

in spite of all obstacles found myself in a few minutes aboard. My friend was there! Twenty years had passed since we had met, yet I could not venture to his presence—recollection was busy marshalling before me the first impressions of our early acquaintance, and I found so much pleasure in the retrospection as nearly to forget the renewed opportunity of blending these recollections with the positive enjoyment of his society; he approached, however, and though his once handsome features were now rugged and emaciated, a glance was enough to recognize each other; a hearty shake of the hand, and looks which told the fulness of the heart within, followed, and deprived us both of words for an instant. Hastening ashore, our conversation became desultory; my friend informed me he had made up his mind to reside in Canada, upon the income which he derived from property in the funds; there was, he acknowledged, a wide difference in the climate, but he looked upon it as more *British* to sail for Canada than Calais—among friends and countrymen endeared to him by many ties and recollections, to a country where our constitution and laws are established, and where he hoped to discover society constituted very similar to what it is in our native land.

A man of a tolerable independency may live with distinction in Canada, and at all times become a welcome guest to his neighbours. That high aristocratic feeling which unfortunately prevails in circles in Britain will not be found here. Dependent as we are upon each other for the real enjoyment of intellectual and social life, such distinctions in respectable society would be as misplaced as injurious. Well bred gentlemen are at all times valuable and interesting companions; when in such society I never permit my heart to be asked whether their *circumstances* are equal to my own, it is sufficient for me that they possess those real virtues which distinguish so many of our countrymen.

My friend was particularly delighted with the river scenery. A stranger arriving in sight of Quebec, will naturally be struck with the imposing and sublime objects which in every direction attract the eye;—on the right, the beautiful and fertile Island of Orleans, and the romantic fall of Montmorenci, excite his wonder and admiration—in front, Cape Diamond, with its Citadel, and the tiers of building from the Lower to the Upper Town, are striking and majestic objects; higher up, the picturesque beauties of the plains of Abraham, and, on the left, Point Levi, in splendid and infinite variety, burst upon the view—characteristic, however, rather of foreign than of British scenery. Lower Canada does not generally indicate a British Province, and there appears a sameness in those parts which are cultivated and inhabited, which the eye seeks in vain to contrast with the modern mansions and cottages of Great Britain.

The large construction of our steam-boats, and the shipping in harbour during the navigable season, give to Quebec and Montreal much commercial importance. The steam-boat navigation is truly applicable to the immense rivers and inland seas of Canada. Its vast machinery triumphs against all the force of rapids, tides, and wind—and carries us, with the velocity of the speedy horse, from place to place; but the advantages which this great invention gives us over the deep, must, to make them truly valuable as a national benefit, be followed up by advances towards improvement among the inhabitants of the country. In the French character there is much to commend and something to admire—but they want leaders;