

THE

## BACKWOODS OF CANADA.

### LETTER I.

Departure from Greenock in the Brig *Laurel*.—Fitting-up of the Vessel.—  
Day Passengers.—Sea Prospect.—Want of Occupation and Amusement.—  
Captain's Goldfinch.

Brig *Laurel*, July 18, 1832.

I RECEIVED your last kind letter, my dearest mother, only a few hours before we set sail from Greenock. As you express a wish that I should give you a minute detail of our voyage, I shall take up my subject from the time of our embarkation, and write as inclination prompts me. Instead of having reason to complain of short letters, you will, I fear, find mine only too prolix.

After many delays and disappointments, we succeeded at last in obtaining a passage in a fast-sailing brig, the *Laurel*, of Greenock; and favourable winds are now rapidly carrying us across the Atlantic.

The *Laurel* is not a regular passenger-ship, which I consider an advantage; for what we lose in amusement and variety we assuredly gain in comfort. The cabin is neatly fitted up, and I enjoy the luxury (for such it is, compared with the narrow berths of the state cabin) of a handsome sofa, with crimson dra-