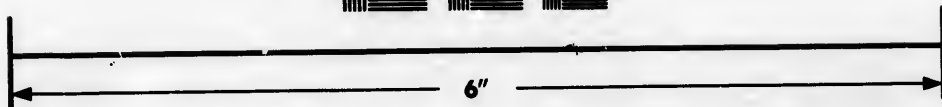
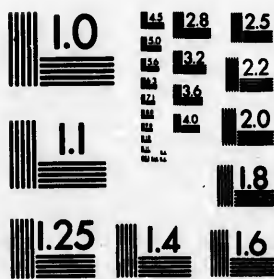


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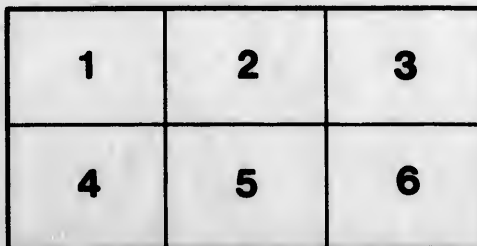
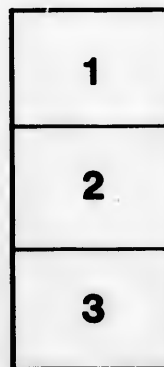
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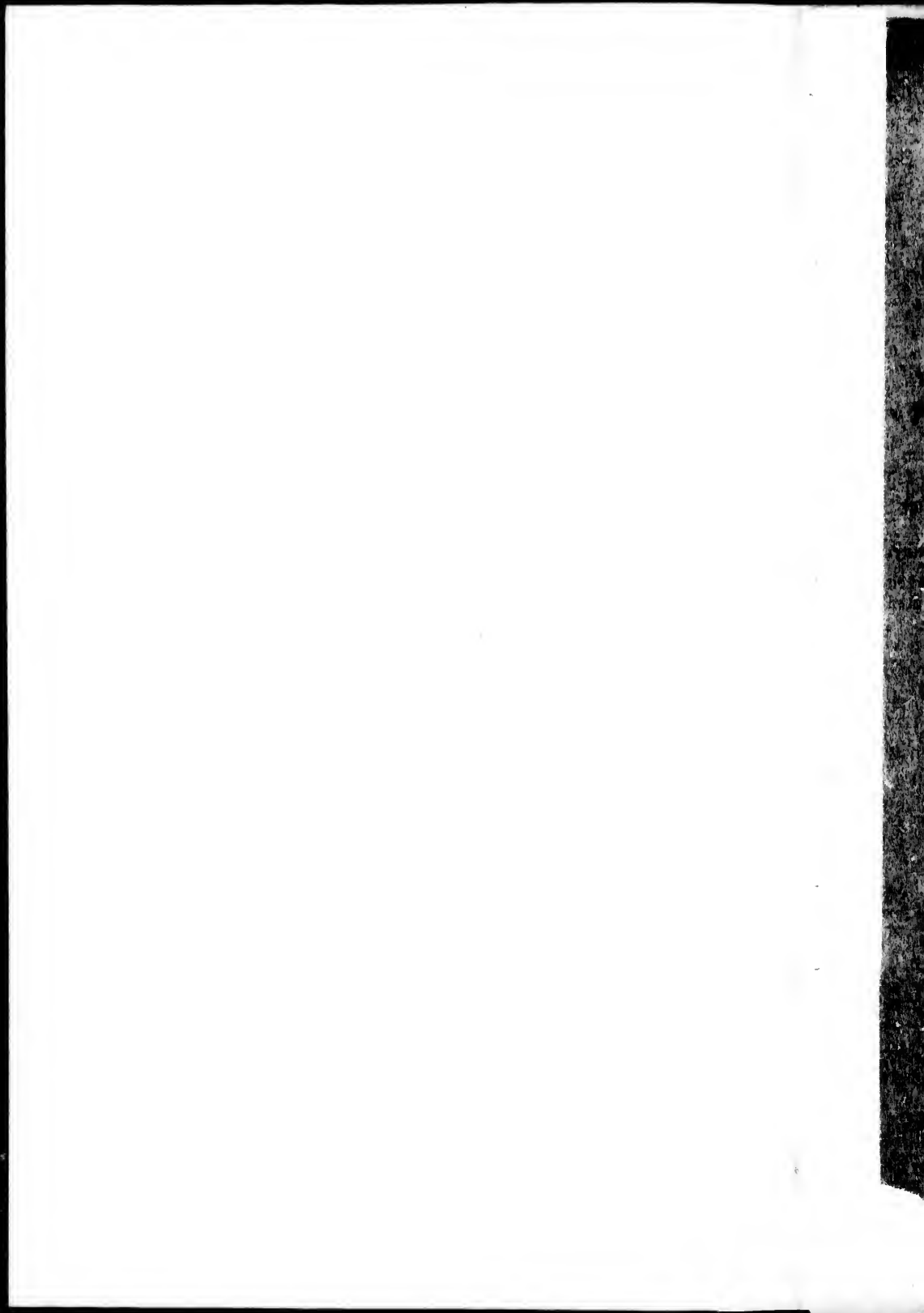
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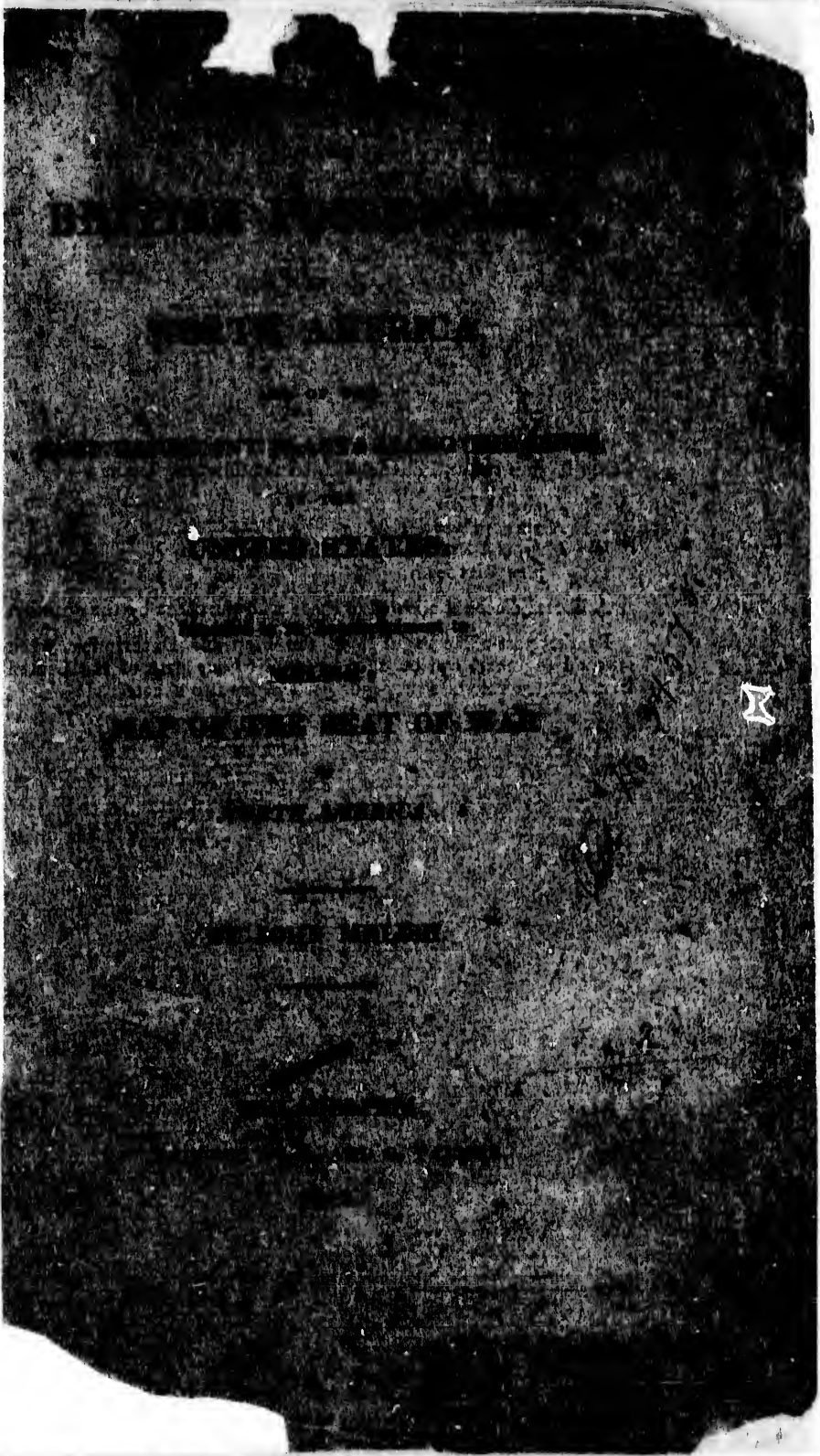
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A DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
BRITISH POSSESSIONS  
IN  
NORTH AMERICA,  
&c.

**MR. PINKERTON** remarks, that "those parts of North America which still belong to Britain are extensive and of considerable importance, though so thinly peopled, and in such a disadvantageous climate, that they sink into insignificance when compared with the great and flourishing territories of the United States."

The British lay claim to a vast extent of territory, comprehending from the boundary of the United States to the north pole, and across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean; but as there are no settlements except those bordering on the St. Lawrence, it is unnecessary to take a view of any other than those near that river, comprehending Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Newfoundland. The most important of these are the Canadas, and of these Upper Canada is an object of the greatest importance to the United States, on account of the great extent to which it stretches along the American territory.

Upper Canada extends from Lower Canada to the Lake of Winnipeg, in long. 97°, and comprehends an immense extent and variety of territory, of which that portion stretching between the great lakes, and along the banks of the St. Lawrence, is the best; and, taken as a whole, it is superior to any other part of the British possessions in North America.



The settlements are chiefly confined to the banks of the rivers and lakes, and present a most extensive, and in some places a thickly settled frontier to the United States. About 300 miles of the province border on the rivers and lakes opposite the Michigan territory; 150 on Lake Erie opposite the state of Ohio; 45 opposite the state of Pennsylvania; and 380 on the state of New York.

The inhabitants are composed of French, English, and Scottish, and a great many have emigrated from the United States within these last 20 years, principally of Dutch and German extraction. The whole inhabitants may be estimated at 80,000; and as the district along the lakes enjoys a pretty mild climate and good soil, they are likely to encrease.

*YORK*, the capital, is situated on the north-west side of Lake Ontario, 40 miles by water from the outlet of the Niagara river, and 100 by land. It was laid out in 1791, and has had a pretty rapid growth within the last 10 years; it now contains a good many frame houses, some of which display considerable taste. York harbour is formed by a long narrow peninsula, called Gibraltar point, which secures it from storms, and renders it one of the safest on the lake.

*Newark* is situated at the outlet of the Niagara river, and extends about a mile along the south bank of Lake Ontario. It contains about 500 inhabitants, and many of the buildings are handsome, being composed of brick and stone. It has 2 churches, a jail, and academy; 6 taverns, and about 20 dry-good stores, where every article can be got on as good terms as in Montreal.

*Fort George* is situated at the upper end of Newark, on the bank of the river, and is generally garrisoned with 500 men.

*Queenstown* is situated on the banks of the Niagara river, 8 miles above Newark, and contains about 300 inhabitants. It is regularly laid out, and many of the houses are handsome. There are in the town 6 stores, and the merchants carry on a very extensive trade along the river and lakes.

*Chippaway* is a small village containing about 30 houses, and is situated on both sides of Chippaway creek, where it empties into Niagara river, 10 miles and a half above Queenstown, and two miles and a half above the falls of Niagara. It has a considerable retail

trade, and is a depot for the fur trade of Upper Canada. There are barracks on the banks of the creek at this place, and a company of regular troops is generally stationed here.

*Fort Erie* is beautifully situated on the north bank of Lake Erie, at the east end, nearly opposite to Buffalo, and 2 miles above Black rock. It is a pretty strong stockade fort, and is generally garrisoned by 200 or 300 regular troops.

*Malden* is situated at the west end of Lake Erie, about 250 miles from Fort Erie. It contains about 100 houses, and carries on a considerable trade, principally in furs, with the Indian tribes. There is a stockade fort in its neighbourhood, which is garrisoned with 300 or 400 troops. In ordinary times a regiment of regular troops is distributed between this fort, and those already noticed.

*Sandwich* is a small town opposite Detroit, and is a station for the shipping bound to and from the upper lakes. There are no towns above this, nor in the interior, worthy of notice.

*Kingston* is situated at the head of St. Lawrence river, opposite Wolf Island, and has a most beautiful view of Lake Ontario to the south and west, and of the river and *Thousand Isles* in front. It was laid out in 1784, and is now a place of considerable size, and of great and encreasing trade. It has an excellent harbour, which is the station of the king's shipping of Lake Ontario during the winter. It is a military station, and has barracks, garrisoned with a considerable number of troops.

That part of the province which stretches between the lakes, lying between the 42d and 45th degree of north latitude, is by far the most valuable, and enjoys a comparatively temperate climate, the winters being generally more mild than at Philadelphia. The banks of Lake Erie and of the Niagara river between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario are beautiful, and will in all probability become a thickly-settled country, to which, and to the adjoining states, the inhabitants of the lower provinces will be chiefly indebted for their trade.

Agriculture is pretty well understood, and the produce is abundant. A good deal of domestic manufacture is carried on, and there are some carding machines, and a few coarse woollens made; but they are not encouraged, the genius of the government being directed to secure as many importations as possible from England.

The French, and it may be added the Dutch, settled here, are very ignorant, and set little value upon education. Intelligence is chiefly confined to the British merchants, and settlers from the United States. There are a number of schools, but they are not adapted to the *mass* of the people, nor does the genius of the leading men seem directed to the laudable object of the general dissemination of information. There is a considerable desire to monopolize knowledge, as well as riches and power, and the aristocracy, being backed by the military, have more power here probably than in England. The laws appear fair and equal, but there is a great deal of underhand management and intrigue, and neither independence of sentiment, nor freedom of speech or of the press, are encouraged, indeed they are hardly tolerated; while many of the military officers are haughty and overbearing in the highest degree.

LOWER CANADA is situated upon both sides of the St. Lawrence river, and extends from N. lat.  $45^{\circ}$  to  $52^{\circ}$ ; and from W. long.  $61^{\circ}$  to  $74^{\circ} 30'$ . Its greatest length from east to west is about 870 miles, and breadth from north to south about 486. The division line between Upper and Lower Canada commences at a stone boundary on the north bank of the Lake St. Francis, and pursues a northerly course to the Outawas river; it thence ascends that river to the head of Lake Temiskaming, and then proceeds due north till it strikes the southern boundary of New Britain, in latitude  $52^{\circ}$ . 70 miles of this province border on New York, 90 on Vermont, 30 on New Hampshire, and 245 on the district of Maine.

The face of the country is rather hilly, and in some places mountainous, but it contains a great deal of good soil, producing grain, and grass in abundance; and a little tobacco is raised for private use. The settlements are mostly confined to the banks of the rivers, and the greater part of the interior of the country is covered with forests; but, except in the meadows, the trees are generally of small growth.

The climate is very severe, and the heat and cold go to great extremes. The thermometer rises sometimes in summer to  $98^{\circ}$ , and in winter the mercury freezes. The winter sets in early in November, and continues till April, during which the ground is entirely covered with snow, often from 4 to 6 feet deep. In January and February the frost is so intense, that there is danger of being frost-

bitten, and to guard against it the inhabitants cover the whole body with furs, except the eyes and nose.

The population is computed at about 150,000; and they carry on a very considerable commerce, which chiefly centres in the two great Canadian towns, Quebec and Montreal.

QUEBEC is the capital, and stands on a point of land on the north-west side of the St. Lawrence, 320 miles from the sea, in north lat.  $46^{\circ} 48'$ . It is 60 miles distant from the nearest point of the United States in the district of Maine—170 from Montreal—246 from Plattsburg—418 from Albany, and 796 from Halifax.—The town is divided into upper and lower. The upper town stands on a high limestone rock, of great natural strength, and is well fortified. The lower town is situated upon low land, at the foot of the rock. The streets are irregular, narrow, and unpaved. The houses are almost wholly built of stone, and are small, ugly, and inconvenient. The fortifications are extensive, but irregular. A large garrison is maintained, but 5000 soldiers would be necessary to man the works\*. The population has been variously represented, some estimates being as high as 16,000, and others little more than half that number. It is probable that they may amount to about 12,000. About two thirds of the inhabitants are of French extraction, and they are represented as gay and lively. The markets are well supplied with provisions. The surrounding country abounds with very beautiful scenery, and the banks of the river between Quebec and Montreal are lined with neat country seats, and flourishing farms. The river is about a mile wide opposite Quebec; but a little below it widens out to 10 or 12 miles, and continues increasing to the gulph of St. Lawrence, where it is 170 miles wide. It is navigable to Quebec with ships of the greatest burthen, and opposite the town there is a commodious basin from 20 to 25 fathoms deep.

*Montreal* stands on the east side of an island in the river St. Lawrence, 170 miles above Quebec—500 miles from the sea, 40 from the nearest land in the United States, 66 from Plattsburg, 200 from Lake Ontario, and 338 from Albany. The island on which it stands is about 28 miles long, and 7 or 8 broad. In the middle of it there is a mountain which the French called *Mont-real*, which name has been transferred to the city and island.

The city forms an oblong square, divided into regular streets, and

\* Morse.

surrounded by a wall. The houses are situated on the side of a hill, so that the greater part of them may be seen at one view from the river; but many of them being very badly built, the view is not very beautiful. The number of inhabitants has been by some late accounts represented at 16,000, by others not more than 6000. They probably amount to 10,000; and as the land in the neighbourhood is fertile, and the trade on the lakes daily increasing, Montreal is likely to become a very large city. It is situated at the head of ship navigation; but the river is navigable in smaller vessels to Lake Ontario. The river is at this place three miles broad.

*Trois Rivieres* is situated on the north side of the St. Lawrence, 50 miles south-west of Quebec. It contains but few inhabitants, but is advantageously situated for the fur trade, of which it has a large share, particularly that part of it which flows into the St. Lawrence through the medium of the river St. Maurice. The inhabitants are generally wealthy, and the country round is rich and well cultivated.

There are no other towns of any importance.

A very considerable portion of the trade of the river, and of these towns, is derived from Upper Canada and the northern part of the United States; and the exports, consisting chiefly of grain, flour, provisions, potash, timber, naval stores, furs, &c. have of late been very great. The imports are chiefly British goods, with which, before the war, the inhabitants contrived to supply a considerable part of the United States, *by smuggling*.

The state of society admits of much improvement. Mr. Pinkerton says, "the French women in Canada can generally read and write, and are thus superior to the men, but both are sunk in ignorance and superstition; and the English language is confined to the few British settlers."

NEW BRUNSWICK extends from Nova Scotia to Lower Canada, and from the gulph of St. Lawrence to the district of Maine, being about 200 miles long and 120 broad. This province being united with Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and St. John's, in one military command, subject to the governor of Upper Canada, it excites no great attention either in a civil or military point of view. The soil and climate are somewhat assimilated to those of the district of Maine contiguous to it. There are a number of very extensive rivers in the inte-

rior, of which St. John's is the chief; and the soil is represented as being fertile, producing grain and grass in plenty. The inhabitants probably amount to about 45,000. St. Andrew's and St. John's are the only towns worth notice.

**NOVA SCOTIA** is a large peninsula, extending from New Brunswick to the Atlantic, and is about 250 miles long by 110 broad. The country along the coast is rugged and stony, but there are some good spots of land in the interior; and there are valuable mines of coal, limestone, plaster of Paris, and iron ore. The climate is pretty similar to New Brunswick, but being farther south, the winters are more mild, though the vicinity to the banks of Newfoundland causes it to be much exposed to fogs. The province is settled by French, New Englanders, and British people; but, except the sea-board, the settlements are very thin, the whole population probably not exceeding 40,000.

**HALIFAX** is the capital, and is advantageously situated on the west side of a spacious and commodious harbour, having an easy and safe entrance. It is built on the declivity of a hill, the summit of which is about 320 feet above the level of the sea, and is laid out into squares, the streets crossing one another at right angles. It contains about 1000 houses and 8000 inhabitants. The country round the town is quite sterile, the land being rocky, and the soil generally unfit for cultivation; but its convenience as a port causes it to be pretty well supplied with provisions. It is occupied by the British as a naval station, which renders it an object of great importance to the United States.

**Liverpool** is built on Liverpool bay, and is a commercial settlement of very considerable importance, containing about 200 houses and 1000 inhabitants, the greater part of whom are from the United States.

The other principal towns are Annapolis, which has of late carried on a great trade with Eastport in the district of Maine, Onslow, Truro, Windsor, Yarmouth, and Shelburne; which last was remarkable as being the great resort of the Tories during the revolutionary war. In 1783 it contained 600 families; but it has since rapidly declined, the greater part of its inhabitants having returned to the United States.

The other British possessions are of very little importance.



**Capa Bonaparte** is situated between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland; and is divided from the former by a very narrow strait. It is 100 miles long, by about 30 broad. Some valuable beds of coal have been found in it, and the island is well watered with small streams; but the soil is represented as a mere moss, and unfit for cultivation. The climate is cold and foggy. The settlements are very thin, and the inhabitants few in numbers. The principal towns are Sidney and Locksburg. The trade consists almost wholly of furs and the produce of the fisheries.

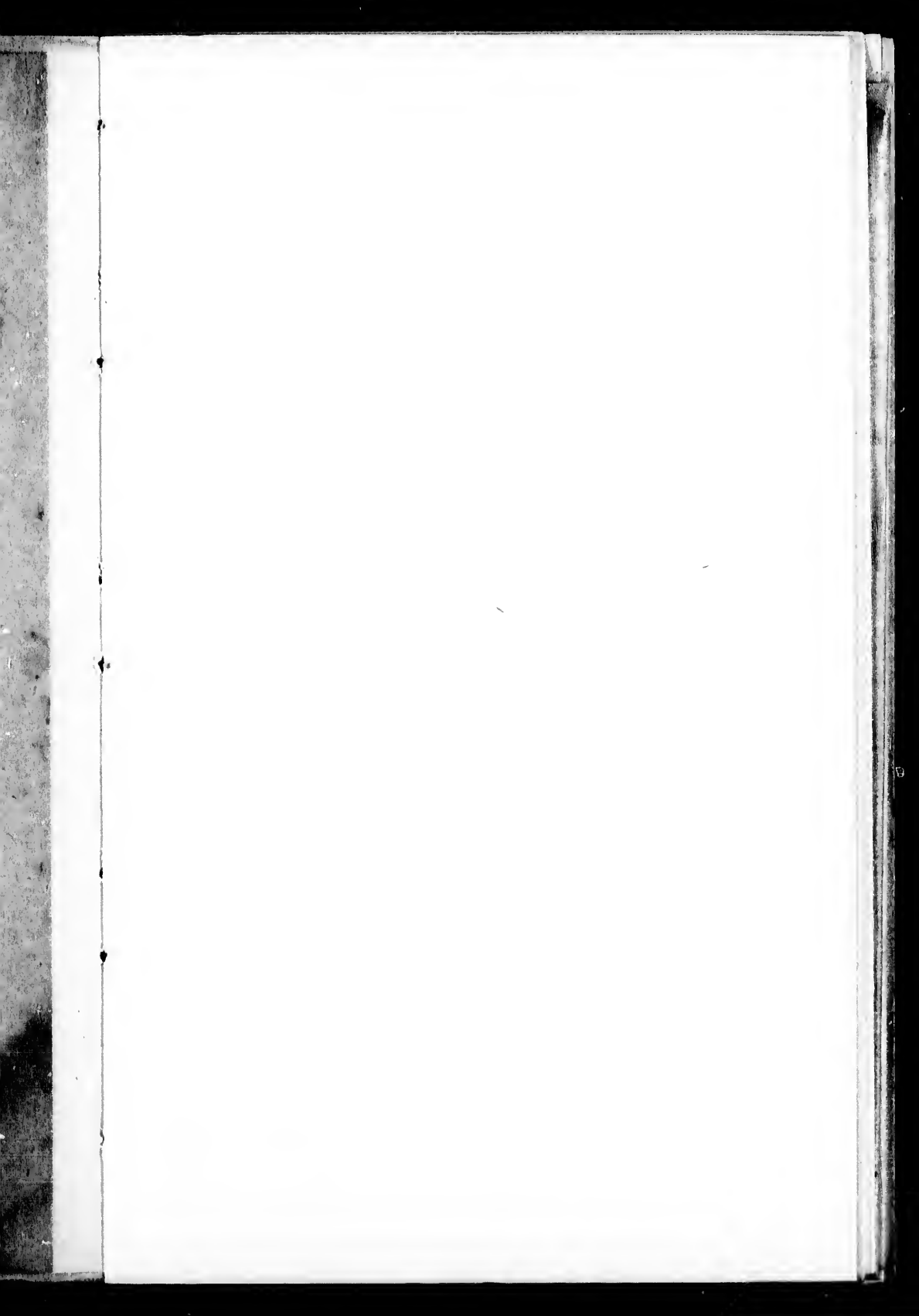
The island of **St. John** is 60 miles long and 30 broad, and contains some good coal upon the banks of the streams. The chief town is Charlottetown.

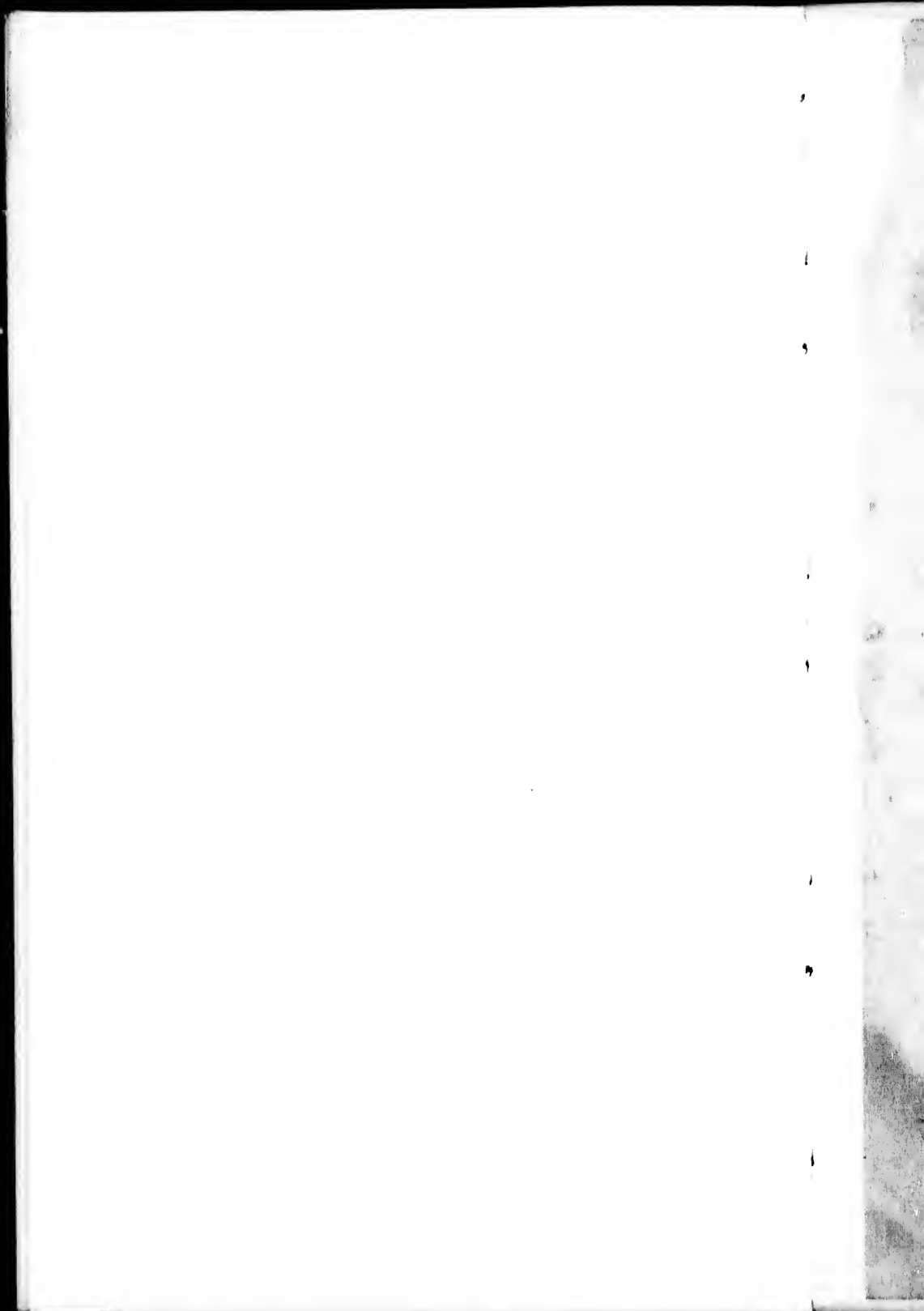
**Anticosti** is a barren uninhabited island, 120 miles long by 40 broad, situated in the mouth of the river St. Lawrence.

**NEWFOUNDLAND** is an island situated on the east side of the gulf of St. Lawrence, between north latitude  $45^{\circ} 50'$  and  $48^{\circ} 10'$ ; and between  $48^{\circ} 30'$  and  $59^{\circ} 12'$  west longitude. It is 948 miles long, and about 300 broad; but both length and breadth are very unequal. It is subject to dreadful storms, and is almost constantly enveloped in fogs, clouds, and darkness; and having a barren soil, the inhabitants are few, and chiefly devoted to the fisheries. The chief towns are St. John's, Placentia, and Bonaville.

The following summary of the population and trade of Canada is copied from a late British newspaper.

Population, about	920,000
<b>Wool.</b>	
Wool and skins	£. 150,000
Waxes, tallow, bisquit, and grain	130,000
Lumber	550,000
Pot and pearl ashes	220,000
Beef and pork	30,000
Sundries	10,000
Woolen and linen manufactures	£. 1,112,000
Value of the produce of the fisheries	£. 1,000,000
Vessels employed	660
Tonnage of shipping	140,000





ACCOUNT OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PLACES  
ALONG THE LINE IN THE UNITED STATES.

*Michilimackinac, or Mackina,* is the most northern military post in the United States. It is situated on an island in a strait which passes from lake Huron to lake Michigan. The island is about 9 miles in circumference, and the strait in which it is situated about 7 miles wide.

Michilimackinac has been for several years the emporium of trade for the waters of lake Michigan and the Illinois rivers, Kaskaskias, and the Mississippi; which, until within a few years, was carried on altogether by merchants of Montreal, in Upper Canada, who conducted this trade by means of factors, who here met the most considerable Indian traders from the westward and southward, in the spring of every year; and here they bartered their several commodities, the manufactures of Europe for the peltries of the uncivilized regions. This fair lasted about two months, and the parties separated usually about July, returning, the traders to the Indian tribes, and the factors with their cargoes to Montreal\*.

*Chicago,* recently called *Fort Dearborn,* is an Indian factory of the United States, on the margin of lake Michigan, at the north-west curve: and the Illinois river has its source in the high ground a short distance from lake Michigan. The Wabash is due south of a central line drawn through Michigan, and Tippacanoe may be about 80 miles from the same point due south†.

**DETROIT** is the capital of the Michigan territory, and is a large thriving town, containing 300 or 400 houses, and is rapidly increasing.

The fortification here was originally a compact square work, regularly constructed, and having quarters to accommodate 250 men. But these works had fallen to decay, and in 1807, when the last particular information was acquired, it had been put into a state of repair by governor Hull. The position had been chosen without skill, the foot of the scarp being more than 200 rods from the river, and the town actually between the river and the fort. The only advantage

\* Aurora.

† Ibid.

of this fort appears to be that of an entrenchment as a security against surprise, and its being perfectly safe from the range of shot from the Canadian side of the strait, or from vessels on the water.

The works are earth with a double stockade, or lines of pickets. Spacious barracks were erected by governor Hull in 1806, and a line of pickets was constructed at the same time round the houses and two block houses. Some heavy guns were brought thither during the administration of John Adams, but what their condition has been since we have not heard, but no doubt they are comprehended in the late capitulation\*. By the fall of Michilimackinac and the surrender of Detroit, upwards of 3000 miles of frontier are exposed to the brutality of the Indians. A naval force possessing the command of the lakes would cut off at once these supplies, by which the Indian tribes are retained in arms; the march of the western yeomanry upon the Indian territory, and the destruction of their towns, would quiet immediately, or force the Indians within the Canadian lines, where they would become more terrible to their allies than to the United States, and the surrender of the garrisons upon the lakes would be the effect of the general co-operation throughout the whole of the western frontier, on the lakes, and on the Cadaraquit.

*Brownstown* is a small settlement nearly opposite to Malden, and 16 miles from Detroit.

*Frenchtown* is a thriving village on Raisin river, 24 miles south-west of Brownstown.

*Miami river* and fort is situated 38 miles south-west of Frenchtown. There are fine prairies on the river, with very high grass, extending a mile on each side. The country is uncommonly fertile, and the water is pure and beautiful. The Indian claim to the lands is not yet extinguished: when it is, it is presumed this will become one of the most extensive settlements in the United States.

*Miami Old Fort* exists only in name, but is important as being the situation where the great road to Detroit crosses the Miami river.

*Sandusky bay* is the best harbour on lake Erie, but the entrance is somewhat difficult. Sandusky river is navigable only a few miles into the interior of the country. The lands both on the river and bay are excellent, and the country is settling up very rapidly. Sandusky river is 30 miles from the Miami old fort.

\* Aurora.

† Ibid.

*Cleveland* is situated at the mouth of the Cayahoga river, 76 miles from Sandusky bay. The founders have probably been impressed with a belief that it would be a place of great importance, for it is dignified with the name of city, although it contains only 16 dwelling-houses, 2 taverns, 2 stores, and 1 school. There is a little trade in salt, and sometimes a little in flour, pork, and whisky; but the whole is trifling, and will probably continue so until a harbour be formed at the mouth of the river.

*Erie* is situated on the south bank of Lake Erie, 100 miles east from Cleveland, and 115 north of Pittsburgh. A small peninsula runs into the lake opposite the town, and forms a natural harbour, but the entrance is choked up by a sand bar, and vessels have to lie on the outside of the harbour exposed to the weather.

The town is regularly laid out, in a beautiful and healthy situation, but it is not increasing: It contains about 76 houses, mostly built of wood, but several of them are uninhabited. The number of inhabitants is 395. The public buildings are a court-house, jail, and school. There are three taverns and three stores, and a number of tradesmen are employed; but the place appears dull. Until of late the town was supported by the salt trade; but that has very much declined, in consequence of so much of the lower country being now supplied by the Kanhaway works.

*Buffalo* is handsomely situated at the east end of Lake Erie, where it commands a beautiful view of the lake, of Upper Canada, and Fort Erie, and a great distance to the southward, which is terminated by an elevated lofty country. The scite of the town extends quite to the lake shore, but it is principally built on an eminence of about 30 feet, at a little distance; and to the south, along Buffalo creek, are handsome bottom lots, which are at present a little marshy, but will, when drained, be most valuable appendages to this very beautiful place.

Buffalo was laid out for a town about six years ago, and is regularly disposed in streets and lots. The lots are from 60 to 100 feet deep, and sell for from 25 to 50 dollars; and there are out-lots of 5 and 10 acres, worth at present from 10 to 25 dollars per acre. The population was by last census 365, it is now computed at 500, and is rapidly increasing.

The buildings are mostly of wood, painted white, but there is a



good number of brick houses, and some few of stone. There are 4 taverns, 8 stores, 2 schools; and a weekly newspaper has been recently published. The town is as yet too new for the introduction of any manufactures, except those of the domestic kind. The greater part of the people are farmers and mechanics.

The settlers here are mostly from the New England states, but, the town being in the great thoroughfare to the western country, there is a general mixture. A considerable trade is constantly kept up by the influx and reflux of strangers, and such articles as are necessary for their accommodation are dear. House-rent is from 2 to 20 dollars per week, wood is 1 dollar per cord, flour 7 dollars per barrel, pork 6 dollars per cwt. Fish are very plenty and cheap. Boarding is about 3 dollars per week.

The situation is quite healthy, and the seasons are much more mild than might be expected in that northern latitude; the effect of the southerly winds is very apparent here.

*Black Rock* is situated on the right bank of the Niagara river, two miles and a half from Buffalo. It is a considerable settlement, and many good stone houses have recently been built. The river is here about a mile broad, and is seen issuing from the lake as clear as crystal. Before the war a ferry-boat plied across the river, and there was a great intercourse with the British settlements on the opposite side. There is a small island a little above Black Rock, below which is pretty good anchorage for shipping, but it is rather an inconvenient station, on account of the rapidity of the current. It is proposed to build a pier in the lake, at the outlet of Buffalo creek, which, if accomplished, will form a good harbour at that place.

*Grand Niagara* is a small village on the east bank of the Niagara river, immediately above the falls, and nearly opposite to Chippaway. It was laid out for a town a few years ago, and contains a number of dwelling-houses, a grist-mill, a saw-mill, a fulling-mill, a carding and roving machine, and several mills and machinery are projected. The water is brought out of the river above the rapids, and as the source is inexhaustible, and the fall above 50 feet, mills and machinery to a very great extent can be erected here, and this will probably become a very large settlement.

*Lewistown* is situated eight miles below the falls, on the east bank of the Niagara river, opposite Queenstown. It is laid out on a hand-

some plan, occupying a mile square, and a considerable piece of ground is appropriated to public purposes. It is subdivided into blocks of three chains, each containing three lots, and they sell at present for from 100 to 300 dollars. It is gradually building up with brick, frame, and stone houses; and it is well supplied with fine water, which renders it very comfortable. Being at the bottom of the portage, on the American side, it is the seat of considerable trade, which is likely to increase. Twenty vessels belong to the lake navigation here, and 2300 bushels of salt were landed at Lewistown in 1811. The quantity of flour, grain, provisions, and peltry that are shipped is considerable; and for every article of produce there is a brisk demand, and a good price. Wheat sells for 1 dollar per bushel, flour 7 dollars per barrel, pork 6 dollars per barrel. The country is improving in the neighbourhood, and land is worth from seven to nine dollars per acre. Merino sheep have been introduced, and are doing well; and there are considerable domestic manufactures, though none on a large scale.

The river below this holds a placid, though pretty rapid course, to the lake, the surface being only 15 or 20 feet below the banks; and it is from one-half to three-quarters of a mile wide; but above this, it is confined within a narrow channel, the motion is accelerated to a great velocity, and it is rough and turbulent, the probable effect of a very ragged bottom, which the falls would make in their ascent. The banks, nearly perpendicular, are about 300 feet high, and composed of a hard limestone above, and schistus below; and this arrangement continues all the way to the present fall.

*Fort Niagara* is situated on the east bank of the Niagara river, where it falls into Lake Ontario, eight miles below Lewistown. It is an old French fort, with antiquated buildings, and the works are going rapidly to decay. *Fort George* is nearly opposite to it, on the other side of the river, and being more elevated has the command of it, so that it has not been considered a matter of importance to keep it in repair.

The view from this place is very elegant. To the north is Lake Ontario, with York, the capital of Upper Canada, handsomely situated near the west end of it; to the north-west is the outlet of the river with the bar and breakers; to the west Newark, handsomely situated on the west side of the river, with the garrison at the upper

and the light-house at the lower end of it. The river is about half a mile broad, and the water perfectly pure. Its course is nearly north, but it makes a small bend to the north-west, immediately before it falls into the lake. It is 30 feet deep, and runs at the rate of about three miles an hour, from which we may calculate the discharge of water to be 128 millions of gallons per minute; but great as the quantity is, it is only about a 45th part of that discharged by the Mississippi. There are two bars at the outlet. The water on the outer bar is 24 feet deep, on the inner bar about 18. The banks are from 20 to 30 feet high, and the country on both sides perfectly level. Towards the south the view of the river is very splendid, and is beautifully terminated by the high lands above Queenstown and Lewistown.

*Oswego* is situated at the outlet of Oswego river, on the south-east side of Lake Ontario, and consists of about 40 dwelling-houses and stores. It was regularly laid out by the state of New York, which reserved a part of the military township of Hannibal for this purpose. The town has been made a port of entry, and is principally supported by the salt trade.

Fort Oswego is situated on the right bank of the river, directly opposite the town, and is a commanding situation. The British were fully impressed with the advantageous situation of this fort, and accordingly spared neither labour nor expence in keeping it in complete order; but since the surrender to the American government, the works have nearly gone to ruin.

Immediately opposite to the fort, at present included in the town-plat, are the remains of an old French fortification; and about half a mile distant from the town, are likewise to be seen the ruins of some other ancient fortifications, the founders of which are long since lost to the memory of the natives\*.

*Sacket's Harbour* is situated at the east end of Lake Ontario, about 16 miles from the river St. Lawrence, and consists of a number of large and elegant modern-built houses and out-houses, generally superior to what they are in the old villages. The village was originally laid out in half acre lots, but many of them are subdivided; and such has been the rapidity of the settlement, that these lots now sell for from 250 to 1200 dollars; and one of them, which was given

\* Schultz's Travels.

in a present to one of the first settlers, to induce him to go into the wilderness, was lately sold at 1450 dollars.

The harbour is formed by a peninsula of limestone rock, in many places not more than one rod wide, which perfectly shelters a sheet of water containing about 10 acres. The land fronting the harbour is elevated about 30 feet; and on each side of the harbour the banks are of limestone, about 20 or 30 feet perpendicular, which, from the water, resembles the walls of an ancient fortification. From the village there is one of the most variegated, extensive, and beautiful prospects any where to be seen: the lake, distant islands, main land, and outlets of rivers are all beautiful, and the scene is continually enlivened with vessels and boats; while the wharfs, warehouses, and stores, exhibit an appearance very much resembling a sea port on the Atlantic.

Sacket's Harbour has for several years been a port of entry, and it is in contemplation to establish a navy-yard, arsenal, and fortification for protecting the trade on the lake. Before the war there was a ferry between this place and Kingston, in Upper Canada, distant 36 miles, with which there was a great intercourse. The trade has been encreasing every year since its first settlement. In 1811 there were upwards of 40 vessels on Lake Ontario, and the quantity of wheat, flour, beef, pork, ashes, and lumber, that were annually exported to Montreal by the Cadaraqui, or St. Lawrence river, was very great.

There are several villages along the south bank of the Cadaraqui river, of which *Ogdensburg* is the chief; and there are a number along the lines in the states of New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire; but they are of no great importance; and as there is no probability of the seat of war being removed from the St. Lawrence and lakes, a description of them is unnecessary in this place. I shall therefore close this account by a short glance at the navigation of these extensive waters.

Lake Erie and the waters above it are navigated by vessels of from 70 to 80 tons, which carry goods and provisions up the lakes as far as the head of Lake Superior, and bring back furs and peltry. The navigation is good to the head of Lake Superior, except in Lake St. Clair, where the water is shallow, and vessels are sometimes obliged to lighten.

The principal ports on the American side are Michilimackinac,

Buffalo, Miami, Sandusky, Cayahoga, Grand River, Erie, and St. Clair. On the British side Malden, Moses, Sandwick, and St. Clair.

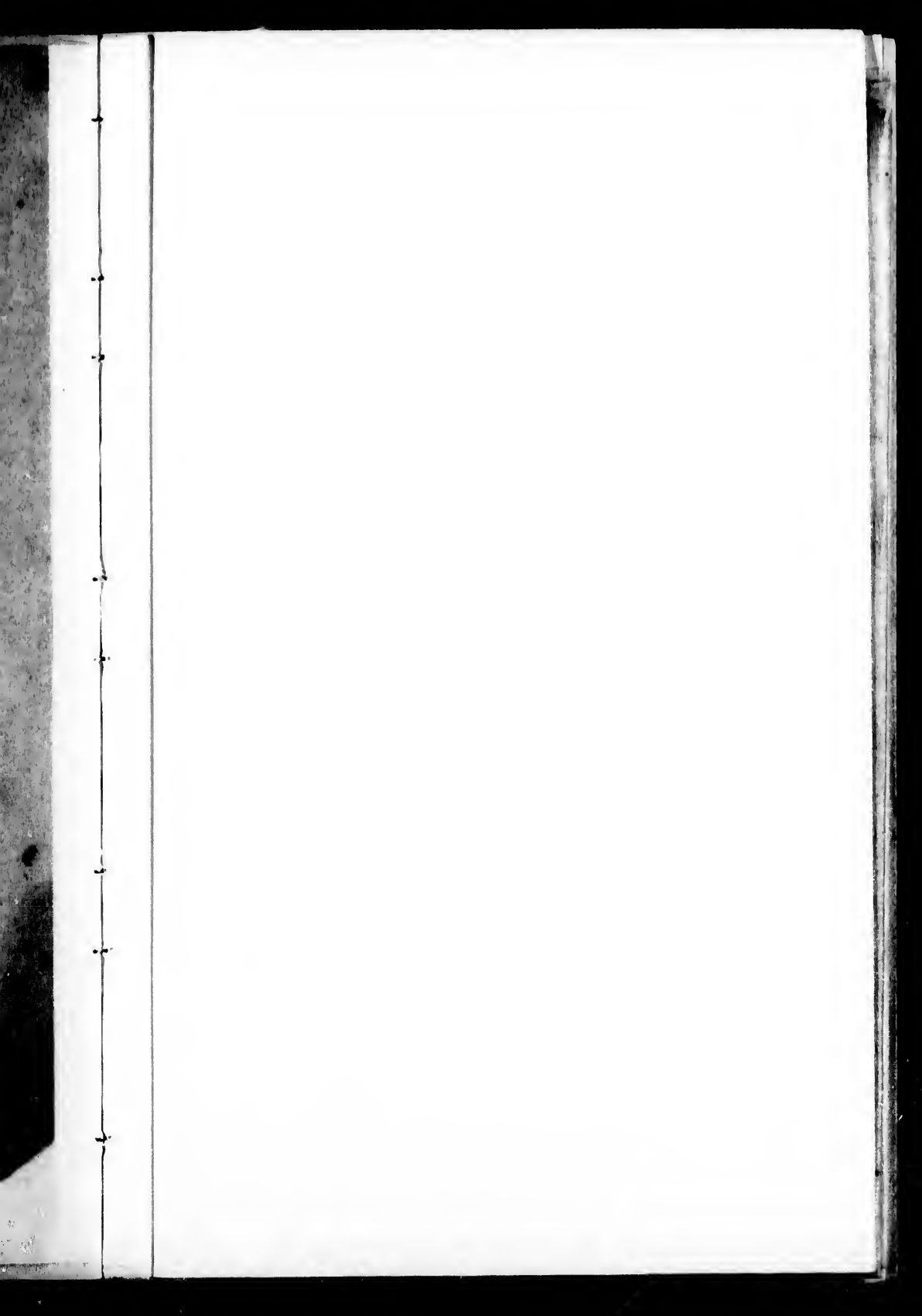
In 1811 the Americans had on Lake Erie 1 brig, 8 schooners, and 4 sloops; and the British 1 brig, 8 schooners, and 2 vessels of war. One of them, the Queen Charlotte, of 18 guns, was built in the summer of 1810, in expectation of a war with the United States.

These lakes admit of the most extensive inland navigation in the world. The stages of it upwards from Buffalo, at the east end of Lake Erie, may be thus noticed. To Erie 100 miles; thence to Grand River 70; to Cayahoga River 30; to Sandusky-bay 37; to Miami-bay 45; to Malden 45; to Detroit 18; to Lake St. Clair 11; through Lake St. Clair 40; through Huron River 40; through Lake Huron to Michilimackinac straits 190; thence to Lake Superior 100; and through Lake Superior upwards of 300 miles, being in that direction 1036 miles. Then Lake Michigan is navigable from the straits downwards 300 miles, and from thence there are two portages, to the Mississippi river; after passing which there is a complete navigation to New Orleans.

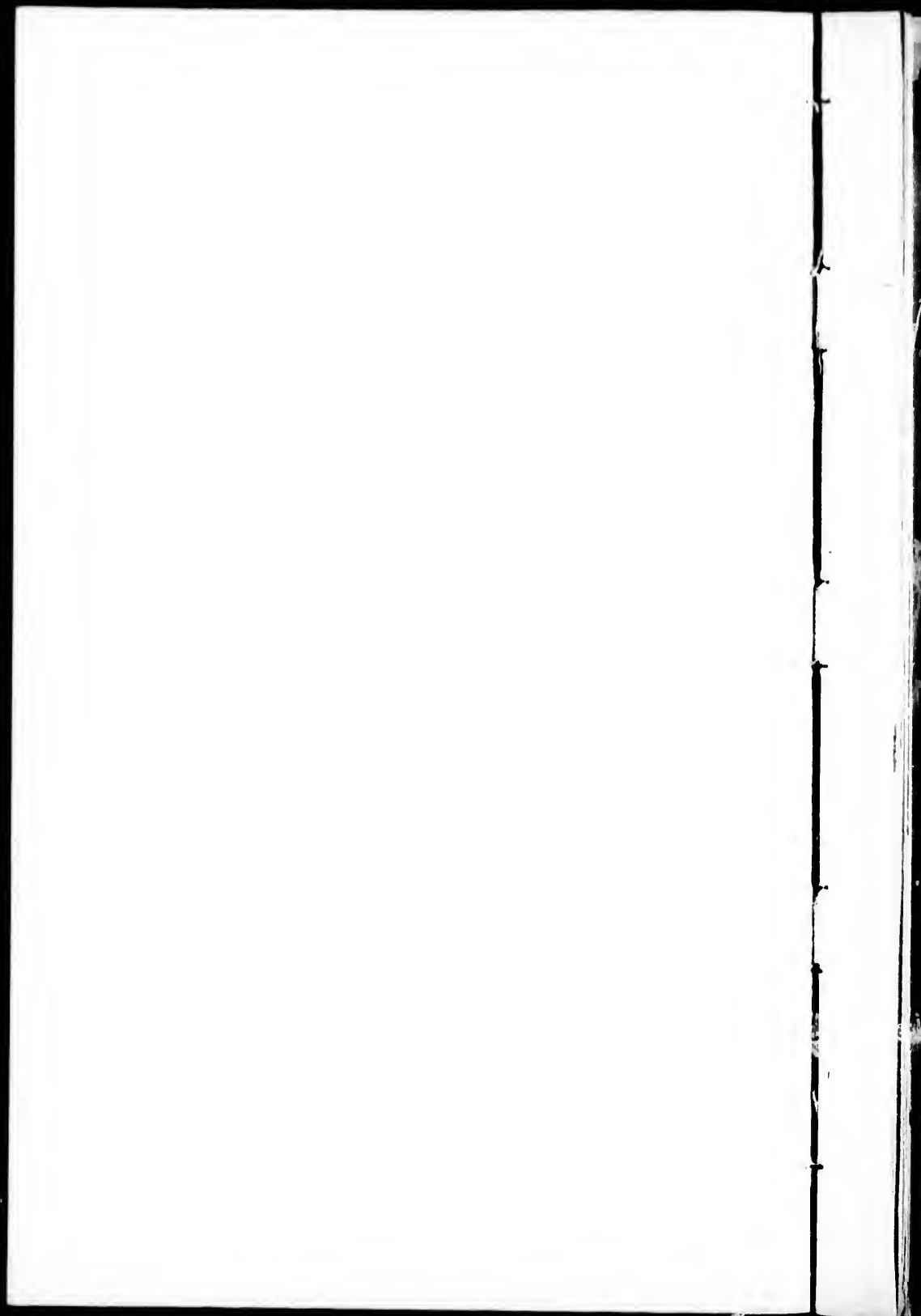
From Lake Erie there are 4 portages to the Ohio river; one from Erie to French creek, a branch of the Allegany; one from the Cayahoga river to the Tuscarawa, a branch of the Muskingum; one from the Sandusky river to the great Miami; and one from the Miami of the Lakes to the Wabash.

The navigation from Buffalo downwards is by the following stages. To fort Schléser, above the falls, 20 miles; from thence the land portage round the falls and rapids is 10 miles to Lewistown; then the navigation is continued 8 miles to Lake Ontario; through the lake to Kingston 170 miles; to Montreal 170; to Quebec 170; and thence to the Gulph of St. Lawrence 320 miles; in all 660 miles; which being added to the navigation from Buffalo upwards, makes 1904 miles of an inland navigation, to which there is no material obstruction, except the falls and rapids of Niagara.

From hence it will be seen of what importance it is to have superior naval force on the lakes. From the superiority of British fleets at sea, they can command the navigation of the St. Lawrence as far as Quebec; but the waters above







Negative



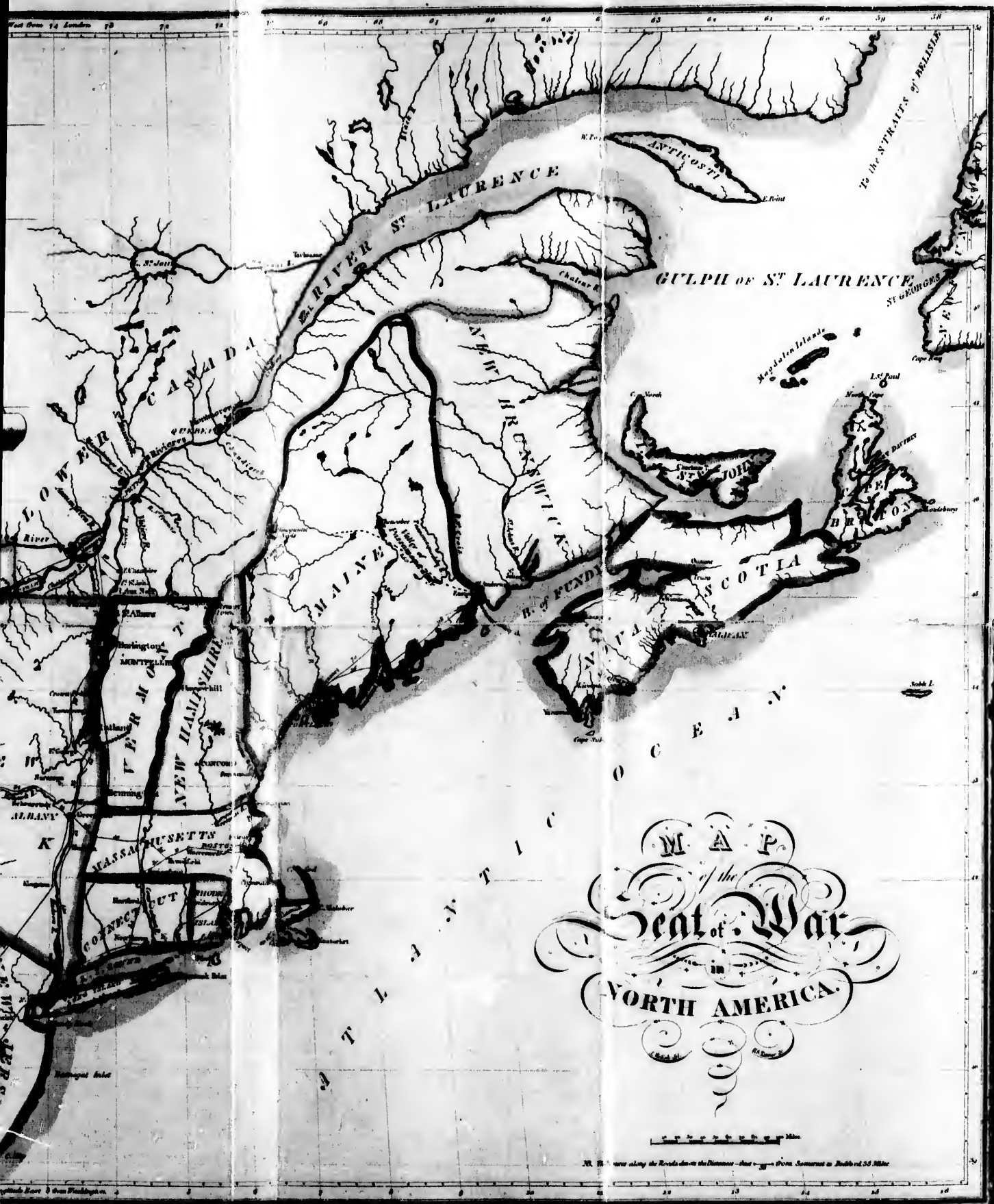
**TABLE of POPULATION**

United States	7,230,993
British Possessions	330,000
<i>Comparative Population along the Lakes</i>	
Maine	128,705
New Hampshire	221,480
Vermont	217,893
New York	959,049
Pennsylvania	800,000
Ohio	930,700
Michigan Territory	1,100,000
Scott's Shores	40,000
New Brunswick	45,000
Lower Canada	180,000
Upper Canada	100,000
Hull	8,000
Quebec	10,000
Montreal	20,000
Newark	500
Queenstown	300
Malden	100

Longitude West of Washington

Longitude East of Washington

Entered as the Act of Congress



M A P  
*of the*  
**Seat of War**  
*in*  
**NORTH AMERICA.**

Scale of Miles  
 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

*Scale of Miles*

