

922687

NOTES, &c.



MAY 10 1933

✓ THE communication with the Upper Provinces being now open, I prepared to leave Montreal, upon Thursday, April 28.*

Coach hours are early in the States and in Canada. We started before 5 A. M., along a very tolerable road, for La Chine, distant nine miles. A canal, of considerable importance to commerce, by avoiding some troublesome rapids, has been formed for the like distance. The surface of the country is flat; the soil, though light, is apparently fertile; and the husbandry superior to what usually presents itself in this part of the world; a circumstance which the vicinity of Montreal may in some measure explain. Our coach party proved a pleasant one. We had with us a sort of *public* character, in a journalist of the Upper Province, distinguished for principles, by some called liberal, and by others denounced as breathing sedition itself. Mr M—— was now on his return from Quebec, where he had been catering for the columns of "*The Colonial Advocate*," and, among other items, had received the parliamentary papers upon the Rideau Canal, a precious *morceau* for critique and exposition.

At La Chine we embarked in a steam-boat upon an expansion of the St Lawrence, called Lake St Louis. A capital breakfast was waiting us on board, and we had a very pleasant run of twenty-three miles to the Cascades, where, on account of rapids in the river, we resumed our land travelling. From the state of the road we were obliged to use waggons, and had a somewhat rough ride of sixteen miles to Coteau de Lac. The

* However crude the travelling accommodations may yet be in Canada or the States, it is certain that matters are mending. In 1796, Weld could only find *two* vehicles in Albany, which were in use to be hired to travellers, and these only to be had at a most extravagant rate; while, in order to reach the Upper Province, he says, "On arriving here (Montreal) our first concern was to provide a large travelling tent-camp-equipage, buffalo skins, dried provisions, &c. and, in short, to make every *usual and necessary* preparation for ascending the St Lawrence by a batteaux to Kingston." At present, I had only to step into the stage-office and pay for my place.