

## CHAMBLY.

their excellence tempts the inhabitants from every part of the surrounding country, to a considerable distance, to bring their wheat thither yearly; the more so, as they are destitute of such an advantage in their own parishes, owing to the want of proper water-courses; this is particularly the case below the Chambly basin, where the comparative stillness of the river precludes the possibility, with any prospect of advantage, of building mills of this description.

*Chambly Fort* is on the w. side of the basin which, when seen from a distance, has some resemblance to an ancient castle: it was built (of stone) by Mons. de Chambly, some years previous to the conquest of Canada by the English and is the only one of the kind within the province; its form is nearly square, containing several buildings and all the requisite means of modern defence which have been put into substantial repair; the approaches to the fort are not protected by any out-works, nor is there a ditch round it. Before the late hostilities with America only a small detachment of about two companies formed the garrison, but, when the war began, the advantageous position and proximity to the enemy's frontier pointed it out as a strong point d'appui, where troops might be assembled and an extensive dépôt formed: during the season for operations, in the years 1812, 1813, and 1814, there was always a considerable force encamped on the plain near it, which in the last-mentioned year exceeded 6000 men; during this period additional storehouses and other buildings were erected on the ground that has always been reserved by government for such purposes.

*Chambly Village*, built on one of the most beautiful spots in Lower Canada, is in West Chambly and on the bank of the Richelieu, not far from the fort: it contains 190 or 100 houses, chiefly built of wood, forming one principal street; many of the houses are elegantly built and shaded by lofty poplars. At the s. end of the village are some large and valuable mills close to the rapid of Chambly, and near the mills stands a good manor-house. This place is a great thoroughfare, as the main road from Montreal to the American states passes through it, which, with the continual resort to the mills, occasions a good deal of activity among the traders and mechanics, and contributes very much to its cheerfulness as a place of residence; among the inhabitants are reckoned many

of the most respectable families of the district, invited hither by its agreeable situation. The landscape of the surrounding country is rich and well diversified, affording several very beautiful points of view; and there are many spots whence they may be seen to great advantage. The regular and venerable fort, the mills, the little elegant church of St. Joseph, houses dispersed among well cultivated fields, the various woodland scenery near and remote, the distant point Olivier with its village and beautiful church, the more distant mountain of Chambly or Rouville, the continual change of objects on the basin and river, with the singular appearance of unwieldy rafts descending the rapid with incredible velocity, will amply gratify the spectator's admiration.

*Chambly College* is in the village and is a flourishing establishment, founded by Mr. Mignault, the curé, aided by the principal inhabitants of Chambly. The zeal and liberality of that gentleman on this interesting occasion, have been universally acknowledged.—This edifice is at present only a one-sided building, to which two wings will be added when circumstances require the addition; it is 60 French feet long inside the walls and 50 ft. broad. There are two stories above the ground floor, which contains the kitchen, the refectory and domestic offices; the first story comprises the hall of recreation, 35 ft. by 25, a parlour and the room of the principal; and at the back are the school-room, the French school, the house-keeper's room and a corridor. On the second floor are the dormitory, 60 feet by 25, four chambers for the tutors and scholars and a corridor. The college is built on ground a little higher than the street and is isolated from all other buildings. The following inscription by desire of the founder, Mr. Mignault, is to be inscribed on the building:

Flumina sepe vides parvis e fontibus orta.

The foundation stone was laid June 12th, 1826, and the building was finished by the 1st of Feb. following. It already contains 74 scholars who receive an elementary, mercantile or classical education. Boarders pay 20l. per annum and day boys a piastre per month.

The *Parish of Chambly*, by a regulation confirmed by a royal decree, Mar. 3, 1722, extends 3 leagues in front along the n. Richelieu and one