

CHAUDIERE FALLS—RIDEAU FALLS, ETC.

leases at reasonable rates, have only tended to defeat the very object which they, and all the inhabitants ought to have in view, viz., giving every facility in their power, and offering every inducement they can, for parties at a distance to locate amongst them. In fact, the idea that Ottawa was selected as the headquarters of the government, has had any thing but a beneficial effect so far, in some respects, upon the town; but there is the consolation, that whether it is to be the seat of government or not, there is no doubt, that of necessity, it is destined to become—it may be gradually—the centre of a much more extensive trade, a town of much greater importance than it is at present, and the point, round which radiate a number of other towns, and extensive agricultural districts, of which Ottawa is the capital and centre, and, in all human probability, always likely to remain so. From it, a large wholesale and retail trade is, and must always, be done—with the districts round about; whilst, as is well known, it is the centre of a district, which, for extensive forests of fine lumber, has no superior in America.

The scenery around Ottawa is far beyond what we had any idea of, and the view from the Barrack Hill, is one of surpassing grandeur and extent, combining in it a trinity of river, landscape, and fall scenery, which few places can boast of.

Looking to the west—(see engraving)—at the west end of the town are situated, the celebrated Chaudiere Falls, which fall about 40 feet, and the spray of which may be seen a long way off, ascending in the air.

In the early part of the season, (say in May,) these falls are not seen to so much advantage, the river then being, generally, so much swollen with the immense volume of water from the upper lakes and the tributaries of the Ottawa. Then they partake, in some respects, more of the character of huge rapids. Further on in the season, however, they appear more in their real character of “falls,” and are a sight worth seeing, although they are being very much encroached upon, by lumber establishments. An excellent view of the falls, as well as of the rapids, is got from off the suspension bridge, which crosses the river quite close to them. At the eastern suburb of Ottawa, again, called New Edinburgh, there is a little Niagara, in miniature, in the Rideau Falls, and one of the prettiest little falls to be seen any where. Although only of 30 feet fall, they present features of interest and great beauty.

The town of Ottawa is supplied, in many parts, with gas. Its markets afford an excellent supply of cheap provisions, whilst the purity of the air, from its elevated position, renders it one of the healthiest towns in Canada.

Emigrants, in looking to Ottawa, will do well to remember, that it is only the agricultural labourer, or farmer with capital, to whom its locality offers inducements *at present*.

Amongst the schemes for connecting Canada East with the Western States, is the Ottawa Ship Canal, via the Ottawa and French Rivers to Lake Huron, which, if successful in being established, will render Ottawa, more than ever, one of the great entrepôts of that route and traffic.

The communication between Ottawa and Montreal, is by rail via Prescott; also by river, per steamer to Grenville, rail from Grenville to Carrillon; thence, steamer to Lachine; thence, rail to Montreal. To Canada West, on the St. Lawrence, via rail. To Ogdensburg, via rail to Prescott, and steamer across the St. Lawrence. Distances:—from Montreal, 126 miles; Quebec, 296 miles; Toronto, 223 miles; Kingston, 95 miles; Prescott, 55 miles; New York, 450 miles; Boston, 485 miles. Population, about 12,000.

For the information of emigrants proceeding to the newly-opened districts, where free lands are to be had, full information regarding these, with routes and fares, will be found in another portion of this work.

The views of Upper Town, and Lower and Central Town, as given elsewhere, are from pencil drawings made for this work, by Mr. Eastman, artist, of Ottawa. All who know Ottawa will be able to attest to the very faithful manner in which they are done, and that the engravers have preserved all the truthfulness in detail, in enabling us to present, for the first time, we believe, complete and accurate views of Ottawa, Canada West.