

THE CHAUDIERE

AND ITS

GOLD FIELDS.

CHAUDIERE VALLEY.

THE Valley of the Chaudière extends from Lake Megantic, on the borders of Maine, to the North Shore of the St. Lawrence, about nine miles above Quebec. It is one of the earliest settlements in the Province, the Seigniors holding patents from Louis Quatorze. The valley is beautiful and populous, and moderately fertile. It produces abundant crops of hay, oats and barley, and raises great numbers of cattle, which find a ready market in Quebec. Formerly a considerable quantity of wheat was grown, but of late years, owing to the midge and blight, its cultivation has been generally abandoned.

The *habitants* were formerly *censitaires*, holding their farms under seigniorial tenure, but since the passing of the Seigniorial Tenure