

Kaleidoscopic Changes.

These kaleidoscopic changes follow each other so fast, and they so soon become so indispensable and absorbing, that they seem to swallow up and obscure if they do not entirely obliterate the past.

However interesting and important these may be to the student and philosopher, neither time nor space will permit us to consider even the most important and valuable of them categorically, chronologically, or in the order of their importance and value as contributing factors to our high and rapidly advancing civilization.

A much less pretentious and more agreeable task is proposed, which it is hoped will not be found without interest to the reader. It is to try to furnish the youth of the present day particularly those residing in the Eastern Townships, wherein the writer was born and where his youth was passed, with a picture of the everyday life of the people before the advent of most of the wonder-working and revolutionizing agents alluded to,—when primitive, very primitive conditions very generally prevailed throughout this part of the country.

It is not claimed that there were no exceptions in individual cases or in a particular locality to what follows,—no general description will apply in every case, especially when sketched in merest outline,—but it is confidently believed that the substantial accuracy of what is herein related will be affirmed by those in nearly every neighborhood now nearing or beyond the threescore and ten years of the scriptures.

The Original Settlers.

The population was made up of strangers from many climes. A considerable number of the descendants of the early Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam and along the shores of the Hudson river flocked into this portion of Canada, soon after the American Revolution, journeying hither by way of Lake Champlain, and settled in the country contiguous to that portion of the lake which extends into Canada and is known as Missisquoi Bay.