

Friday the 25th [May]. At 5 o'clock in the Morning we started—breakfasted at the small Village of St. Ann's. Here again a Relative of the Landlord made Breakfast and tho' not possessing the superior manners of Margaret Blais, still they were pleasing, unaffected and modest.

On the Road our Driver gave us the romantic History of the young Lady of Sandy Hook. She was not related to the Landlord but had been left as an Infant at his Door. A strong Imagination might fancy a most romantic Novel.

Near St. Ann's our Road ran along the Northern Canal which is to connect Lake Champlain with the Hudson. It appeared ill done and the numerous Rafts of Timber which are transported by it must soon destroy the Sides. From St. Anns the Road continues along the Canal,—the Road miserable and full of Ruts—they are called Corduroys in Allusion to the Stuff of this Name. At 12 o'clock we arrived at Whitehall distant from Albany 70 miles. Here we found Mr. Caldwell the Receiver-General of Canada and Capt'n. Dunn of the Artillery, a very agreeable Acquisition to our Party. At One we dined and at two went on Board the Steam Boat the "Congress" which we found crowded with Oxen and 23 Horses belonging to Mr. West an Equestrian. The Troop consisted in 19 Persons. The Hudson at Whitehall runs into Lake Champlain. The Length of Lake Champlain is 120 miles but the many Detours we made to land Passengers brought our Distance to 170. The first Part of our Course was through the most beautiful Scenery—narrow winding Passage apparently barred by the most gigantic Mountains—these studded with the finest Foliage,—the Passage suddenly opening on new Scenery equally bold but varied.

For the first 30 miles from South River, so called at its Entrance, it is nowhere above two miles wide;—it then narrows till you reach Crown Point. At 12 miles from this Point it is 12 miles in Breadth, called Broad Lake. Here there are a great many Islands, the largest the South Hero. Our Spirits were much damped by the Sight of the Gun Boats which were taken at Lake Champlain, the "Confiance," &c.¹ About 6 o'clock in the morning we stopped at Plattsburg, the scene of

¹ On Sept. 11, 1814, the British vessel *Confiance*, 37 or 38 guns; the brig *Linnet*, 16 guns, with the cutters *Chubb* and *Finch*, under Captain Downie, were taken by the Americans, under Captain McDonough, at Plattsburg on Lake Champlain, after a most desperate fight. At the same time Sir George Prevost ordered the retreat of the British troops who were attacking the town by land. It may well be called an "unfortunate action."

On this much vexed question see Alison's History of Europe, chap. lxxxii.; J. F. Cooper's History of the Navy of the U. S. A. (London, 1839), vol. ii., 495, 497; W. James's Naval History (1826), vol. vi., p. 494; and "Ten Years of Upper Canada in Peace and War, 1805-1815, being the Ridout Letters" (Toronto, 1890) p. 321 *et seq.*