

OTTAWA.

ITS POSITION.

THE city of Ottawa is situated on the river of that name, eighty-seven miles from its confluence with the St. Lawrence, and at the mouth of the Rideau River, and is one of the chief cities of Central Canada.

GENERAL CLIMATE OF CANADA.

WITH reference to the general climate of Canada, we cannot do better than give the following extract from one of the Prize Essays on the country:—

“The salubrity of the province is sufficiently proved in its cloudless skies, its elastic air, and almost entire absence of fogs. The lightness of the atmosphere has a most invigorating effect upon the spirits. The winter frosts are severe and steady, and the summer suns are hot, and bring on vegetation with wonderful rapidity. It is true that the spring of Canada differs much from the spring of many parts of Europe; but after the long winter, the crops start up as if by magic, and reconcile her inhabitants to the loss of that which, elsewhere, is often the sweetest season of the year. If, however, Canada has but a short spring, she can boast of an autumn deliciously mild, and often lingering on, with its ‘Indian summer’ and golden sunsets, until the month of December.

“A Canadian winter, the mention of which, some years ago, in Europe, conveyed almost a sensation of misery, is hailed rather as a season of increased enjoyment than of privation and discomfort by the people. Instead of alternate rain, snow, sleet, and fog, with broken up and impassable roads, the Canadian has clear skies, a fine bracing atmosphere, with the rivers and many of the smaller lakes frozen, and the inequalities in the rude tracks through the woods made smooth by snow—the whole face of the country being literally macadamized by nature for a people as yet unable to macadamize for themselves.

“It must not be supposed that the length of this season is, necessarily, prejudicial to the farmer, for mild winters are generally found to be injurious to fall crops of wheat, and a serious hindrance to business and travelling. The summer, short and eminently fructifying, occupies the whole of the farmer’s time. It is the winter that the land is cleared of timber, the firewood dragged home from the woods on sleighs, over ground impassable by wheel-carriages, and that the farmer disposes