provinces, confederated in 1867, as the Dominion of Canada. There is no city in America more famous, in the annals of history, and few on the continent of Europe more picturesquely located.

Whilst the surrounding scenery reminds one of the unrivalled views of the Bosphorus, the airy site of the citadel on Cape Diamond, recalls Innspruck and Edinburgh.

"The Gibraltar of America," bristling with artillery, sits defiant on a rocky promontory, at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and St. Charles rivers, 180 miles from Montreal and over 100 miles from the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It has about 70,000 inhabitants, with six chartered banks, several Masonic lodges, six French and three English newspapers. The chief business of the city until a few years back was shipbuilding and the exportation of lumber; latterly, the high rates of labour, enforced by arbitrary regulations, bids fair to carry to other ports a notable portion of the returns derived by the workingman from this latter rich mine of industry. Quebec, since the days of Bishop Laval, has continued to be the seat of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Canada, and the elevation of its archbishop to the dignity of a Roman Cardinal, in June last, was attended with a most imposing pageant and general illumination.

Of late years several important manufactories have sprung up, especially in the populous suburb of St. Roch; the city is expected to derive material benefit from the convergence here of several lines of railway; coupled with the transatlantic steamships, and making it a depot of immigration and of freightling; the erection of the projected bridge across the St. Lawrence at or a little higher up than the city, whilst supplying the missing link in that great national work, the Canadian Pacific railway, will remove the disadvantage inflicted by the winter Levi crossing; three or more lines of railway will then land their passengers and freight in the city; the place will have ceased to be a *cul-de-sac* during six months out of the twelve.

Quebec is built nearly in the form of a triangle, bounded by two rivers and the Plains of Abraham, and is divided into the Upper Town and Lower Town, the former standing on an envalled and strongly fortified bluff three hundred and fifty feet high, while the latter is built on the contracted (and reclaimed) strands between the cliffs and the river. Hence its name of the "Walled City of the North." Several of the streets, by their names, *Grande Allée, Couillard, La Montagne*, etc., recall the narrow paths of early days, when M. de Puiseaux, reached, in 1640, his Sillery home at Pointe-à-Puiseaux, under the leafy shades of the intervening Sillery woods, through the *Grande Allée*, the main forest avenue; or when le *Sieur Couillard*, about 1613, located his lares, near the spot where Hope Gate stood, or where Champlain, in 1623, had the path enlarged, which led from the lower to the upper town—*à la Montagne*. This explains why these very ancient thoroughfares are narrow—occasionally crooked often very steep; peculiarities which help to make it the most picturesque and mediæval looking city in America—beautiful and healthy, withal. "Take mountain and plain," says Elliot Warburton, "sinuous river, and broad, tranquil waters, stately ship and tiny boat, gentle hill and shady valley, bold headland and rich, fruitful fields, frowning battlement and cheerful villa, glittering dome and rural spire, flowery garden and sombre forest—group them all into the choicest picture of ideal beauty your fancy can create, arch it over with a cloudless sky, light it up with a radiant sun, and lest the sight prove too dazzling, hang a veil of lighted haze over all, to soften the lines and perfect the repose,—you will then have seen Quebec on *this* September morning."

"The scenic beauty of Quebec," says Dr. John Charlton Fisher, "has been the theme of general eulogy. The majestic appearance of Cape Diamond and the fortifications, the cupolas and minarets, like those of an Eastern city, blazing and sparkling in the sun, the loveliness of the panorama, the noble basin, like a sheet of purest silver, in which might ride with safety a hundred sail of the line, the graceful meandering of the River St. Charles, the numerous village spires on either side of the St. Lawrence, the fertile fields, dotted with innumerable cottages, the abodes of a rich and moral peasantry, the distant Falls of Montmorency, the park-like scenery of Point Levi, the beauteous Isle of Orleans, and more distant still, the frowning Cape Tourmente, and the lofty range of purple mountains, of the most picturesque forms which bound the prospect, unite to form a *coup d'œil*, which, without exaggeration, is scarcely to be surpassed in any part of the world."

The Walled City has been truly styled the key to Canada, and the Levi earthworks, casemates and new forts, to meet the requirements of modern warfare, still make good this proud boast. It was conceded also when its citadel was crowned with the *Fleur de lys* of Old France. It may yet be called on to play a part in the future. Under its grim, mossy walls, the two foremost nations of Europe were once arrayed in deadly strife, to decide the fate of empire in the new world.

As far back as 1535, its green banks offered a refuge and winter quarters to Europeans; the city must ever awaken the deepest interest in the eyes of every student of history. "Viewed from any one of its approaches, it impresses the stranger with the conviction of strength and permanency. The reader of American history, on entering its gates or wandering over its squares, its ramparts and battle-fields, puts himself at once in communion with the illustrious dead. The achievements of daring mariners, the labors of self-sacrificing missionaries of the Cross, and the conflict of military heroes who bled and died in the assault and defence of its walls, are here re-read with tenfold interest. There, the lover of nature, in her grandest and most rugged forms, as in her gentle and smiling moods, will find around it an affluence of sublime and beautiful subjects."

The wintering of the venturesome Jacques Cartier on the shore of the St. Charles, in 1535-6, by its remoteness is an incident of interest, not only to Canadians, but also to every denizen of America. It takes one back on an era nearly coeval with the discovery of the continent by Columbus—much anterior to the foundation of Jamestown, in 1607—anterior to that of St. Augustine, in Florida.

Lengthy discussion has taken place as to the origin of the names Canada and Quebec. Some assert that Kannata, the Iroquois word, signifying "a village" or "collection of huts," was given indiscriminately to the whole of this vast region, by the early navigators, and that Quebec owes its name to the exclamation of the Norman sailors "Quel bec!" "What a promontory!" whilst others with good reason think it was derived from a word in the Algonquin language signifying "a straight."

A fanciful derivation is that attributed to the Spanish word *a-cosa-ada*. Nothing here, uttered by some Spanish sailors on viewing the sterile aspect of some headland. The Suffolk seal inscription, pictured by Hawkins, has been proved to mean Caudebec, a town in Normandy, and not Quebec. But let us not tread rashly on the ground of the antiquary.

Subsequent ages have ratified the sound judgment of Champlain in selecting the commanding site of Quebec as the location of the great fortress of French power in America, the "fulcrum, which for a century moved the continent from the shores of the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico;" though at one time, the sheltered shores of the St. Charles were freely talked of, as the proper site of the ascent settlement.

How oft, indeed, has the storm of battle raged furiously round Quebec's hoary ramparts, bristling with guns, lying in ambush, like huge beasts of prey, ready to pounce on any assailant; its solid walls and crenelated bastions, planned by skilled French engineers, and costing fabulous sums to France, though the present Citadel, a noble structure recommended by the Duke of Wellington, was built in 1823-1830. This comparatively modern work, the materials for which were hoisted 350 feet, from the St. Lawrence below, by the river railway in Canada, cost England millions.

Many and murderous were the Indian raids around Quebec at the dawn of the settlement, Champlain having injudiciously taken part against the Iroquois, in the incessant wars they waged against the Huron and Algonquin tribes, nutured in the vicinity of the Fort.

Quebec, more than once the battle-field of England and France, in the New World, had to bear repeatedly the brunt of the rivalry of these two powers, unconnected then by treaties of commerce.

Five sieges, in 1629, 1690, 1759, 1760, 1775, have left their bloody footprints round its battlements.

Had the bulk of its citizens, the sons of old France, in 1775 and 1812, sided with the invader, there would not likely be at present, in this fair Land of the West, any loyal subjects to green Victoria, as Queen.

It might not be an uninteresting subject of research, to trace the complex origin of the 70,000 souls comprised in the population of the Ancient Capital.

For years, Quebec meant New France, though its successful rival, Montreal, very soon played an important part in colonial affairs. New France in fact was originally peopled by emigration from Brittany, Normandy, Perche, Poitou, Anjou, Aunisse, industrious and moral peasants, hardy fishermen, adventurous mechanics in quest of homes and a livelihood free from the heavy imposts then beginning to weigh on the French nation. An important class soon came to the front, in a country in which the Indian dialects had to be studied and used, the class of French interpreters, composed of men, who eventually attained important situations of trust; one of whom was for a time charged with the administration of the colony, the Baron de Longueuil; let us also mention others such as Marsolet, Nicolet and Couture.

Great care seems to have been practised in the selection of colonists, by the public companies and later on, when Quebec became a crown colony,—by the king; unlike the mode of colonizing which obtained for the Isle of St. Christophe and other islands.

The disbanding of several companies of the dashing Carignan Regiment, brought out here by the Marquis of Tracy, in 1665, by the infusion of new blood raised the standard of colonists adding a refined element to the sparse population. Louis the Great had tempted the officers, many of whom were connected with the French nobility, to settle in Canada, by royal gifts of waste lands, offering to the privates, farm stock and land as well. This accounts for the names of several old seigniories, called after their first proprietors, all military men: Sorel, Chambly, Verchères, Berthier, Granville, Coulonge, Varennes, Rougemont, La Valtrie, La Perade, De la Naudiere, etc. Many of these refined Canadian *gentilshommes*, however, appear to have been more addicted to heading sanguinary raids on the peaceable hamlets of New England and to border warfare generally than to ploughing and harrowing their broad acres.

The conquest of the country in 1759-60 brought out from Britain an important accession of English and Scotch adventurers in and around Quebec; the wealthy, a prey to that "earth hunger" which distinguishes the English race, and anxious to acquire estates for their sons and daughters.

The exodus in 1783-4 of the United Empire Loyalists, from the adjoining heretofore British Provinces, recognized in 1783, as an independent nation, was but slightly felt at Quebec. This progressive element, the founders of Western Canada, were, however, represented in that city, in 1786, by the late Chief Justice of New York, the Hon. William Smith, appointed in 1785 by King George III, Chief Justice of Quebec; by his son, William Smith, the historian of Canada, and later, in 1789, by his son-in-law, the learned Jonathan Sewell, another U. E. L. from Massachusetts, who, in 1809, became Chief Justice of Lower Canada, and died in 1839, leaving eighteen sons and daughters.

The Reign of Terror in France in 1793, which brought over a colony of distinguished French Royalists to Western Canada, added nothing appreciable to the census of Quebec, with the exception of a few zealous French priests, who were provided with *cures*, in and round the city. The banner of St. George, instead of the white lily of France, floating on our bastions, secured the city against the invasion of the delegates of Couthon, Robespierre, Denton, Carrier, etc.; no scaffolds were erected in the upper town market place, and French noblemen and French priests were welcome among us, without the constant fear of the guillotine before their eyes. Quebec was not Cayenne!

One word about another element—a law-abiding one—in our complex population, left, but whose origin remains yet to be enquired into by our ethnologists: the German element. Whence and at what date came among us these notable men—the Wurtele, Hoffmen, Hesse, Ambleman, Ruthven, Von Koenig, Von Iffland, De Rottenburg, Adler, Seyhand, Bowen, Templeton, Reinhart, Colback, Hind, Wolff, Eckhert? How many of them can seek for their ancestors amongst the Brunswickers and Hessians, which landed at Quebec in 1776 under Baron Redhasel and with the various shiploads of Germans, chiefly from Wurtemburg, who emigrated to Canada to escape conscription during the early Napoleonic wars and previous.

The Pozer family dates back to old George Pozer, the millionaire, as he was styled, but he did not come direct from Germany; he had first settled in New York and then returned to England, landing at Quebec in 1791.

The Irish population of Quebec became considerable about 1823, when emigration was flowing from the Green Isle to America, emigration increased to very large proportions about 1847; the Irish headquarters in the city then were in Champlain street. The Irish settlements, in the townships and round Quebec, date back as early as 1815.

They grew in importance and numbers, under the wise guidance of a venerated priest, the Revd. Father McMahon, living in amity with their English neighbors; they founded a national society in 1835.

The great bulk of the population of the city still French, is not by any means oblivious of the fatherland, beyond the seas.

"Few cities, says M. Marmier, "offer as many striking contrasts as Quebec, a fortress and a commercial city together, built upon the summit of a rock as the nest of an eagle, while her vessels are everywhere wrinkling the face of the ocean; an American city inhabited by French colonists, governed by England, and garrisoned with Scotch. The Highlanders, 78th 79th—93rd regiments; a city of the middle ages by most of its ancient institutions, while it is admitted to all the combinations of modern constitutional government; an European city by its civilization and the habits of refinement, and still close by, the remnants of the Indian tribes and the barren mountains of the North; a city of about the same latitude as Paris, while successively combining the torrid climate of southern regions with the severities of a hyperborean winter; a city at the same time Catholic and Protestant, where the labors of our (French) missions are still uninterrupted alongside of the undertakings of the Bible Society, and where the Jesuits driven out of our own country (France) find a place of refuge under the ægis of British Puritanism." J. M. LeMoine.

*Lettres sur l'Amérique*, X. Marmier, Paris, 1869.

## THE COUNTRY SEATS AROUND QUEBEC.

A striking feature about Quebec scenery is the extensive group of handsome rustic manors which encircle the brow of the old Capital like a fresh and fragrant chaplet of flowers, though it would be idle to seek in a certain number for architectural excellence, old-world dimensions, old-world splendor and ancient construction. As a rule, they are the pleasant and healthy abodes of the high digni ries in church and state, as well as the prized mansions of the successful citizens, in the professions, commerce, etc. "Nowhere indeed are to be found lofty ruins, dating back to doomsday book, moated castle, or mediæval tower. Wanting are no Blenheims, no Walton halls, nor Chatsworths, nor Woburn Abbeys, nor Arundel castles to illustrate every style of architectural beauty, rural embellishment and landscape. Dalquierre, Rochecotte, Lafaudinière, Chantilly, Lochee-Chinon, Marly, have suited old France; they would have been lost in new France. Canadian mansions, thus best at them, are not the stately country homes of

'Old pheasant lords,
. . . . Partridge-breeders of a thousand years,'

typifying the accumulated wealth of centuries or patrician pride; for are they the *gay chateaux of La belle France*. In this Canada at ours, aft we have had to do without the architect's skill; nature had been so lavish to us in her own lordly decorations, that art could be dispensed with. Our country seats possess attractions of a higher class, yes, of a nobler order, than brick and mortar moulded by the genius of man can impart. A kind Providence has surrounded them in spring, summer and autumn with scenery often denied to the turreted castle of the proudest nobleman in old England. Those around Quebec are more particularly hallowed by associations destined to remain ever memorable amongst the inhabitants of a soil moistened by the blood of heroes."* On one of these historic sites, more than one century ago, was decided the fate of French Canada—let us say by its ultimate results—of North America.

The majority of these cool retreats, scarcely visible from the high road, lie *perdu*, under dense groves of old oaks and pines, the remnants of the forest primeval, on the lofty banks of the noble St. Lawrence, from Cape Rouge to Cape Diamond, eight miles; and from thence to the foaming cataracts of Montmorenci, seven miles to the east; whilst others stand embedded in sweet seclusion amidst trees and flowers, under hoary pines and verdant maples, like sentinels on the Foyn heights, watching the meanders of the St. Charles flowing below, amidst cedars with dark green glades, with the blue "turban of the Laurentides" in the distance as a background. Foremost, may be mentioned Spencer Wood, Powell Place, as it was styled, in the days (1780-96) of General Henry Watson Powell, a noble domain of about 75 acres, occupied by His Excellency Sir Hunter Craig, Governor-General of Lower Canada in 1807, and purchased in 1849 from the late Hy. Atkinson, as a gubernatorial residence for the Earl of Elgin, then Governor-General in Canada; it is now the official residence of His Honor the Lt.-Governor of the Province of Quebec.

Marchmont—The country seat of Thos. Beckett, Esq.
Wolfesfield—The country seat of Evan John Price, Esq.
Elmgrove—The country seat of John Burstall, Esq.
Thornhill—The country seat of Archd. Campbell, Esq.
Spencer Grange—The country seat of James M. Le Moine, Esq.
Rosslyn—The country seat of Lieut.-Col. Jos. Bell Forsyth.
Montague Cottage—The country seat of Alfred P. Wheeler, Esq.
Cataraqui—The country seat of the late Chas. E. Levy, Esq.
Bardfield—The country seat of Alfred Furniss, Esq.
Benmore—The country seat of Lt.-Col. Wm. Rhodes.
Kirk Ella—The country seat of Robert Campbell, Esq.
Beauvoir—The country seat of Richard R. Dobell, Esq.
Clermont—The country seat of Lt.-Col. Ferd. Turnbull.
The Highlands—The country seat of Frs. W. Stockwell, Esq.
Meadowbank—The country seat of Sir Andrew Stuart.
Ravenswood—The country seat of Wm. Herring, Esq.
Dornald—The country seat of John Neelson, Esq.
Redcliffe—The country seat of Amos Bowen, Esq.
Roshbrian—The country seat of Simon Lessard, Esq.
Holland House—The country seat of Hon. James G. Ross.
Hamwood—The country seat of Robt. Hamilton, Esq.
Alta Mont—The country seat of Hon. David A. Ross.
Rivaz—The country seat of Andrew Thomson, Esq.
Pavilly (on Grande Allée)—Hon. Frs. Langelier.
Baudon Lodge—Hon. Jos. Shehyn.
Aslie Champetre—Mrs. Henry Dinning.
Haldimand House—(Duke of Kent's residence, 1791-4)—The country seat of Paterson Hall, Esq.
Montmorenci Cottage—The country seat of Herbert M. Price.
Coucy-le-Cashi—The country seat of Hon. Judge Taschereau.
Ringfield—The country seat of Geo. Holmes Parks, Esq.
Villa Mastai—The country seat of A. C. R. P. Landry, Esq.

The above are the most extensive country seats round Quebec; there are several others in the environs, most picturesquely located and affording striking views of the city.

*Picturesque Quebec, p. 272

## THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM.

No spot in the environs of Quebec is more calculated to attract the attention of tourists than the lofty plateau, where the English and French armies met in deadly encounter one murky September morning in 1759. Smollett, Carlyle, Bancroft, Warburton, Smith, Hawkins, Garneau, Forland, Beatson, Miles and other historians have vied with one another to furnish graphic accounts of this famous battle; these plains, covering about 32 acres, were called after an old Scotchman, Abraham Martin, described in old titles as Maître Abraham Martin dit l'Ecossais, pilot on the St. Lawrence to the French King.

The area is bounded to the south by the summit of the cane overlooking the St. Lawrence; to the west, by the Sillery woods; to the north, by the St. Louis road; and to the east, by a loftier plateau, extending to the foot of the present citadel: formerly, the plains are supposed to have comprised to the north the whole of the intervening expanse as far as the Ste. Foye road, and even beyond.