

directions, men swear, bargain, or invite you to their hotels, in the accents of half-a-dozen countries.

The situation of the town is very good : at the head of the Niagara River is the outlet of Lake Erie ; at the end of the great chain of the Western Lakes—the commerce of twelve hundred miles of these broad waters is centered in this point, and condensed in the narrow passage of the Erie canal and Hudson River, till, at New York, it pours out its wealth into the Atlantic.

The site has a gentle dip to the south, towards the lake ; across it, lying nearly east and west, is the harbour, separated by a peninsula from the waters of the lake. This affords secure and ample shelter for the shipping, numerous though they be, which crowd in day and night. The town was born in the first year of the nineteenth century. The English totally destroyed it in 1814, in retaliation for the burning of Little York, or Toronto, by the Americans. The motley population number now twenty-five thousand souls ; they possess sixty steam-boats, and more than three hundred sailing vessels.

There are many large public buildings, erected by a very enterprising man—among the rest is a jail, where he at present resides : he forged for large sums of money, bought land, ran up streets