

official records of his own office, through which all soccage grants have been made since the existence of the colony. Another part was collected from the official and non-official returns and statements of resident township agents, upon which the utmost reliance could be placed. A third resource was found in the principal landholders and leading inhabitants of the townships, who were regularly consulted, in a series of queries, upon the local, agricultural, statistical and religious state of their respective sections of country. In addition to these multifarious means of information, the public returns of the census of 1825 were carefully consulted, and to the whole mass of documents thus accumulated, were superadded the results of three official tours performed by the author in 1820, 1824 and 1827, in the course of which he visited the settled extremities of the province, and traversed the old and the new settlements in almost every direction, noting with care, as he went along, the information with which he was furnished, on the spot, by the intelligent inhabitants whom he consulted, and sketching the country as he proceeded.

Out of these combined materials has grown the following Topographical Dictionary. There are many minute points connected with the topography of a country, of the utmost importance to those seeking for complete information as to its resources, for the arrangement of which, as well as for the facility of reference, the alphabetical form affords distinguished advantages; and this has induced the author to prefer the lexicographic plan, which he confidently presumes will be found to combine many and important advantages, from its comprising, under one view, all the particulars that can be required upon any one point. Thus every county, parish, seignior or township is described under its particular head, with reference to its boundaries, extent, locality, soil, &c.; its statistics are then tabularly detailed, together with the description and amount of its agricultural produce and live stock. After the description of each seignior or fief is an extract of the original title thereof, taken from the archives of the province.

The lakes, rivers, roads and canals come also under their respective names, and are all described in topographical detail. Under the head "Province" will be found a general description of Lower Canada; and under that of St. Lawrence an ample and somewhat nautical account of that important river. The system of opening roads through the forest, and of commencing clearings for settlement in the wilderness, will be found explained under the heads of *Hull, Roads, New Settlements*, and incidentally in various other parts of the work; and as this information is derived from the experience of practical settlers, it is the more valuable to the emigrant who may eventually take lands in Lower Canada.

In fact, nothing has been omitted which the author conceived might be of the slightest interest or importance, and which the researches of, and the accumu-