

heroic times of Canada, as oft' I have done, I shall to-night ask your attention and beckon you to follow me, far from our dear Canadian home. We shall indulge in a ramble, short though it be, over a foreign but not unfriendly land, in that haunted, olden world from whence sprang our fathers. With your permission we shall dwell for a few moments on the performances, follow the foot-prints, treasure up the experience of those who have preceded us; if possible, benefit by their wisdom, endeavour to learn from them, let us hope, some not useless lessons. A limited but agreeable sojourn abroad, which brought me, on many points, to think still higher of my own country, has also made more manifest to me than it was hitherto, how many useful hints, how many teachings, the records, the monuments, the sights of other cities can furnish. It is my intention to select for our study to-night three conspicuous cities of Europe, in order to seek for contrasts if any, between them and our own ancient town. In the course of my wanderings in England, France, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, Holland, &c., no sites, by their historical *souvenirs*, edifices, monuments, and scenery, have attracted me more than Edinburgh, Rouen and York; though of course, I have met with cities more wealthy, more extensive, more populous. In fact, there are striking analogies, as well as unmistakable points of contrast, between these antique towns and the capital of this Province, which also happens to be the most picturesque city of North America. A glance at Edinburgh, Rouen, York, may point out how the hand of man can heighten the advantages, add lustre to the charms which nature has conferred and make of a city, "a thing of beauty and a joy for ever." Possibly, we may find that wealth and population in cities, flow through various, sometimes concealed channels; that true progress does not mean a wanton destruction of the externals of a revered past; that whilst a progressive community is expected to throw open its portals to the fertilising wave of commercial activity, it can be helped to achieve importance, prosperity, nay fame, by preserving intact, for coming generations, as sacred heirlooms, the monuments of its history, the landmarks of its patriotic struggles, the remains, in verity, of its former greatness.

Let us begin by a short sketch of the "Modern Athens," the Queen City of the North—Edinburg—whose quaint old, and