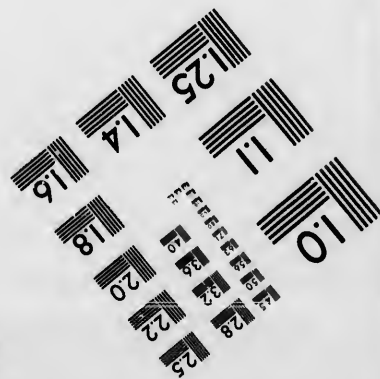
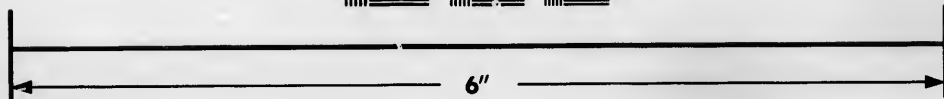
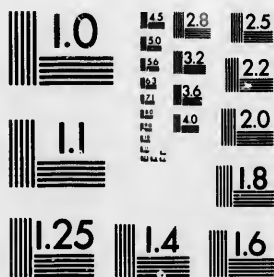


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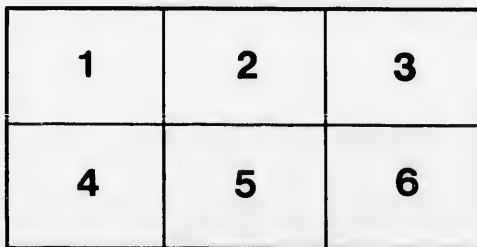
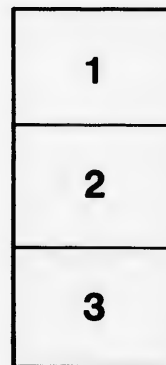
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AND OBSERVATION;
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NEVER BEFORE MADE PUBLICK.

A new and last edition, corrected and improved.

BY ABRAHAM PRYOR, *Surgeon.*
Author of Serious Poems, Treatise on Dysentery, &c.

Εποiese τε ex enos aimatos pan ethnos anthropon katoikein
epi pan to prosopon tes ges, orisas prostetagenous kairous kai
tas orothesias tes katoikias auton. *Acts xvii. 26.*

PROVIDENCE:
PRINTED BY MILLER AND HUTCHENS,
No. 1, Market-Square, (Up Stairs.)
1819.

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**To Nicholas Loockerman, Esq.
Of Dover, (Delaware,)**

This second edition of *British America*, is, with
sincere attachment, dedicated by his friend,
THE AUTHOR.

Dedicatory Letter to Nicholas Loockerman, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I give you the last proof which I
may ever have in my power of my sincere attach-
ment to you and your ever honoured relations. I
had no intencion of making a second impression
of this work, but a number of circumstances have
combined to make me offer this last edition to the
public.

ABRAHAM PRYOR.

Providence, June 1, 1819.

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Interesting Description, &c.

THE Island of Prince Edward lies in the gulf of St. Lawrence, and has a Legislature consisting of a Governor, Council and House of Representatives. The name of the first Governor of this island was Patterson, the name of the second was Fanning, who rose from the rank of a corporal to be a Major-General; the third was Joseph Frekerick Wallet Desbarres, who had been an officer with Amherst, at the taking of Louisbourg, and fought with Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham; the fourth and present Governor is the brother of Sir Sydney Smith. The House of Assembly have frequently changed the name of this Island. They once called it New-Ireland, from its resemblance to that country in fertility and beauty. They next called it St. John, by which name it is better known than any other. And lastly they called it Prince Edward, after the Duke of Kent, which name it yet retains. The island is about 120 miles long and 40 broad. It is extremely fertile, without one barren spot upon it. There is but one town on the island, which is Charlottetown, named after the Queen of England, and is 70 leagues from Halifax. It is situate on Hillsborough river, and is a very beautiful town. It contains about 300 houses, and has one Episcopal Church, a Roman Catholick Chapel, a Seceder Meeting-House, a Methodist Church, a Court-House, a Jail, an Academy and a Theatre. There is but one of the society of Friends on the Island, and his name is Cambridge. He is perhaps the greatest landholder there, if we except the Earl of Selkirk. This island raises considerable quantities of wheat, rye, barley, oats, buck wheat, and potatoes; and being surrounded by the salt water, is not ruined by the early frost, as is too frequently the case in Nova-Scotia; yet the winters are so rigorous that the Governor sends once a year an express on the ice across the gulf to Halifax. The rivers of Prince Edward abound with fish and the finest eels in the world. Its waters contain an incredible quantity of oysters, with myriads of wild geese. Here

are partridges as large and as tame as domestick poultry, with bears and ferocious animals called *Indian Devils*, on account of the Indians being so much afraid of them; otters, seals, &c. They have no doves on the island, but an abundance of pigeons. To the lovers of NATURAL HISTORY I will mention one curious little bird which is universally believed, by the islanders, to possess the power of changing its feathers in a moment, from brown to white. They call it the *snow-bird*, and it resembles the sky lark of the United States; but with this difference, that the moment the snow falls, you no longer see its brown feathers, but it is arrayed in perfect white, and *vice versa* when the snow is gone. But I shall mention now a most fearful circumstance belonging to this island, which British subjects have concealed. About once in seven years the island is visited with swarms of mice, which, like the locusts of Egypt, leave neither earing nor harvest. The inhabitants as well as those who sojourn on the island, are more subject to cancers than any other people in the world, for which various and unsatisfactory theories have been offered. A law was also passed to prohibit any ship-master from conveying any person from the island under the penalty of 100*l.* without a special permit from the Governor, which impolitick law, instead of being favourable to the population of the island has deterred hundreds from visiting it. Indeed, from a combination of circumstances, it is extremely difficult to get away from this island. In the year 1806, an epidemic distemper made its appearance here which much alarmed the Islanders, because they considered it a new disease.

I resided then at Brackley Point and as there were only two other medical practitioners beside myself in the province; the demand for my assistance was very pressing on this distressing occasion I had no temporal resources but my quondam reading and experience which claimed no superiority over my medical brethren. Yet I had long before this treasured up a fund of knowledge in my visits to hospitals and almshouses with much practice; and University Lectures had formerly made a deep impression on me. I discovered the disease to be a pleurisy of a novel species, for it was evidently infectious although I here escaped the danger, as I have escaped on various other occasions of yellow Fever, Dysentery, Typhus

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Mitior, Typhus Gravior, &c. both before and since. And surely the soldier and physician have abundant reason for gratitude and praise to that Divine Protector who covers the one and the other in the day of battle and pestilence. But to return to our Island epidemic. The patient complained of a violent pain in the side, ardent fever and extreme thirst. On being sent for, I immediately opened a vein and repeated it—I gave flax seed tea or barley water for his drink, with cooling doses of nitre, and applied a vesicatory over the part affected with pain and poultices to the soles of the feet. Of those who died of this disease on the Island, Mr. Angus M'Donald, was the first; but in general the disease observed a regular and favourable crisis about the ninth day. I will now clear up one great mistake which the generality of my countrymen fall into. They generally confound three places by the name of St. John. This was the old name of the insular province we have been discoursing about. The largest city of New-Brunswick is also called St. John and so is the metropolis of Newfoundland; and it was this last place which was consumed by fire and its inhabitants were afterwards saved from famine by the people of Boston and citizens of New-York.

We now pass to the island of Cape Breton. This is only about 20 leagues from Prince Edward and is about two thirds as large. It was a continual bone of contention between the English and French until Louisbourg, the old metropolis, was finally taken by Amherst, Wolf and Boscawen, and according to treaty, the town and fortifications were dismantled, and the latter blown up. When I visited Louisbourg, I found some remains still worth the traveller's attention. The walls are almost entire and sufficiently broad for a coach to drive on the top. About a dozen fisherman's huts stand within their precincts. The bomb proofs yet remain imperishable, and are like to continue for ages as durable proofs of the ingenuity of French artists and engineers. A part of the light house is also left, and I found sergeant Muiridge, alive who had been with the assailants and still resides in the town, in the 90th year of his age; and Mr. Pierce Kennedy; a sensible, well informed man, who settled there ten years after the siege. This gentleman accompanied me over the ground and gave me abundance of accurate information. Dr. Robertson has given a very

vague description of Louisbourg. But the fact is that it was about a mile and a half in length, the streets paved and the whole town extremely beautiful and warlike. The garrison consisted of 7000 regulars, from old France and were commanded by the Baron Dracour, and the place was deemed impregnable. There were said to be 500 sail of fishermen in the harbour at the time of the capitulation.

Fifty miles from Louisbourg stands Sydney, or as the French call it, St. Dennis, of which probably it is a corruption. It is built on Spanish River where it is two miles wide. The town has an Episcopal Church built of stone, a Roman chapel, a court house and jail, a market house and extensive barracks for the Military. The Governor of the Island at the time of my residing there, was Major General Nepean, a native of Cornwall, in England, a gentleman extremely affable and friendly to those who sought his protection, but in his general conduct very arbitrary, like most of the British Governors. From him I obtained license to practice physic and surgery, and before I left the Island I received an invitation, which the chaplain brought me, to dine with the General and officers of his staff, which I accepted; nor am I any more to blame for mentioning this, than Dr. Franklin, who records a similar invitation from a British Governor. Sydney is a handsome town and contains about 200 houses.

There is another town on the Island called Main a Dieu, consisting of about 20 fishermen's huts and a store owned by Mr. Bowen, a justice of the peace. The town is built in the form of a crescent round the harbour and has neither ox nor horse belonging to it, and there are no taverns on the island of Cape Breton. The French are numerous on this island at Narrashaw, St. Peters, &c. and the Scotch dwell on the borders of a beautiful lake and supply the town of Sydney with vegetables. The town of Sydney is said to be just 90 leagues from Halifax. Some years ago General Murry and General Despard had a warm contest about the government of this Island, as it was doubtful which was the lawful Governor. However the army taking part with General Despard he obtained the victory. It so happened that the Rev. Mr. Causet, a worthy Episcopal clergyman, took part with General Murry, in consequence of which General Despard com-

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elled him to leave the Island. He retired to Yarmouth in Nova-Scotia, where he lived beloved and died lamented, both by his present and former parishioners. He had been the most popular man on the Island of Cape Breton, had been a father to his flock, and brought up an unblemished and irreproachable family.

The winters on this Island are long and severe. I have seen the harbour at Sydney full of jammed ice blown in from the gulf about the tenth day of May, so as to admit of crossing on it. But the land is good and abounds with game, and moose deer are to be found in plenty, the largest deer in the world. There is likewise a prodigious number of wild animals and fish and fowl. The only legislature on this Island, (if it may be called a legislature) consists of a Governor and Council; and a certain celebrated writer of plays and romances is, if living, Chief Justice of the Island. He acknowledged to me that he wrote the Novel called "*The curse of sentiment.*" This author's name is Dodd.

I now pass over to Nova-Scotia. Halifax is the metropolis of this province and contains generally about 10,000 inhabitants, including the *military*. It has two Episcopal churches, a Roman chapel, a Methodist church, a Presbyterian church, a Secede meeting house, a Baptist ditto, and one person of the respectable society of Friends. His name is Crawford. It has also an almshouse, a navy hospital, a government house built of stone, where his Excellency resides, and a famous navy yard, enclosed with a high wall. It has also an academy, a court house and jail, and market house.

Shelburn is the next town in size, but is rapidly on the decline. Annapolis is a small nominal city without mayor or charter. It has one Episcopal church, a Methodist chapel and a Baptist meeting house. It possesses a fine capacious harbour and strong works and fortifications, with a foreign engineer, but is incapable of any great defence, being surrounded by heights which are unfortified. The access to this town is through a narrow gut commencing at Digby, which is a town about the same size as Annapolis. An Episcopal church and Court house are the only public buildings, and Digby is open to an invading enemy, having no fortifications. It is 15 miles from Annapolis and 150 from Halifax. Windsor is 45 miles from Halifax and is a small handsome town; and here is a

College, called King's College, which makes a handsome appearance. The only degrees conferred in it are those of Bachelor and Master of arts; for the number of students is so small, that I have known one single person only to graduate at a commencement. So that the legislature, a few years ago, found it necessary to erect grammar schools throughout the Province, from whence the college might be continually recruited. The neighbourhood of Windsor contains vast quarries of plaster of Paris, from whence it is wadded to the United States.

Truro is a small and growing town, 56 mile from Halifax. Pictou is a flourishing settlement somewhat more than a hundred miles from Halifax. Here are about 3000 families of industrious Scotch, and all of the Seceder religion. This is the grandest nursery of Presbyterianism in British America. It may be called a collegiate settlement for they have three ministers, three academies and three settlements—East river, Middle river and West river, and these three congregations are like one great family. Here young people are educated and ordained for the ministry, and here the lands are better cultivated and yield more than in any other part of the Province. Such sins as sabbath breaking and slander do not find encouragement here, for their ministers tell them from the pulpit "*Brethren speak not evil one of another.*" Here every family offers up morning and evening adoration to God, and devotes the whole sabbath to religious duties, and they assemble in small societies for prayer several times in the week. Pictou is on the gulf of St. Lawrence.

Fort Cumberland is in Cumberland County and is designed to frustrate an invasion both from the gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy. Of all the religious societies in Nova-Scotia, those people called New Lights seem to have spread the most. They seem to have originated with a Mr. Henry Allen, who appears to have been a good man and may be said to have died a martyr to his zeal; for he exhausted himself by his religious exertions. But the New Lights have departed from the doctrines of Mr. Allen, and profess the same principles with the Baptists of the United States. There are about 1500 families of the Methodist society in Nova-Scotia, several thousand Roman Catholics, about twenty families of the society of Friends, and about twenty min-

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of the established church. The legislature consists of a Governor and Council and House of Representatives who are elected by freeholders for the term of seven years. But the Governor can dissolve the house whenever he thinks proper, and order a new election, and he frequently makes use of this prerogative when they do not vote as he wishes. The wild animals of Nova-Scotia are moose-deer, caribbooes, beavers, otters, sables, squirrels, rabbits, woodchucks, racoons, weasels, minks, muskrats, wolves, foxes and bears, the last of which are so numerous as to render it sometimes dangerous travelling. Of wild fowl there are geese, brant, ducks, pigeons, partridges, plovers, and a great variety of hawks and owls; also snipes, woodcocks, cranes and bitterns.

There are two kinds of partridges, one about the size of the domestic poultry, and the other is the spruce partridge, about the size of a pigeon. The partridges of both kinds are the most tame, innocent and unsuspecting birds I ever knew. They will suffer you to form a noose with your hat band, and when you have put it on the end of a stick to inveigle their heads and in this manner to take a whole covey of them, which is frequently practised by the natives. This is so well known to the inhabitants of that country that I have thousands of living evidences to the fact.

The land of Nova-Scotia is not so bad as the climate. The frost begins early and the snow lasts till the beginning of May. There are vast and stupendous forests of timber in this Province, and they call their woods by two names, hard wood and soft. In the first class they place sugar maple, beach, birch, &c. In the last they put spruce, cedar, fir, hemlock, &c. In the waters they have salmon, mackarel, halibut, cod, bass, herrings, gasperoes, trout, flounders, silverperch, suckers, eels, lobsters, and clams.

There are only two parishes which produce much fruit, Horton and Cornwallis; but wild strawberries and raspberries abound throughout the Province. Halifax is the strongest town, and across the harbour is Dartmouth. Halifax is capable of a stout defence but not against a formidable fleet.

I now pass to New-Brunswick. This Province is much behind Nova-Scotia in improvement, but is greatly superior to it in the quality of the land and the ease with

which it can be obtained. The largest town in this province is St. John, situated near the mouth of the river of the same name and is a place of no great strength. It contains about 6000 people, including the *military*. The light house stands on Partridge island, within a mile of the city, which is separated from Digby and Annapolis by the Bay of Fundy. The distance from St. John to Digby is 40 miles.

One hundred miles above the city of St. John, stands Fredericton, called also St. Ann's, which is so frequently mistaken by our Geographers for another town; but St. Ann's is only another name for Fredericton, which is the metropolis of the province. It being the place where the Governor resides and where the legislature meet.

Sixty miles above Fredericton is the garrison of Presquile and still higher up is another at the grand Falls of St. John. Here the whole bulk of the river, which is wide at this place precipitates itself over the rocks 66 feet perpendicular, causing every adjacent rock, on which spectators may stand, to tremble with the shock of so dreadful a weight. In beholding these roaring cataracts I was penetrated with the most serious emotions concerning the great and wonderful Being who had formed them, and felt a sincere desire to prostrate myself in the dust of the earth to acknowledge my own nothingness before him and pour out the publican's prayer of *God be merciful to me a sinner*. It likewise occurred to my mind what an alarming scene would one day present itself when instead of a deluge of water, cataracts of liquid fire would be poured by the same omnipotent arm upon an astonished world.

Fredericton, though the seat of government, is but a small town, and the head of sloop navigation. A steam boat plies between St John and Fredericton. There is a college at Fredericton and a number of handsome public buildings; and about five hundred regulars are generally stationed there.

The settlement of Merimachee, has had a most rapid increase. In the year 1815 there came 3000 persons into it from the state of Massachusetts. But these republicans only came to sojourn and to cut tuntin, because those who think proper to hire for that purpose receive thirty dollars per month in specie, besides being found in provisions. The Bay of Chaleur is another thriving settlement and joins Merimachee, and is inhabited by

French Catholics on one side and Scotch Seceders on the other.

The town of St. Andrews is a handsome frontier town on the river St. Croix, alias Schoodak. I will here take notice of something a little singular. The town is called St. Andrews, the church St. Andrews and the Rev. Mr. Andrews from Wallingsford in Connecticut, is or was lately the minister. This town is just 400 miles from Boston and three from Robbin's town in the district of Maine.

The Americans have a town 80 miles above Fredericton, and ten from the river St. John. It is called Holton town and contains 50 families. It lies in the District of Maine, five miles from the Province of New-Brunswick. All the intermediate space between Holton town and Penobscot is a dreary desert of some hundred miles, through which the citizens of Holton have to pass to Castine to attend Court, and through the same desert the New-England people urge droves of oxen and sell them to the British settlers, and pedlars from Massachusetts find their way with forbidden articles at the risque of loosing all.

Wild animals abound more in the Province of New-Brunswick than in Nova-Scotia, and fish and fowl and oysters are in great plenty. The land is excellent and very heavily timbered. But the frost sets in early and the springs are very backward. The prevailing sect in this Province are the New Lights, and they have now got several of their members into the legislature, but there are several congregations of Methodists, and along the river St. Croix the Rev. Mr. M'Coll, a truly worthy and excellent man, attends six congregations of Methodists. There are also great numbers of French Catholics and fifteen or sixteen ministers of the established church in the Province. There are also about fifty families of Friends, in this Province, and one or two congregations of Seceders.

In all the Provinces which I have been hitherto speaking of, there are considerable numbers of Indians, who live by hunting and fishing and making very handsome and ingenious boxes, baskets and other wares. They also make very beautiful canoes of birch bark and lined with cedar, which will carry five or six men with safety and yet do not weigh more than three or four hundred

pounds. Those Indians are all Roman Catholics, and are to all appearance in time of peace, a harmless people and very hospitable. They are also very devout, and the Catholic priests have an entire influence over all the British Indians. The British government is just and generous to them and a pattern worthy to be imitated in this respect.—And I have known a provincial Governor in time of profound peace, to send barrels of flour and other necessaries to be distributed among them gratis. At Sussex Vale, one of the most beautiful places in the Province, and 40 miles from the city of St. John, they have a college, where they are clothed, fed and educated at the expence of the institution. And the parents of the young Indian students are also maintained in the neighborhood, and Catholic priests suffered to visit them. You see silver crosses hanging from the necks of all the Indian women, with a great profusion of beads, and their caps ornamented with porcupine quills. I scarcely ever met these nymphs of the shady grove, but the story of Inkle and Yarico occurred to me.

I must here, notwithstanding the respect which I entertain for the author of the *Notes on Virginia*, endeavour, so far as in me lies, to put an end to the long dispute among the Literati respecting the question whether the Indians have beards? I can here with certainty inform the public that the Acadan Indians neither shave nor eradicate their beards, for they have none to trouble them; as I have frequently paid particular attention to them; and although no indecent language nor unallow'd thought shall stain these pages, yet I have been told by well informed and learned gentlemen and of decent morals, that the female sex among them have very great peculiarities.

Before I take my leave of the above mentioned Provinces, I must make some general remarks.

I had forgot to observe that the inhabitants of Prince Edward are chiefly French and Scotch, and among the wild fruits of that Island the Indian pear is most remarkable for its deliciousness; and that the inhabitants of the Island are amazingly hospitable. The encouragement given to the British Provincial subjects is very considerable. They have no land tax nor taxes of any kind, but the maintenance of their own poor and six days labour annually on the roads for every male. Schoolmasters, besides

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what they get from the people, have considerable salaries from the Provincial treasury, and from England. Yes, the society tutors have glebe lands and houses, but are not exempted from militia duty, but by courtesy.

There is no paper money in the Provinces, except treasury bills which draw interest, (and a Bank has just been established, 1813 in Montreal,) but there is a free circulation of gold and silver; nor do I recollect to have ever seen but one instance of a counterfeit coin in British America, the dread of the gallows operating as a sufficient check; and larceny and burglary are almost as rare, except in the sea ports. The Provincial Treasuries are filled by duties on tavern licenses, duties on marriage ditto, &c. &c. The established clergy have salaries from England; nor are they the only clergy who experience the munificence of the parent country. Some individuals among the Catholic and other clergy have frequently the same liberality bestowed on them when they have been approved of for eminent utility. The Provincial women are extremely beautiful, and it may be often said with propriety,

Here love the traveller holds, loth to depart
Some charming creature stays his wandering heart,
Bids him forget from clime to clime to rove
And frigid prudence here submits to love.

But although I am willing to give the Provinces their due, yet I would be sorry to lead any of my countrymen into a mistake, for there can be no just comparison between the British Provinces and the American States the superiority is altogether on the side of the States, and, notwithstanding all that can be truly said in favour of the Provinces and their government, they compose a poor, distressed and starved country, in comparison with the United States.

The prices of commodities are very dear in the Provinces. On the Island of Prince Edward every article is excessively high. On the Island of Cape Breton the price of a baker's loaf would purchase three such leave sin Providence, with change.—In time of scarcity I have known wheat to be four dollars per bushel in some parts of Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick, and Indian corn three dollars and a half. Flour has been twenty dollars per barrel, and hay sixty dollars per ton in Halifax. The price for keeping a horse for one night has been a dollar

and a half: a turkey has been frequently sold for three dollars and a half, and more in Halifax; a goose for two dollars; butter half a dollar, eggs for a dollar and a half, given by the officers of the army. Annapolis cheese one quarter of a dollar; and as for medicine, surgeons' instruments and books, they were at least double the price which they are in Providence and in New-York. And with respect to government, he who would exchange the endearing name of an American citizen for that of a subject, would make a miserable bargain.

I am fully of opinion that if any American citizen were to go and sojourn in any monarchical government, a short or long residence abroad, would fully open his eyes to the blessed and happy superiority of his own native country and constitution. Next to that of the United States of America the government of England is perhaps the best, but greatly needs amendment. Even in the Provinces it is wonderful to see what an influence every person in office possesses, and with what injustice it is sometimes used.

I have sometimes spoken in this work of the weakness of certain towns in the provinces and their inability to protect themselves from invasion, but if ever my countrymen should again invade the provinces, I cannot help uttering a wish that when they prove conquerors they may exercise lenity and mercy towards these poor and hospitable people, and I am now going to tell my reason; because I am perfectly convinced that at least two thirds of the provincial subjects are in favour of the United States, and had much rather be under the government of the United States than under the government of England. Even the greater part of the old refugees have long ago bitterly repented the part which they took against their native country in the revolutionary war.

I proceed next to Lower Canada. The inland navigation from New-Brunswick to Lower-Canada, together with the portage between the two rivers of St. John and St. Lawrence, is perhaps the worst and most dangerous in the world, unless it is performed in the very heat of summer, or else the pedestrian, if he understands walking on snow shoes, may choose the dead of winter. It was my own lot to explore this long and dreary wilderness at the most improper season of the year, in the beginning of June.

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The distance from Wakefield, the last place of my residence, to Quebeck, is 260 miles. The first half of the journey or voyage is through a desert with the houses 20 miles distant apart. And even for that favour the traveller may thank the sympathy of the late Sir George Prevost, who took veterans from the army, and gave them farms and three years provisions, to settle the wilderness, on account of the great number of travellers who had perished in these pathless woods.

From Wakefield you stem the rapids of the river St. John in a canoe; next the more formidable rapids of the river Madawasca. Here, however, the heart is gladdened with the only settlement, the beautiful French settlement of Madawasca, with a Roman Chapel and a few stores. These people have to go in their birch canoes 150 miles to market, to Fredericton, and work back against the current. Here in this beautiful and hospitable settlement I would have made a final stop, had it been in my power to procure drugs. But this is a difficulty so great with a surgeon in British America, that a citizen of the United States can form no adequate idea of the business. Madawasca is large and without a physician in it, and not a single person, of any nation, but French, within it. At this place I thought it prudent to consult Col. Du Perry, (a member of the legislature, &c.) for the Priest was gone to Fredericton, it being barely seasonable to go with the current, but not to stem it. Col. Du Perry warned me and my guide of our extreme danger and the impossibility of ascending the Madawasca without another waterman. I took his admonition and found it wise.

From the river Madawasca you go over the lake Tamescotta, the navigating of which, with safety, depends on a series of bountiful Providence; for should there be the least breeze, the billows of the lake are more formidable than those of the western ocean, and the canoe and its contents are inevitably swallowed up. After passing over this terrific lake, we landed near the frontiers of Canada, at the house of Monsieur Long, universally known in these parts. Here I took a sorrowful leave of Mr. Farley, my faithful guide, who had brought me 150 miles in a canoe, and the next morning at the dawn of day, taking a like leave of my hostess, with my provision on my back, I commenced my pedestrian journey of

50 miles through a fearful desert and over Mount Paradise, and reached the village of St Andre, and the far more beautiful town of Kamo Uraski (pronounced Kamorasky) on the St. Lawrence.

The curate of this place is from old France and the inhabitants are very hospitable. From this place it is somewhat more than 100 miles to Quebec, with a famous road. There are many beautiful villages throughout Lower Canada, and the French tongue is every where spoken; but the town of St. Thomas, 40 miles from Quebec, is the most beautiful town in Lower Canada.

I had forgot to mention that near the foot of Mount Paradise there is a pillar set up as the boundary between New-Brunswick and Lower Canada. On this pillar the travellers through the desert have endeavored to perpetuate their names. Here I read the names of Sir George Prevost and a variety of other travellers of distinction, and am informed that Sir George, on his death bed, in London, attributed his last illness to his dreadful journey through the desert from Lower Canada to New-Brunswick, in the accomplishing of which, to my certain knowledge he suffered incredible hardships.— You meet with the image of Christ on the cross, as large as the life set up by the highways, as in Portugal and other Roman Catholic countries. The churches are very numerous throughout the country, and the inside of them make a continued glare and glitter, so as to dazzle the eyes of the beholders. Ten thousand gilded stars shine from the arched ceilings. The walls are covered with pictures, lighted wax tapers of uncommon length, are suspended in glass vehicles; and the altars are covered with gold and silver ornaments; and above all is a pathetic representation of Christ on the cross. The vestments of the priests are rich and gaudy, and their sermons are delivered with considerable eloquence.

The Roman Catholic clergy I believe every where inculcate good works, and here I cannot but call to mind a sermon which I heard delivered at Halifax, by Father Burke, an Irish priest and vicar general of the British provinces, from the 16th chapter of St. Luke, concerning the rich man and the beggar; but I was sorry to see that the effect of this discourse produced imposition upon this poor Irish congregation, for when we came out of the

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chapel the avenue was lined with beggars, on whom these humane Catholics bestowed their alms. Upon enquiry I found that the Irish Catholics were taxed as high to support the alms house as the Protestants, and that all these beggars did not belong to their congregation; but that beggars of all denominations made the Roman chapel a rendezvous for asking alms.

After leaving the town of St. Thomas you have only 38 miles to reach Point Levi, which is opposite to Quebec. Here the ferry is two miles wide. Large numbers of live cattle are ferried over to be slaughtered in the city. They are tied by the horns to the sides of the boat from one end to the other, and children whipping them the whole time, to make them swim, so as they may work their passage and not retard the boat, which is filled with passengers.

Quebec is not so large as I expected, but perhaps contains 15000 inhabitants; including the military. The castle of St. Lewis, situated on Cape Diamond, makes a handsome appearance from the water, and is the winter residence of the Governor, but in summer he retires to Sorrel, as Quebec is generally sickly at that season.

St. John's street, is the handsomest street, in Quebec, and in this street is a statue of General Wolfe, as large as the life, and in this city, my countrymen well know, the brave and dauntless General Montgomery fell. The Metropolitan church is a fine building, and there are also several Protestant churches, with hospitals, convents, &c.

The three Rivers is another handsome town, and when I came through this place there were two men in it who could almost match old Parr and Jenkins, for longevity. They had been in the battle of Preston Pans, and had fought on opposite sides with Prince Charles the pretender, and William Duke of Cumberland at Culloden.

Montreal is nearly as large as Quebec, and here I had the pleasure of seeing great numbers of Americans who received me with great cordiality, which was the more grateful as I was at this time labouring under inveterate sickness. The French throughout Lower Canada have neat farms, but they employ so much of their time, almost every day, in their churches, and keep such a number of holidays, that it is surprising how they get any time to cultivate their lands. There is scarcely any such thing

as cheese or butter in Lower Canada, because most of the French eat their cream along with the milk. Montreal is the reverse of Quebec; for whereas Quebec is unspeakably formidable, on the contrary, Montreal possesses no other defence, but that of being on an Island.

Berthier is a handsome town, the first you come to in Upper Canada, in coming from Montreal, and 7 miles from Sorrel. The town of the Cedars is the last town I came to where the French had a church: this too is in Upper Canada. Here the St. Lawrence is very terrific. Soon after this I got among the Glengaries, who are Highland Scotch Roman Catholics. These people are by no means destitute of hospitality in time of peace; but are fierce in war. It was somewhere here that the brave General Covington fell. Finally I reached the British garrison of Prescott and crossed to Ogdensburg in the state of New-York, rejoiced to set my foot once more in the United States, from which I had been absent more than thirteen years.

The practice of medicine in the Provinces is not very respectable. The professors of that art, in all the places I have described, are greatly inferior to the physicians of the United States. I speak in general terms, but some few are to be excepted. The typhus fever is a frequent visitor of the Provinces. It spread through the parish of Wakefield, in New-Brunswick, in 1816 and 1817, and is always worse in cold weather. The dysentery, it another common disease there.

The plant known here by the name of Pipsissiway, is common in New-Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but it is not the same as the winter green, and I caution physicians to beware of this mistake. The Pipsissiway is common in Pennsylvania. A young lady by the name of Cook in the state of New-York near Tarrytown was not long since cured of a cancer by drinking it in decoction and poulticing with the leaves, and her mother requested me to make it known to the public. I have reason to think it grows in Connecticut. I procured some of it very lately between Jewel's city and Plainfield, and falling in soon after with young Doctor Eaton, I presented it to him, advising him to shew it to the Faculty. The tree called the Balm of Gilead is common in Nova Scotia and is famous in beginning consumptions. They gather the

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buds when full of balsom, and put them in a bottle of diluted spirits, and drink it every morning for bitters.

The inner bark of the root of *stramonium* or stink weed in the U. S. is dried and used for smoking in Asthma as a palliative. The inner bark of the fir tree, (so common there,) is scraped into milk and simmered over embers, for a poultice in cancers and all aggravated sores.

The Sarsaparilla is common in the Provinces and Dulce is common on the sea coast, which is a submarine vegetable and excellent for worms. The Hypericum or St. John's wort is used as a specific on the island of Cape Breton for Scrophula or King's evil. Vaccine Inoculation has been much practised in the Provinces by the rest of the Faculty as well as by myself.

As I hear of frequent instances of the fatality of coughs and consumptions, I will mention a palliative common in the Provinces.

Take the root of Elecampane, cut it in small pieces and stew it down with brown sugar and water into a syrup, which let the patient take.—In the U. S. we boil 5 quarts of water, with one pound of the roots of skunk cabbage down to one quart, then stir in a pint of honey and one quart of brandy and use three wine glasses a day for an adult.

I will finish with a caustic for cancers. I reveal this to the public because I wish to do good. Take a pint of the juice of poke root, one pound of fresh butter, and half a pint of levigated or finely pulverized gun powder, stir them all together, and hold them in a frying pan over the fire until they become brown, but not until they explode, then put it away in gally pots or jars with a little spirits on the top to prevent moulding. Spread it on a rag and apply it over the tumor. It will ulcerate and eradicate it in a short time, but let no young person make this, but an old careful person, for fear of accident by the gun powder.

ABRAHAM PRYOR.

Providence, June 1, 1819.

The author returns his sincere thanks to his generous and
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