

A SKETCH, &c.

THE geographical position of this vast country may be thus generally stated — It is bounded on the East by the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Labrador * ; — on the North, by the Territories of Hudson's Bay ; — on the West, by the Pacific Ocean ; on the South, by unexplored Indian countries ; and part of the United States of America, viz. *Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire*, the *District of Maine*, and by the British Province of New Brunswick.

These boundaries describe a large and magnificent portion of the globe we inhabit ; large enough for the foundation of an Empire which may become hereafter the arbitress of the destinies of the new world, embracing with her mighty arms the whole width of the great continent of America. — Secured in her rear by the frozen regions of the north, and with such a front as she possesses towards the south, it is impossible but, with the adoption of wise and decisive measures, she must be able hereafter to hold a far more imperious sway, in regard to the countries of the south, than was ever held by the Tartars (in their best days,) over Asia ; or, by the northern hordes of Europe, over the Empire of Rome, at the period of the overthrow of the then mistress of the world. The foundation stone of this Empire has been laid by the Queen of the Ocean, and it depends on the prudence and wisdom of her councils, and on the loyalty, ambition, temper, skill, industry, bravery, high qualities, and perseverances of Canadians, no matter of what origin, how far the fairy vision which is kindled up in fancy, may be realised. But this is not a time, nor a place, for the indulgence of reverie, however splendid or enticing, and we must be content with present realities. — To the contemplation of these realities, forming altogether so promising an embryo, let us proceed.

We have only to cast our eyes transiently over a map of North America to be immediately assured of the singularly advantageous situation of the settled parts of Upper Canada. — Seated like a gem in the bosom of a country that is neither scorched by the sultry summers of the south, nor blasted by the tardy, bitter-biting, winters of the north ; surrounded by the most magnificent Lakes, and possessing the most extensive internal navigation in the known world, it would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to find, in any other region of the globe, a tract of country of the same magnitude with so many natural advantages, as that part of Upper Canada which lies

* *Labrador* has been strangely annexed (in 1809) to the Government of *Newfoundland*, though the sea will continue to roll through the straits of *Bellisle* in despite of artificial arrangements, and unnatural connexions.