

able burden; and its shores in many parts are overgrown with rushes. Those winds which at times agitate the surface of the lake, seldom or never disturb its stagnant waters. The site which the town occupies appears to have been once a deep meadow, interspersed with pools of water. Some spots of ground which border upon the town are as yet in a state of nature. Even those fields which have been cultivated, are not sufficiently intersected with drains to carry off the collections of water, which, in the rainy season of the year, often inundate the soil. The inhabitants of the town do not exceed six hundred, a number extremely small when contrasted with the whole population of the province\*. The town on its west side is defended by a fort, which is erected on a dry and level spot of ground. Here was established the general hospital, in rear of the army, to which the sick and wounded were

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\* The number of the inhabitants of the province, with the late increase by immigration, may be estimated at 105,000.