

# Miscellaneous Correspondence, in Prose and Verse.

For APRIL, 1759.

## A Description of QUEBEC.

**Q**UEBEC, the Capital of *New France*, or *Canada*, in *America*, is situate on the Confluence of the Rivers *St. Laurence* and *St. Charles*, at  $46^{\circ} 55'$  N. Lat.  $71^{\circ} 0'$  Long. W. from *London*; this River extends about 270 Miles, navigable for Ships of large Burthen. The Harbour of *Quebec*, which is large and spacious, is terminated at the East and North East, by the Island of *Orleans*, and the first Thing that presents your Eye in sailing up to *Quebec*, is a Cascade, called by the *French*, the *Leap of Montmorency*, at the Entrance of the Isle of *Orleans*, and is about 30 Foot high and forty broad; though it be only caused by the Fall of an Inconsiderable Brook. A little above this, is the City, situate on the narrowest Part of the River; but between that and the Isle of *Orleans*, is a spacious Basin, a full League long every Way, into which the River of *St. Charles* empties itself, which flows down from the N. W. so that it stands between the Mouth of that River, and the *Cape Diamant*, on that of *St. Laurence*. The Haven stands facing the Town, and is about 29 Fathom deep, safe and commodious. When the Town was built, which was about the Year 1608, the Tide came quite up to it; but since that Time, has sunk so far, as to leave a dry Spot, on which they have erected another Town, at the Foot of a rocky Mountain, about eight Fathom high. This last is strong and well-built, being for the most Part of good hewn Stone, inhabited by Merchants, and defended by a Platform, which, being level with the River, commands the Ships as they go in or out. The Way from the lower to the higher Town is steep and difficult for Carts, Coaches, &c. The most noted Building is the Church; The higher Town is likewise very well built, and abounds with many noble Edifices; such as Churches, Palaces, especially that of the Bishop, built by the Bishop of *St. Valier*; the Courts of Judica-

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ture; the House of the Knights Hospitalers, a noble Building of square Stone, adorned with two stately Pavillions, several Monasteries, Nun-chapels, &c. too numerous and elegant to describe in this Place. But the noblest of all is the Palace, where sits the grand Council of the Colony, created *Anno* 1639, and which is likewise the Residence of the Governor, and the Depository of all the Royal Stores. The Cathedral is a large Structure, but chiefly noted for its Tower, which is high and commodious, and may be seen at a great Distance. The Seminary, or Cloisters, was designed with better Taste, but was never completely finished.

Besides the lower Town abovementioned, there is another on the other Side the high One, and on the Banks of the River of *St. Charles*, along the Banks of which are several noble Country-seats and Houses of Pleasure. The Castle stands on the Brow of a rugged Hill, about 40 Fathom above the Town; but is irregularly built, and fortified; having only two Bastions, without any Ditch, towards the City Side. The Garrison in it is maintained by the Farmers of *Canada*, consisting only of two Serjeants and twenty-five Soldiers. But besides this, the Fort, called *Diamant*, or Fort of *Cape Diamant*, which was designed to be a very considerable Place for Strength and Beauty, though at present only a few Works, and a Redoubt, which command both it and the Town. Some other Forts and Fortifications there are here and there, but of no considerable Account; and the Town owes its Strength more to its Situation than to them. We may here observe, that the *Cape*, which is a solid Rock, 400 Fathom, is so called from the vast Number of fine Stones that are found on it; some of which want only the Hardness of a *Diamond* to make them pass for such. Another Thing, which may deserve our Notice is, the