

## CHAPTER IV.

The Eastern Townships of Lower Canada for fertility of soil and salubrity of climate, are probably not surpassed by any tract equally extensive; and the Block of Land the survey of which was completed in 1839, by the Commissioners of the Quebec and Megantic Land Company, is equal to any in these Townships.

Lest any one who may read these pages should fancy that they are penned to promote speculation in this particular Block, I shall briefly explain that the attempt which was made to purchase it, has failed, and that it is still the property of the Crown, prepared however, by the exertions of the Company to receive Emigration to the extent of 3,000 or 4,000 families.— And that though a barren wilderness in 1839, it now contains from 1,500 to 2,000 inhabitants.

During the administration of Lord Aylmer, (and here I may be permitted to mention that the lively interest taken by His Lordship in the Eastern Townships will always be gratefully remembered,) an arrangement was entered into between His Lordship and certain gentlemen of Quebec, who offered to purchase from Government the Waste Lands of the Crown, in the district of Megantic, for the same price and on the same terms as were given to the British American Land Company, in the acquisition of the adjoining block of Lands, known as the St. Francis