

## CHRONICLES BY THE WAY.

A SERIES OF LETTERS ADDRESSED TO THE MONTREAL "GAZETTE,"

DESCRIPTIVE OF A TRIP THROUGH

# MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST.

### LETTER I.

MONTREAL TO WINNIPEG—COMPANIONSHIP IN TRAVEL—THE GREAT WEST AND ITS INFLUENCE—A DISAPPOINTMENT—A CANADIAN COLLECTOR STOPPING TRAVEL—MINNEAPOLIS AND ITS INDUSTRIES.

MINNEAPOLIS, 16th August, 1879.

The trip from Montreal to Winnipeg is happily no longer a novelty. It has been taken by so many as to have become tolerably familiar, either by actual experience, or from descriptions given of it in the press by those who have "done" the journey, that I shall not trouble you with any details, except as will hereafter appear, by way of warning to those who may contemplate doing it during this season. Three days and a half is the usual time, and, no mishap occurring, the distance can be covered in that time. So that, compared with the experiences of the hardy nor'-westers who fur-traded in the prairie wilderness, or even with the settlers who have recently sought to make other trade than that in the furs of animals, our lots have been cast in pleasant places. The traveller has but to take the Grand Trunk Railway at night; the next night brings him to Detroit, and the following morning, after a comfortable breakfast in the Pullman dining car, into Chicago. He can leave there at ten o'clock, and reach St Paul the following morning at six, and he ought immediately

to start for St. Vincent, and he could do so but at this point begins the inscrutable mysteries of travel, which I will refer to hereafter. As it is, he remains over until five in the evening—a fact important to be remembered, because if so disposed he can spend the day in Chicago instead of St. Paul, making close connection at this point. He reaches St. Vincent the following evening and takes the boat to Winnipeg or the train to St. Boniface, making either point some time the next morning—that is, I am told he does, but as I have not reached that point yet, it is perhaps as well that he should not be too certain, in so far as he will depend upon the information contained in this letter—until I report further from Winnipeg. Count that up, and it will puzzle you to know how the journey is made in three days and a half. But then it must be remembered that, judging by the time consumed, it is further from Montreal to Winnipeg than from Winnipeg to Montreal. The St. Paul and Pacific comes, in the latter case, happily at the commencement instead of the end of the journey; and after leaving it, close connections can be made to your city, and the twelve hours detention to which I have referred, can be avoided.

It is astonishing how much the pleasure of a journey depends upon your luck in falling in with companionable people travelling in the same direction. This is especially the case in ocean travelling, but a railway journey is subject largely to the same influence. The difference is that in the former case you are doomed to the same companionship for the eight days,