

the thoroughfare where all the goods and merchandise are embarked for Upper-Canada. This, however, constitutes its whole trade; and all the business is divided between two classes, namely—the *forwarders* as they are called, whose duty is to receive the goods, &c. sent out from Montreal, and to dispatch them off in batteaux and boats, to the various places in the upper country—and the inn-keepers, of which last there are a great number. The village is divided into two parts, termed Upper and Lower Lachine. The first occupied chiefly by the two classes abovementioned, and the last by some farmers, and a barracks, government stores, &c. &c. where a strong detachment of military were stationed during the war. There is also a Roman Catholic Church, but I did not visit it. The Canal which is designed to connect this village and the town of Montreal, and obviate the rapidity of the current in the river here, is to commence at this place, and it is thought will enhance the importance of Lachine; an idea very problematical*.

After rambling for near an hour through this straggling place, and enjoying the charming prospect formed by hill and dale, wood and water, all the requisites for the beauty of landscape, I returned to the tavern. And here a new scene opened to my view;—I found my travelling companion seated in close tête-à-tête with the landlady in the little parlour. The bar shut, and the outer apartment which had on my arrival presented the crowded confusion of a Babel, now deserted by all, except a sturdy Irish girl, who was busied in cooking beef-steaks. In this manner were all the the parties employed; but those engaged in the little parlour seemed the most intent, for their confabulation indicated that my friend had a more than ordinary interest in the affairs of the hostess—the reason of which will be explained hereafter. The moment, I beheld the state of things. The Devil got into my mind, and in his entrance I believe drew his sooty tail across my eyes—for the lady did not appear to me half so good-looking as I thought her at first sight.

The uncertainty of the boats sailing for the day led to the certainty of our dining on shore; the beef-steaks and potatoes were soon put in requisition; and my fellow-traveller and myself sat down to our repast, where he appeared to have regained the appetite I had seen him labouring to destroy at the breakfast-table. "I hate dry subjects," said my friend, an assertion I coincided in—and after the cloth was removed we were presented with all the *et ceteras*, and commenced with a determination to wile away time, and wash down care with a comfortable glass of punch. My companion albeit a man of sober habits seemed inclined to indulge beyond what was his usual quantum; and in calling for glass after glass, defended his proceedings, by informing me he was desirous to show his favour to the house.

It was during this afternoon and while thus employed I learned so much of his previous history as has been communicated to the reader in a former page. And it was in the course of the same proceeding he

* Since the above was written this Canal is commenced, and progressing on a scale and with a rapidity very creditable to the public spirit which first projected and is now carrying it on.