

the government being convinced that these French rebels, called neutrals, from their having sworn allegiance to the crown of Great Britain, were more inveterate and dangerous enemies than those who were under no such obligation; and finding that all methods to render them good subjects were ineffectual, they were forcibly deprived of their estate, and with their families were obliged to leave the province.

## SECT. II.

### Of CANADA, or NEW FRANCE.

*In Situation and Extent, a concise Account of its Rivers, Mountains, Vegetables, and Animals.*

CANADA, the largest province upon the continent, is now bounded on the north-east by the gulph of St. Lawrence and St. John's river; on the south-west by lands inhabited by the Indians; on the southward by the province of New York, New England, and Nova Scotia; and on the north-westward by lands claimed by the Indians. Quebec, which is its capital, is seated near the centre, in lat. forty-six degrees forty-five min. and in sixty-nine deg. forty-eight min. west longitude; and the country extends, according to Major Rogers, about five hundred miles in length, from the north-east to the south-west, and upwards of two hundred miles in breadth.

The French comprehended under the name of Canada, a much larger territory, taking into their claim great part of the New England provinces, and of the provinces of New York and Nova Scotia; northerly to Hudson's Bay; to the west as far as the Pacific Ocean; and to the southward extending it to the gulph of Mexico. They even endeavoured to support their claim, by erecting a chain of forts from the mouth of the river St. Lawrence to their settlements in Louisiana.

They began the settlement of this province in 1605 at Quebec, which is seated on the north shore of the river St. Lawrence, about three hundred miles from its mouth; and about the same time began to form settlements upon the island of Orleans, which is seated in that river, a little below Quebec; likewise on each side of the river, to its mouth, and on several smaller rivers that fall into it. They soon after began a settlement called Jecoty, about twenty miles up the river from Quebec, and erected a fort at Chamblee on the river Sarcel, near its influx into the lake Champlain. Soon after this the foundations of Montreal were laid on the island of the same name, in the river St. Lawrence, two hundred miles above Quebec. Another settlement was made at Trois Rivières, or the Three Rivers, so called from a river discharging itself by three mouths into that of St. Lawrence; and is seated about half way between Quebec and Montreal, in a very delightful spot, that affords the most agreeable prospect of any in the whole country. There are many other settlements on the banks of the river St. Lawrence, and of those which flow into it, as well as on the islands formed in it.

While the above settlements were forming Sir David Kirk, in 1629, with the English under his command, took Canada, which was then considered as within the limits of the British dominions, attacked Quebec, and made themselves masters of all the French settlements. But they were restored by the treaty of 1632, and continued in their possession till September 13, 1759, when Quebec was surrendered to the generals Monckton and Townsend, commanding the British troops that had been destined for the expedition against it the preceding spring, under the command of general Wolfe; and on the eighth of September, 1762, all Canada was delivered up to the English in the capitulation of Montreal; but we shall give a particular account of the taking of Quebec, after having described that city.

The climate here is cold, the winters long and tedious, especially in the north easterly parts of the province; notwithstanding which the soil is in general very good, and in many parts both pleasant and fertile, producing most kinds of English grain and vegetables in great abundance,

especially the island of Orleans, and the islands and lands near it, which are remarkable for the richness of the soil.

The summers of Canada are exceeding pleasant, and are said to have a happy effect upon the soil, that the farmer expects to reap his crop in sixteen weeks from the time of sowing his seed. The meadow grounds, which are well watered, yield excellent grass, and breed vast quantities of large and small cattle; and where the land is well cultivated, it produces rich crops. The mountains abound with coal-mines. This province has in some parts very excellent timber, such as white pines, oak of different kinds, and spruce in great abundance.

The rivers branching through this extensive country are very numerous, and many of them navigable a considerable way; but they are all swallowed up by the river St. Lawrence. This river is eighty miles wide at its entrance into the sea at Cape Rosier, and in its course forms a variety of bays, harbours, and islands; the most pleasant and fruitful of which is the island of Orleans, just mentioned, a little below Quebec, the soil of which is excellent, and being well improved, produces in abundance all the kinds of grain and vegetables common to the climate, it extending twenty-one miles in length, and three or four in breadth. The French, while in possession of this province, industriously represented the navigation of the river St. Lawrence to be difficult and dangerous; but the contrary has been since found to be the case, ships of the line meeting with no difficulty in sailing to Quebec.

The land in general on both sides of the river is low and level; but opposite to Quebec are two considerable mountains, called the Lady Mountains, which run from thence south-west through the continent to the country of the Creek Indians, on the north part of the two Floridas, in one continued ridge; and wherever rivers pass through them they rise very steep on each side to their common height. This ridge of mountains is called the Apalachian hills.

The country affords plenty of stags, elks, bears, foxes, martins, ferrets, weazles, squirrels, hares, rabbits, and other animals.

The elk is near as large as a horse, but resembles the deer, and, like it, annually renews its horns. The Indians have a great veneration for this animal, and imagine that to dream of it portends good fortune and long life. The elk delights in cold countries, feeding upon grass in summer, and moss-buds, &c. in winter, when they herd together. It is dangerous to approach very near him when he is hunted, as he sometimes turns furiously on his pursuers, and tramples them to pieces. To prevent this, the hunter throws his cloaths to him, and while the deluded animal spends his fury on these, he takes proper measures to dispatch him.

The wild-cats are great enemies to the elk; and, notwithstanding their being vastly inferior in size, often make a prey of him: for he has no other way to disengage himself from them, but by plunging into the water.

The Indians scarce undertake any thing with greater solemnity than hunting the bear; and an alliance with a noted bear-hunter, who has killed several in one day, is more eagerly sought after than that of one who has rendered himself famous in war; this chase supplying them both with food and raiment. The bears lodge during the winter either in hollow trees, or caves; and, as they lay up no provisions, have no food during that season.

The bear is not naturally fierce, except when wounded or pinched with hunger. They run themselves very poor in the month of July; and it is somewhat dangerous to meet them till their hunger is satisfied, and they recover their flesh, which they do very suddenly. They are very fond of grapes, and most kinds of fruit. When provisions are scarce in the woods, they venture out among the settlements, and make great havock of the Indian corn; and sometimes kill the swine. Their chief weapons are their fore-paws, with which they will hug any animal they seize immediately to death.

The skunk, or pole-cat, is very common, and called by the Indians the stinking beast, on account of its emitting a disagreeable smell to a considerable distance, when pursued



fort, in which the Recollects h the cathedral, a large, high, and great distance, which is a fine built-houses. A stately structure square are two hospital called H thence are small tendant. On a pretty long street the houses are built round about the Towns, there is of the river St. C country seats.