

come more equalized by the attrition of circumstances, characters and events. Before I came to Canada, I never met, in society with any Scotch men but such as bore the stamp of learning, education, and liberality. Indeed the diffusion of literature amongst the Scotch, and the better opportunities afforded to the middling and inferior classes for education, gave them a proverbial character, wherever I before knew them, of knowledge, whilst their natural activity, enterprise and shrewdness, adapted them in the highest degree, to become the companions, the friends, the esteemed associates, of the best, and most enlightened of those amongst whom they were dispersed. Before I came to Canada, I had the highest esteem for them as a nation, and entertained the warm sentiments of friendship for several individuals with whom I had associated; but, lamentable was the reverse when I found what sort of Scotchmen form the great bulk of the British inhabitants of this province. They are generally men who have had no education, beyond that of the first rudiments taught in a charity-school; widely different from their countrymen who visit the southern part of Britain, and become able, worthy, and agreeable members of society of the state, and of the republic of letters, men who shine equally at the bar, on the royal exchange in the pulpit, and the convivial circle, who participate in the toils of the statesman, and share both the dangers and the glory of the army and navy.— Here, without any other desire or pursuit at first than that of amassing riches, you may, perhaps, find one in twenty who has had so much of a liberal education to have got as far as the Roman classics, and one in fifty, whose soul has become expanded by the cultivation of letters, and fitted for the rational intercourse of men of sense. But these are so rare, that they are actually ashamed of being supposed capable of thinking any thing else worth pursuing than how to make a fortune. They are shy and afraid of showing their love of books, they hide themselves when they indulge in it, for fear of the ridicule of their illiterate and ignorant countrymen, whose god is gain, and whose excellence of wisdom consists in the talent of being able to overreach in trade with the greatest dexterity. Whilst these, miserably deficient as they are in every intellectual perfection, and an exception, (and certainly to me a strange one, yet it is undoubtedly the fact,) to the generality of their countrymen in that respect, yet possess all their natural activity, enterprise, and shrewdness, which degenerate into low cunning, and bustling trickery, by which they soon become wealthy, at the expense of the cheated and confiding Canadians, who, in their turn, they teach to be equally tricking and cheating with themselves, and who, before these strangers flocked in such numbers amongst them, were a guiltless, strictly moral, and honourable people and are so now, wherever they live remote from the trading-towns that are infested and overrun, with the adventurers