

CHAPTER V.

We have now, fellow-traveller, arrived at Prescott, where there can be little to detain us. If you are determined to push on until you reach York or Niagara, you will here find steam-boats to take you direct to one or the other. They will also land you at intermediate places, such as Kingston, Cobourg, Port Hope, &c. There is also a small steamer, the Dalhousie, Captain Mills, which leaves Prescott every day for Kingston; and if you propose to stop a while at the latter town, I recommend you to travel with Captain M. Cabin fare, 12s. 6d.; steerage, 5s.

Should you happen to be a half-pay officer, or otherwise entitled to a grant of land from government, it will be indispensable that you go to York, where you will see the Lieutenant Governor's Secretary, and, if you choose, can wait on his excellency. The former, after you have presented your papers in reference to your claim, will give you full information about the routine that you must go through, before you get an official order to the government agent of the township in which you propose taking your grant. This latter functionary will supply you with the numbers of several vacant lots, each containing 200 acres, in order that, after personal inspection, you may select as many from these which you prefer, as will make up the quantity of land to which you are entitled. He will then give you a location ticket, which becomes the first title to your estate. This title, however, is not such as would legally entitle you to dispose of your land, or assign it over to another, though such bargains are made every day, and, I believe, are never interfered with by government.

Before you can demand the patent, or title deeds of your land, there are certain things to be performed, called settlement duties (*b*), and a few words will give you a clear idea of their nature and extent.

If you, or any one, has resided for two years on the land, you are only required further to have made a road thirty feet wide, along the front of your lot or lots, and have sown it with grass seed; but if you, or some