

names Canada and Quebec. The best authenticated accounts seem to be, 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 !—or, as others with good reason think, to a word in the Algonquin language signifying "a strait."

Quebec is the key to Canada,—and so thought Wolfe and Montcalm and other brave men who fought and died for possession of the prize.

To begin fairly with Quebec, one cannot do better than endeavour to realize the first impressions of the elegant American writer, Professor Silliman :—

"Quebec, at least for an American city, is certainly a very peculiar place. A military town, containing about 20,000 inhabitants ; most compactly and permanently built—stone its sole material ; environed, as to its most important parts, by walls and gates, and defended by numerous heavy cannon ; garrisoned by troops having the arms, the costume, the music, the discipline of Europe—foreign in language, features, and origin, from most of those whom they are sent to defend ; founded upon a rock, and in its highest parts overlooking a great extent of country ; between three and four hundred miles from the ocean, in the midst of a great continent, and yet displaying fleets of foreign merchantmen in its fine capacious bay, and showing all the bustle of a crowded seaport ; its streets narrow, populous, and winding up and down almost mountainous declivities ; situated in the latitude of the finest parts of Europe, exhibiting in its environs the beauty of an European capital, and yet in winter smarting with the cold of Siberia ; governed by a people of different language and habits from the mass of the