

But the Hudson's Bay territory has already detained us too long from the general sketch of Canada which we intended to offer.

I have often thought what a pity it is that from prudential motives one is debarred from the pleasure of habitual sight-seeing from a balloon. It would save much troublesome travelling and discomfort, and leave a more complete impression on the mind than a number of views seen piecemeal can do.

To lionize Canada in this way, my balloon should ascend from Toronto. Supposing the *aéronaut's* neck not to be broken in the descent, he would find himself well repaid. Toronto, now the seat of government, is beautifully situated on the western shore of Lake Ontario. A long tongue of land juts out into the lake; and the trees upon it—seen from a distance on the water, when the shore they stand on is, if I may be allowed the expression, hull down—suggested the Indian name Tarónton, *i.e.*, Trees in the water.

To the west the observer would look down upon three great lakes—Superior, Michigan, and Huron, narrowing down towards their common centre, a picturesque spot on the boundary line, where the waters of Lake Superior rush over 'St. Mary's Leap.' The centre lake, that of Michigan, appears in shape not unlike the body of a great beetle (Superior and Huron, its two outspread wings), fluttering off the State of Michigan on to British ground. The swift and rocky French River connects Lake Nipissing with that angle of Lake Huron called the Georgian Bay, at the entrance of which is Manitoulin, the sacred island of the Indians. Far beyond, an undulating expanse of forest stretches away over the northern frontier hills.

West of Lake Superior, if the vision of our imaginary *aéronaut* could reach nine hundred miles, he would see a little stream flowing down from the *Hauteur des Terres*: that little stream is the head water of the Great St. Lawrence; though at first it contains barely sufficient water to float a canoe, it is destined, during its pilgrimage of two thousand miles, to drain an extent of country equal to Great Britain and Ireland, and

to be known by many different names.

The St. Louis, as it is called in the early part of its course, gradually swells into a brawling torrent, big with danger to canoes, and compelling weary portages over the huge basaltic mounds, down which it takes the shortest way. Its banks, rarely visited by any but the migratory Indian, are still dense with forest and unattacked by civilization. Here and there a tree, barked, and inscribed with rude pictographs by the Indians, records the number of canoes and other statistics relating to some passing party; or a votive offering of tobacco lies mouldering on a stone dedicated to Manitou.

At Fond du Lac, the St. Louis joins Lake Superior. Thence it must fall eighty feet over the Sault Ste. Marie, and widen again into Lake Huron; it must rush through the narrows between Detroit and Windsor, widen again into Lake Erie, and take its stupendous leap at Niagara, ere it traverses Lake Ontario, and commences its northerly course to the sea.

Directly to the south of Toronto a column of rising foam marks the position of Niagara. Thence a railroad runs away through Rochester and Utica to the east, till it meets the Hudson River, and turns southward along its banks to New York and the shores of the Atlantic.

An imaginative American general, in an official despatch after the battle of Lundy's-lane, which took place within sight and hearing of the great thunder of waters, represents that cloud of spray rising from the chasm into which the tumbling river has leapt, as the smoke of sacrificial incense rising up to heaven in gratitude for the victory which had crowned the American arms. Perhaps the spray would have ascended all the same if the whole American army had been hurled over the Falls; perhaps even the alleged victory is doubtful. I leave the question to history. Certainly the Falls might well inspire a greater poet than the general. In summer the village on the American shore, and the great hotel on the Canadian side of the