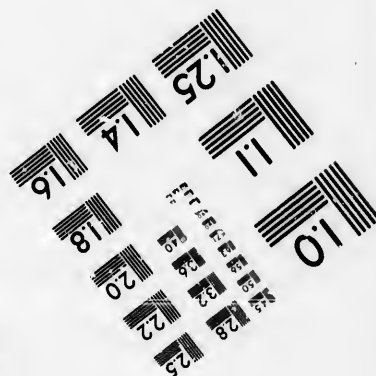
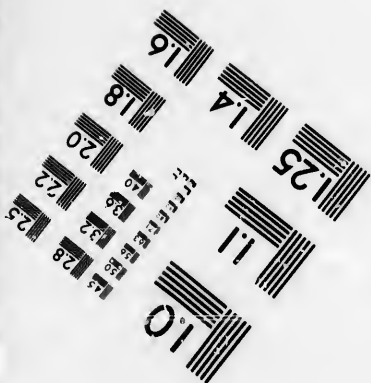
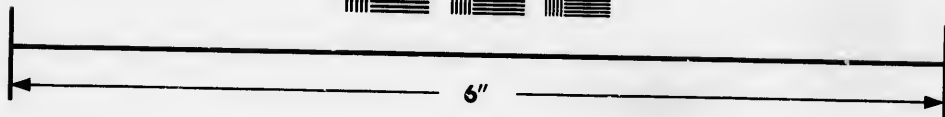
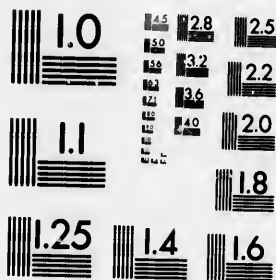


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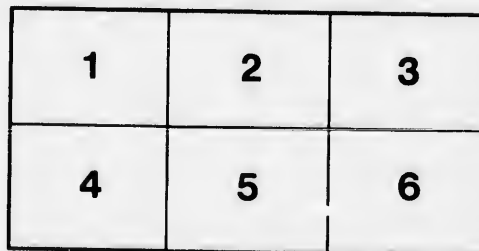
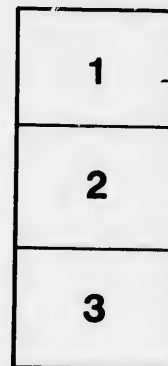
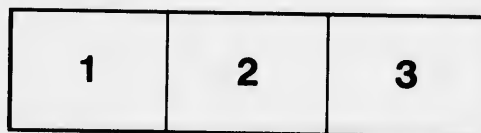
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QUEBEC, FROM THE ST. LAWRENCE.

To B. S. Shantling
with the *910*
best respects.
M 82

THE
EMIGRANT'S NOTE BOOK
AND
G U I D E ;
WITH RECOLLECTIONS OF
UPPER AND LOWER CANADA,
DURING THE LATE WAR.

"The wise and active conquer difficulties
By daring to attempt them. Sloth and folly
Shiver and shrink, at sight of toil and hazard,
And make the impossibilities they fear."

BY LIEUTENANT J. C. MORGAN, H. P.
LATE SECOND BATT. R. M.

LONDON:
Published for the Author,
BY LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN.
1824.

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TO

SIR GEORGE COCKBURN, M.P.

KNIGHT GRAND CROSS

Of the Military Order of the Bath,

LORD COMMISSIONER OF THE ADMIRALTY,

VICE ADMIRAL OF THE BLUE,

MAJOR GENERAL OF MARINES,

&c. &c.

SIR,

IN addressing one who has devoted himself to his country,—and who ranks so high in a service, as conspicuous for its candour as for its gallantry,—it would be an insult to offer the language of flattery and adulation: it would likewise ill accord with my own feelings. Even were I here to allude to particular actions, and attempt to hold them up to the admiration of the world—from my total inability to do justice to the

23415

task—I should incur the charge of vanity and presumption. Permit me, therefore, Sir, in the plain and simple language of truth, to assure you of my gratitude, and more particularly, for being allowed to dedicate to you this humble effort of my pen.—With every sentiment of respect,

I have the Honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

J. C. MORGAN.

of vanity
efore, Sir,
of truth,
and more
edicate to
— With

Servant,
ORGAN.

PREFACE.

AT the commencement of the late war with the United States of America, the first and second battalions of Royal Marines, under the command of lieutenant-colonels Sir Richard Williams, and Sir James Malcolm, Knights Commanders of the Bath, were recalled from the north of Spain, and after being properly recruited and equipped, were dispatched for the coast of America, in the early part of the year 1813.

The Islands of Bermuda was the first point of rendezvous ; and here we arrived on the 23d May, after a passage of six weeks, in his Majesty's ships Diadem, Diamede, Fox, Nemises, Success and Romulus, armed en flute, and Mariner armed transport.

The events which occurred in the voyage, were such as occur to other people, similarly situated, and therefore need no particular description.

I shall consequently only observe, that my companions were just such as a man would wish to be embarked with, for a long voyage, and to those friends—

“ Well pleased I turn'd

Regardless of the storms which raged without.”

A brief sketch of the Bermudas may, however, amuse the fire-side traveller, who may peruse these pages.

This cluster of Islands, which the Bermudians insist on being exactly 365 in number, contains not more than 20,000 acres, generally very light land, and of no extraordinary fertility.

They are situated at a great distance from any other island or continent, in 32° N. latitude, and 63° W. longitude; 4,500 miles from the Land's-end, Cornwall; 3,500 from Madeira, and 500 miles E. of Charleston, South Carolina.

They appear to have received their first name from John Bermuda, a Spaniard, who discovered them in 1552, and were afterwards called the Summer Islands, from Sir Geo. Summers, who was shipwrecked upon them in 1609.

Finding them deserted by the Spaniards, he took possession of

them, and they have ever since remained in the hands of the English.

The inhabitants had formerly a small traffic in vegetables, with the West Indian Islands, likewise in a particular description of hat, made of the Palmetto tree, then generally worn in warm climates. Cedar is at present their principal staple commodity, and these trees they cultivate with the greatest care and attention; their property and consequence being generally estimated by the number of slaves and cedars they possess.

These *two commodities* likewise constitute their children's fortunes.

With the latter, the Bermudians build their far-famed, fast sailing schooners, with which they drive a considerable trade between North America, and the West Indies.

During the late war, Bermuda was

one of the principal rendezvous for the English Fleet, in that quarter of the world, although the passage to the anchorage, through a long reef of rocks, is one of peculiar danger in bad weather.

Tobacco and arrow root are likewise cultivated in these islands, which, from their numbers, afford numerous harbours and bays, for small craft, in all directions through the plantations.

Here the cedar, the palmetto, the wild thyme, tamarind, cocoa nut, and bahama trees, with various others, decorate the vallies, whilst a thousand variegated shrubs and flowers "dispense native perfumes," making the imagination almost fancy itself in fairy land.

The most remarkable of the feathered creation are the Tropic blue

and red birds, or Virginian Nightingales, of beautiful plumage, but whose notes are far inferior to those of the English Thrush. Likewise the little Humming Bird, of exquisite beauty, whose beak is nearly the length of his body, and whose whole frame is very little larger than a Queen Bee.

The domesticated part of the feathered tribe are, however, not so secure from harm as those who roam free and unconfined; such incredible swarms of rats harbour in the crevices of the rocks, as renders the greatest care necessary, to prevent every unfortunate fowl from being carried off by these midnight marauders.

The principal Islands are Ireland, where there is a naval depot and dock-yard, St. George's, St. David's, Somerset, Long, Bird, Cooper, and

Nonsuch. The capital town is St. George's, which contains about 2,000 houses, and is defended by several forts.

Provisions were exorbitantly high in the Bermudas during the war, and in this respect it was a wretched quarter; for above all the natural beauties of a country, in a time of scarcity—

“ There is a pleasure in a good sirloin
Which *starvelings* only know.”

In the midst of this general privation of eatables, however, I remember drinking some very fair claret, at 3s. the bottle.

The village of Hamilton is finely situated on the shelving shore of an extensive bay; and about two miles from this place, “ The army of the coast !” was encamped and organized.

The two flank companies, with one wing of the 102d regiment, and the second battalion royal marines, formed the first brigade under the command of Lieut. Colonel Napier. The second brigade consisted of the first battalion royal marines, and a detachment of foreign light infantry—this was commanded by Lieut. Colonel Sir Richard Williams, and each brigade had a company of royal marine artillery attached to it, under Captains Park and Parry.

The whole force, amounting to about 2,400 men (subject to the directions of Admirals Sir John Warren and Sir George Cockburn), was placed under the command of Major General Sir Sydney Beckwith, an officer of experience in the Peninsula, and who had with Lieut. Colonel Napier particularly distinguished him-

self in the battle on the heights above Corunna, where the latter, (then Major of the 50th) was dangerously wounded. His life was however happily spared to his country and his friends, through the humanity of a French drummer, who finding him on the field bleeding and senseless, bound up his wounds, and carried him to Marshal Sault, Duke of Dalmatia, who, I have understood, presented him with a medal for his conduct.

I am anxious to believe the facts were so, because such actions do honor to the country, and to the profession of the individuals who perform them, to whatever nation they may belong. God forbid that it should be supposed by any of us, that British soldiers and sailors are alone capable of performing great and honorable actions, or that I

should refuse my humble offering of praise and admiration, to a humane and gallant enemy, for such actions as these.*

Of Lieut. Colonels Williams and Malcolm I shall here say but little—to do them justice would from me appear like flattery, and an attempt to do less is not in my nature. Indeed no panegyric is necessary—the General Orders and Public Dispatches of their Commanding Officers, and the especial mark of their Sovereign's approbation, in conferring upon them the Star of the Military

* When Sir John Moore was informed that the 50th regiment, under Majors Napier and Starhope, had expended all their ammunition, his reply was, "The 50th have their bayonets," and on seeing the admirable way in which they immediately afterwards made use of them, he exclaimed in a paroxysm of delight, "Well done the 50th—well done my Majors."

Order of the Bath, afford ample proofs of their meritorious services.

Such was the "army of the coast," and such were the principal officers by whom it was commanded.

It is not my intention to enter into a detail of our operations in Maryland, Virginia, and Carolina, because there were no fighting matches of sufficient importance to interest the general reader. Any thing like a description of an action, since the battle of Waterloo, would be nonsense, and those who have read over and over again, the history of the 18th June, 1815, until their eyes ache, would think any thing less than 20,000 men and 20,000 horses put hors de combat, a mere bagatelle.

Now, as our whole army would scarcely, I suppose in their idea, have been more than a breakfast for

the Cuirasseurs, I shall merely state, that we were employed from June until the middle of September in landing, up to our necks, on the American coast, and in embarking again in the same comfortable manner. During one of these excursions, I remember well being very nearly taken prisoner, and that having as great an aversion to this as ever Mr. Shandy, senior, had to "saps, mines, blinds, gabions, palisadoes, ravelins, half moons, and such trumpery," I contrived to escape.

By our attacks upon Norfolk, Hampton, Queenstown, Occacock, &c. &c., the American Government was obliged to keep several thousand men moving in double quick time, up and down their own coast, from the Delaware to Cape Hatteras, a distance of several hundred miles, who

would otherwise have been on the frontier of Canada.

In September, as was before observed, we left the North Coast of the United States, and many will remember with considerable interest the events of the three preceding months—many will not be able to do so, from very evident causes.

After remaining a short time at Halifax, the two battalions of Marines with the Artillery, received orders to embark for Quebec, where they arrived in October, and were afterwards employed in the defence of Upper and Lower Canada until the conclusion of the war.

How they conducted themselves during this time will be best seen by the following extract from a General Order, issued by the Commander in Chief and Governor General, on the

breaking up of the first battalion, for the service of the Lakes.—

“ The Commander of the Forces in complying with the orders of Government, in this disposal of the battalion of Royal Marines, considers it an act of justice to that valuable and respectable corps to declare his entire approbation of the correct and steady discipline that has uniformly characterized the Royal Marines, since their arrival in Canada.

“ The first battalion, under Lieut. Colonel Williams, in the exact and diligent discharge of the duties assigned to it, in the occupation of the most critical and important position on the frontier, has evinced, in a manner highly honorable to the corps, the talent and judgment of the Commander, the intelligence and vigilance

of the Officers, and the tried fidelity and discipline of the corps.

“The second battalion, under Lieut. Colonel Malcolm, afforded an opportunity of manifesting its gallantry, and devotion to the service, in the assault of the Fort of Oswego,” &c.

By this General Order, Sir R. Williams and Major Mortimer, with the Staff of the first battalion, were directed to proceed to Halifax, to which place Sir J. Malcolm and Major Stirling, with the Staff of the second, had been previously ordered. They were all afterwards engaged in the attack upon Washington and Baltimore, as will be seen by reference to the Public Dispatches of Admiral Sir George Cockburn, and Major General Ross.

Having remained in Canada with

the detachments of the first and second battalions, commanded by Major Dougal Stuart Dalzell, and Major George Peebles,* I had various opportunities of becoming acquainted with the two provinces; and to the time thus passed, I now look back with an extraordinary feeling of interest.

In the hey-day of life, when our actions are actuated by the warmer and kindlier influences of our nature, many things occur which make a lasting impression upon the mind. Before the *wisdom* of the world has made us acquainted, and assimilated us in a lesser or greater degree,

* The first of these officers was severely wounded at the battle of Alexandria—the latter (Major George Peebles) when a Lieutenant, commanded the Marines at the storming of Fort Amsterdam in the Island of Curuaso, and for his conduct on that occasion he was promoted to the brevet rank of Captain in the Army.

with the tricks and chicanery of mankind, we breathe as it were in a peculiar world of our own, and it is then, that the prominent character of our nature is displayed.

When the fire of our youth becomes damped by the influence of time or early misfortune, we become mere creatures of habit, and remain so until the last hour of our existence; but, although the fire and animation of our youth may have died away, the warmth of its early impressions and recollections still remain the same in our hearts.

“Time but the impression stronger makes,
As streams their channels deeper wear.”

Actuated by these feelings and sentiments, in the Autumn of last year I again embarked for Canada, intend-

ing to settle with my family on the tract of land to which I am entitled by the Government regulation. A succession of bad weather in the Channel, however, occasioned our being nearly as long between Gravesend and Portsmouth as is often occupied in the whole passage to Quebec, and this, with other circumstances, obliged me to leave the ship, and give up my projected emigration until the ensuing season.

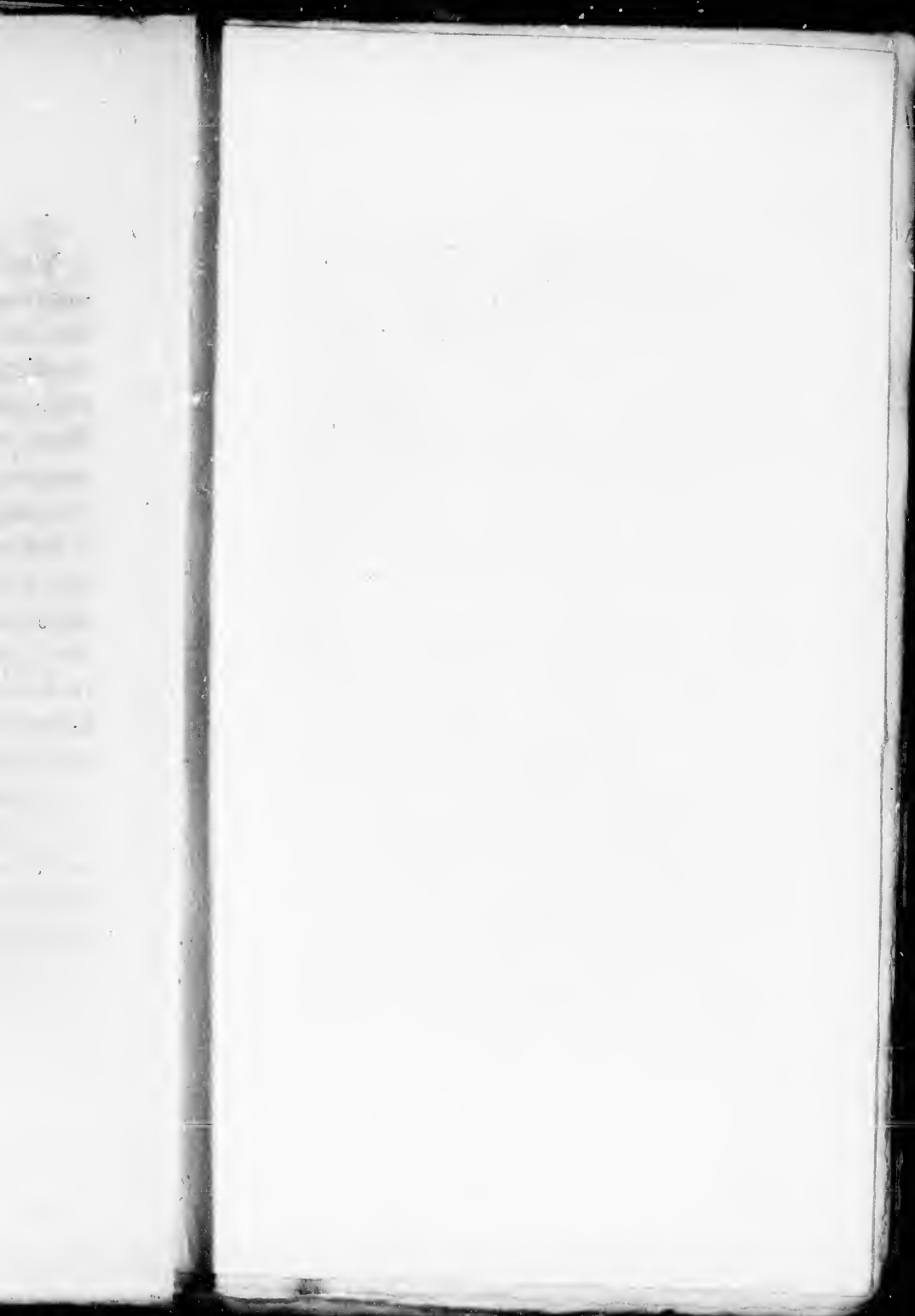
Those who have experienced similar disappointments, will readily imagine with what reluctance I gave up the hope of proceeding, after having made all my arrangements.

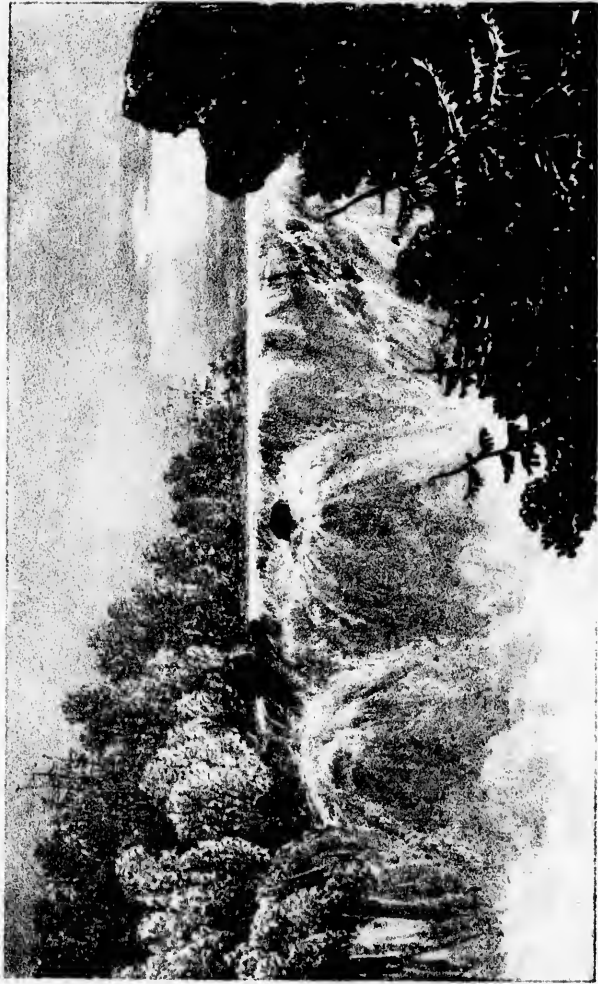
In order to relieve myself from the ennui occasioned by this delay, I have since occupied my time in preparing the following pages for the press.

Whilst in America I kept a rough note book of dates, distances, and events, &c. &c., this has enabled me to effect my object with greater facility, and I trust the Work with the Map, will be found useful to the emigrant, and not uninteresting to the general reader.

For any defects of the head which the critic may observe, I make no apology, because apology is out of the question, where the intention is to do right. For any errors of the heart no apology or excuse could make amends.

I therefore give it to the Public with all its faults, trusting, that there is nothing in it that will either disgrace my Nature, my Profession, or my Country.





Painted by Macdonald

THE FALL OF LA CHAUDIERE.

Painted by Macdonald

LETTER I.

“Breathes there the man—with soul so dead,
Who never to himself has said,
This is my own, my native land;
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd,
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd,
From wandering on a foreign strand.
If such there be—go mark him well.”

NATURE — all-powerful Nature —
reigning in the hearts, and influenc-
ing the actions of all men—makes
them cling with affectionate regard
to the country where they first drew
the breath of life: it matters not
where that country may be, whether
under the torrid, or the frigid zone.

“ I prefer,” said a French officer, on returning from foreign service, “ my native fields to every other place—not because they are more beautiful, but because I was there brought up—the spot on which we past our infant days possesses a secret charm, an inexpressible enchantment—no other on the face of the earth can equal it.”

Would the Indian, in his native wilds, whilst exposed to the scorching heat of a summer sun, or the cold and frosts of a North American winter, sigh with regret, that he was not across “ the Great Lake,” in the countries which he has heard, ~~are~~ rolling in luxury and ease? Oh, no! The parching sun, the chilling snow storms and the freezing blasts, are all alike indifferent to him. He hunts during the day with unwearied

perseverance, or on the borders of a solitary stream,—patiently waits until he obtains sufficient to supply the moderate wants of nature. Contentedly ignorant, and feeling no wish, or ambition for more than his hunting grounds afford, he lays him down to rest, beneath the wide-spread canopy of Heaven, a stranger to all those inquietudes and miseries, which his more refined and civilized fellow-creatures are hourly subject to.

“ We were born upon this spot, our fathers are buried here, shall we say to their bones, rise up, and go with us to a strange land ?”—Such was the observation of a Canadian Indian Chief, to one who was pressing him to leave his patrimony, and such will be the feeling of every man. But, alas ! “ the race is not always for the swift, or the battle for the strong,”

and a variety of circumstances may occur to make men, whose hearts beat warm with affection for their country and their kindred,—abandon them for ever.

Misfortune, in various shapes, treading close upon their heels, in spite of every mental and bodily exertion, may ultimately succeed in driving them from that station, which they had endeavoured respectably to maintain.—Indeed, “when I reflect upon man; and take a view of that dark side of him, which represents his life as open to so many causes of trouble; when I consider how oft we eat the bread of affliction, and that we are born to it, as to the portion of our inheritance; when one runs over the catalogue of all the cross reckonings and sorrowful items with which the heart of man is over-

charged; it is wonderful by what hidden resources the mind is enabled to stand it out, and bear itself up, as it does, against the impositions laid upon our nature.*

Surely, surely then, it would be far better for him, who has struggled in vain against the tide of adversity in this country, to retire to some remote corner of the earth, where he can live dependant only upon the Almighty and himself, than to breathe a sort of second-hand existence, in the very source of painful recollections, and where he would most probably see his children growing up around him totally unprovided for.

To such a man, and to others who choose to emigrate, and who possess

* STERNE.

firm and patient minds, and are of persevering and industrious habits; an emigration to either of the British Colonies in North America, presents many advantages.

He will find that the difficulties of settling in a new country, will only prove an incitement to labour, whilst the hope of future ease and enjoyment, daily more and more cherished by increased sources of happiness, will act as a stimulant to unwearied exertion. And finally, through the blessings of a beneficent Providence, on whom every thing around teaches him to look with greater veneration, his laudable efforts will be crowned with well-deserved success.

It is, however, lamentable to reflect on the delusive hopes and chimerical ideas, entertained by the far greater proportion of emigrants.

Daily observation, and their own letters sufficiently show, that of the many thousands who annually leave Great Britain and Ireland for Canada and other countries; very few, comparatively speaking, form any thing like even a common rational idea of the country to which they are going, or of the difficulties they have to encounter.

The voyage they admit is disagreeable, and perhaps dangerous,—but what then? When they arrive at this “Land of Promise,” this Land “flowing with milk and honey,” they imagine they are to sit themselves down where they please, and to be fed, nobody knows how—perhaps, by the birds of the air; who, as well as the beasts of the forest, are to be placed by nobody knows who, entirely at their disposal.

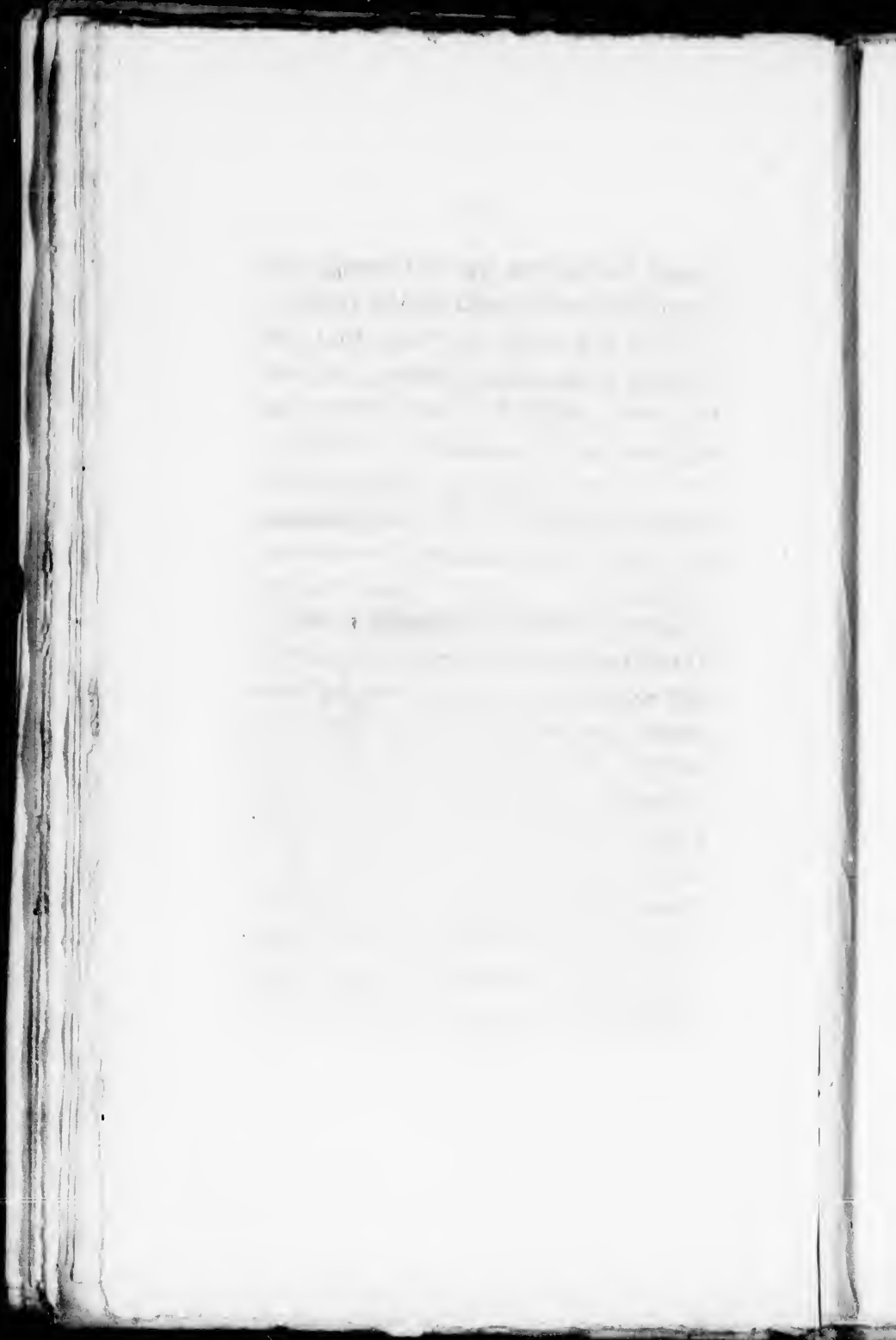
All alike,—young and old,—invalids, and those in perfect health, fancy that a change of climate and country are alone necessary to enable them to realize all those gay dreams of comfort and happiness, which they have fondly pictured to themselves.

But the man who seriously thinks of emigrating, should strictly examine his own character, and if he has sense enough to form an opinion on the subject, and should be conscious of any feebleness of mind or body, let him give up all idea of it; for he may rest fully assured, that unless he possesses a large capital, he never can succeed.

The incurable slave to expensive habits, would be equally unfortunate; the simple economy necessary for such an undertaking, and the secluded life of a settler, would make him weary of his existence; his lands

would be thrown up in despair, and inevitable ruin would be the result,

It is not such as these that are wanted in an infant colony, or who can ever, with the least chance of success, hope to succeed as settlers. But time and industry must and will provide amply for the enterprising, and those really suited for such an undertaking, — should they escape those heavy afflictions to which we are all subject in every part of the world, and which it is totally out of our power to prevent.



LETTER II.

“ It is a long lane that has no turning.”

Old Proverb.

NEW South Wales, the Cape of Good Hope, the British Provinces in North America, and the United States, being the countries which have received the greatest accession of strength from emigration since the year 1815, we will pass them rapidly before us in review, and endeavour to glean some information from their peculiar advantages and disadvantages.

We will commence with New South Wales, and its sister colony

Van Diemen's Land, as the farthest removed from our personal observation. First then, the climate of this part of the world is represented as most favourable to the cultivation of the soil; and we read, that nature has here with a liberal hand, spread abroad for the advantage and admiration of the emigrant, every blessing that can either cheer his heart, or please his imagination.

We will admit all this to be reality, and that for the agriculturalist with a large capital, who can afford to take with him from this country, such servants as he may require in his family, it presents many advantages. It should, however, be borne in mind by the generality of emigrants, that until the close of the year 1822, the Commissariat stores were almost constantly open to re-

ceive supplies at a stated price for the use of the convicts. This afforded to the settler from the first formation of the colony, to the period above-mentioned, a safe, and certain market for his cattle and corn.

The great advantages of this to him, is so evident, that it would be a useless waste of time to point them out,—it therefore only remains for me to remark, that the system of receiving supplies from persons indiscriminately is now discontinued, and that the establishments are now furnished by contract. Although the Government is benefited by this measure, the majority of the free population are left in a great degree to the mercy of the contractors, and the consequence is, —every description of produce has fallen in value at least fifteen per cent. —I do not, however, mean to say but that even subject to this deprecia-

tion—the prices pay him for his trouble.

The permission given to erect distilleries, will, it is true, cause an extraordinary consumption of grain, and the increased export trade of the Colony will afford another relief; but these, I apprehend, cannot compensate to the generality of emigrants for the loss of a Government market, at all times open to receive their produce.

2ndly.—Instead of leaving it optional for the free settler to employ any number of convicts he may require, and be able conveniently to provide for; by a late regulation, every person receiving a grant of land from Government, is obliged to take one convict for every 100 acres, and these he is required to clothe and support. To those who have ample means at their disposal, such a regu-

lation may not be a very serious disadvantage. They can so arrange as to keep their own domestic servants taken from this country immediately about them, and the convicts employed, improving the more distant parts of their estates. But to those, whose capital will not allow them to take working men from hence, the idea of being surrounded even in the bosom of their families, by convicts alone, must be somewhat appalling.

Besides, the mind having constantly before it the perpetrators of every kind of atrocity, must become familiarized with crime, and it is frightful to reflect on the natural influence of all this, upon the youth of both sexes.

“The employment of men convicted for forgery, as schoolmasters for the children of settlers, cannot be contemplated without apprehension, but

whether from habit or necessity, I found these apprehensions had subsided even in quarters where they might have been supposed most strongly to prevail. Another, and striking instance of the insensibility to the consequences of such superintendence, occurred in the enquiry that took place before the magistrates at Paramatta, into the conduct of Mr. — : upon that occasion, it appeared that his eldest son, a youth of sixteen years of age, was allowed to be instructed by his convict clerk, in the suspicious and dangerous art of imitating the hand-writing of individuals. This fact was stated without any hesitation or regret by his father to the Magistrates, in the course of their enquiry into the authenticity of certain returns that had been copied by the son, and transmitted to Governor Macquarrie. The statement fortu-

nately attracted the notice of Mr. Justice Field, who did not allow it to pass without a suitable rebuke.*”

From convict labour not much can be expected, and the emigrant who settles at a distance from a Government station, will find enough to do to keep such people in any kind of subjection. Although he may be willing himself to put a hand to the plough, or the flail, he cannot be in all places at once, and with such drones forced into his hive, he may ultimately see all his industrious efforts, for the good of his family, frustrated.

In such a situation he cannot leave his home to enjoy the sports of the field without great personal danger, either from the convicts or the abori-

* Commissioner Bigge's report.

gines of the country. His mind must be kept in constant anxiety for the safety of his family. During his absence, theft and murder may be committed, or revenge for imaginary injuries may destroy all his hopes of future comfort and happiness.

Even in the principal towns, no man appears to be secure, if we may judge by the report of Mr. Commissioner Bigge to Lord Bathurst. He says, when speaking of Hobart Town in Van Diemen's Land. "It is unfortunate that at this settlement, where there is abundance of stone to be procured, so few stonemasons should have been sent from Sydney, and that bricks should have been so much used in the construction of the public buildings, as well as in those of individuals. From the bad quality of those generally made at Hobart

Town, it is found necessary to secure them from the effect of sea air, and moisture by plaster; and it has been universally found *that stone buildings afford a greater security against house-breakers than those built of brick.* And again, "A constable was attached to my own residence in the town of Sydney, although it had also the protection of a military sentinel towards the street; but *it was not considered safe, unless it was protected on both sides.*"

The annual police reports sufficiently attest the necessity of these precautions; but, if the King's Commissioner requires a soldier, and a constable to guard him in a garrison town, the seat of Government, and where we should suppose the police to be best regulated, it may be very naturally asked, what chance has the emigrant

in a distant part of the Colony, of avoiding depredation and annoyance?

Every man whose heart is not totally depraved or senseless, must in some degree participate in the misery or happiness of those around him. But how much more susceptible of these feelings must he be—who after bidding farewell to his early connections, and landing upon a distant shore,—finds himself settled for the remainder of his life, where, independent of all other difficulties, he has seldom the satisfaction of seeing any person, excepting those of his own family, on whom he can place the least confidence. Desolate, indeed, must be his situation, for which no superiority of soil or climate can sufficiently compensate.

The usual charge for the passage of each person to New South Wales,

or Van Diemen's Land, is 75*l.* in the cabin, and 35*l.* in the steerage, half price being charged for children under fourteen years of age, and about 2*l.* per ton freight for goods, or any considerable quantity of baggage. The Guildford, Captain Johnson, an able navigator and highly respectable man, has run from England to Cape Van Diemen in ninety days. This is, however, a voyage by no means to be calculated upon, and the emigrant may think himself fortunate if he arrives in four months, from the time the ship gets clear of the channel.

“ The experience of many years has now established the safety as well as ease, with which the voyage to New South Wales may be performed. No ships have arrived in a disabled state in consequence of disasters at sea, and none have occurred

in that part of the voyage where they are most to be apprehended, viz: in Bass's Straits. The principal causes of delay have arisen in cases where ships have attempted to keep too near the west coast of Africa before they have passed the Equator, or when they have arrived on the western coast of New South Wales in the months of December, January and February. In the first of these events they have generally repaired to the Island of St. Helena for a fresh supply of water; and in the latter some inconvenience has been sustained from its exhaustion, and from the delay in making a passage through Bass's Straits against easterly winds, or in rounding the south-west Cape of Van Diemen's Land."*

* Commissioner Bigge's report.

Should the emigrant be a family man, this part of the subject should occupy his most serious reflection. The inconvenience of a long sea voyage to women and children, may be evident to many, but the pain and misery to which they will be subjected, if invalids on board ship can be only known by experience. Should he see those for whom he is, as it were, beginning life again, suffering under a continuance of illness, he will probably regret that he had ever subjected them to it, instead of deciding on some country nearer home, which he might have reached with half the expence, and without half the inconvenience to himself or his family.

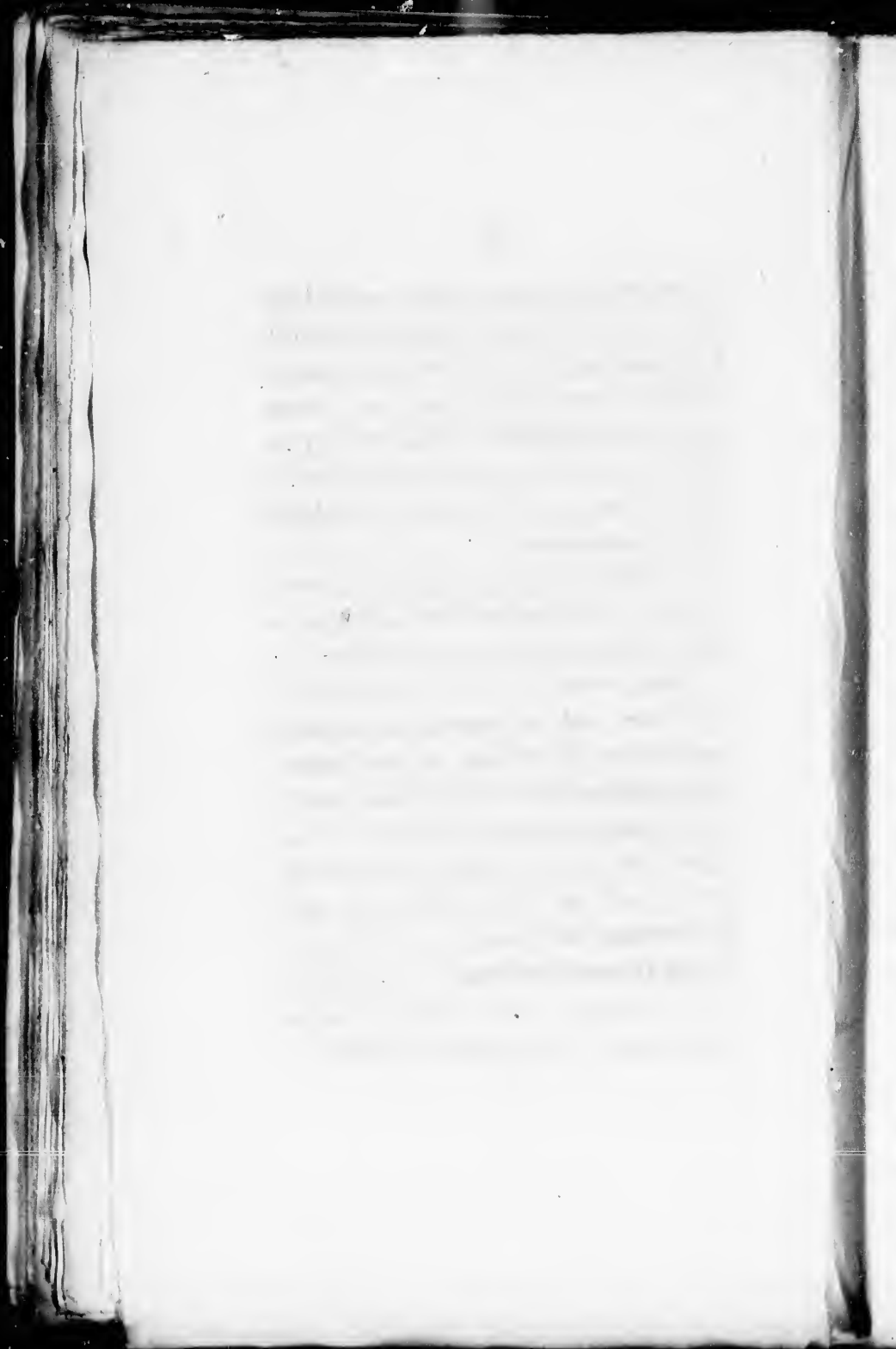
The sum requisite for an emigration to New South Wales or Van Diemen's Land, together with the Government

regulation, that no person shall proceed to those colonies, and receive a grant of land unless he possesses 500*l*. presents an insurmountable obstacle to the poorer class of emigrant farmers. In a few instances, however, it is possible for a man of good character to ultimately overcome this difficulty. Respectable parties occasionally go out, who are willing to engage a steady farming man, who understands his business; and if he serves them faithfully and diligently for the term of years agreed upon, he may obtain such a recommendation as will—when aided by his own local knowledge of the country—obtain for him a grant of land of greater value probably than the one he might have had—if he had gone out in the first instance with money in his pocket.

In such a population, honest men

of every description must indeed be valuable, and there can be no doubt but that working men and mechanics would more readily, and on terms more advantageous,—find employ in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, than in either of the countries above-mentioned.

To him, however, who has moved in a more elevated station in life, who after buffetting the storms of adversity in this country is only anxious in quietude and retirement to devote himself to the welfare of his family, and those serious reflections which press more and more upon us, as we approach the final period of our existence, New South Wales is not the country, neither can it possibly be for many years to come.



LETTER III.

Ride out, ride out,

The foe to scout.

Mount, mount for Branksome every man.

Lay of the last Minstrel.

A FEW months previous to the emigrations to Algoa Bay, several letters were addressed to the editor of one of the daily journals on various subjects, they were well written, but the grand finale of them all was, "Colonize the Cape."

For every complaint, whether public or domestic, in church or state, this was to prove the sovereign re-

medy, and the burthen of the song, again and again, was "Colonize the Cape."

Now, although the writer was no doubt actuated by the best and purest motives possible, in his endeavours to draw the attention of the public to this land of the Hottentots; still it does not appear that in most respects his predictions have been verified.

The geographical situation of the Cape of Good Hope with the East Indies and New South Wales, gives it many very important advantages, and no extraordinary discernment is necessary to perceive clearly, that from this circumstance alone, the colonies at the Cape, in opposition to every obstacle, will continue to increase in wealth and population.

Algoa Bay, however, does not ap-

pear intended by nature to be the entrepôt of a great colony. It is an open roadstead, and in blowing weather, ships can only remain at anchor, when the wind is from one particular point of the compass. In cases of accident they have a run of 500 miles to Table Bay the nearest place of safety.

The great Fish River, instead of being navigable for many miles up the country, has a bar at its entrance, and the colonists up its banks, have, in consequence, no ready outlet to the sea. These are serious disadvantages, and such as cannot be overcome for many years, particularly as they have no inland water communication with Cape Town, the capital and seat of government.

It is true that it is a country at pre-

sent, but little known; and that many situations may be found better suited for settlers than Algoa Bay, but the following objections may alone be sufficient to deter many from emigrating to the Cape of Good Hope.

The colony is governed by the Dutch laws, which existed previous to its surrender to this country in 1806. These laws have not yet been sufficiently translated and distributed to give the English residents a correct idea of them. It is bad enough to find ourselves in a strange land, amongst a people speaking a language we cannot understand; but to be subject to laws so very opposite in their bearings to those we have left behind us, and to which we have from our infancy been taught to look

with admiration and respect, will very probably produce a distaste for every thing else.

Although the government of a country may be conducted in the most correct and admirable manner; still, if it be in any shape military or despotic, it is hostile to the feelings of Englishmen.

They see in power thus exercised, danger in the distance; but should it merely prove a phantom of the imagination, it is surprising that even this should not be sufficient to alarm those of hardier mind and firmer purpose, than the generality of emigrants.

It may be said that these objections will equally well apply to Lower Canada; this, however, is not the fact. It is true three-fourths of the inhabitants of the Lower Province speak French, but they enjoy that first of all

privileges, a trial by jury, with a legislative council and House of Assembly.

The colonies, at the Cape, appear likewise liable to floods and rains of the most destructive kind, whilst the Caffres taking advantage of their distress, often pour down upon them in hordes, and sweep away before them all the cattle of a district.

The following letter will show clearly the situation they were in at Graham's Town, in October, 1823.

*Graham's Town, Cape of Good Hope,
October 21, 1823.*

"A calamity of the most afflicting nature, both in its detail and consequences, has just befallen this settlement. A flood, the result of ten days incessant rain, has desolated the face of cultivation, and blasted all

the prospects of industry for a long time to come. Indeed, so extensive is the rain, that it will be utterly impossible for the colonists to retrieve themselves, without assistance from the country, and the adoption of the most lenient and indulgent measures of the colonial government.

“ There is scarcely a habitation left tenable throughout the district of Albany. The whole extent of tillage in the district is more or less damaged, highly cultivated enclosures have had the whole of their upper soil swept entirely from the surface, while the force of the waters has left large gulleys and chasms throughout them. —Banks and fences of every description are prostrate.—The gardens planted on the banks of rivers for the convenient access to water have universally suffered. many are totally

destroyed, and the fruit trees torn up and carried away by the flood.

“ In short, the whole occupied and cultivated face of the district, presents a frightful picture of desolation and defeated industry.

“ In addition to this awful visitation of Providence, the rust has again attacked the corn, making our fourth season of fruitless and abortive tillage,—whilst the Caffres in uninterrupted predatory incursions are gradually withdrawing all the cattle from the district, to the increased gloom of that melancholy prospect of misery and privation before us.”

The assertions in this letter, as to the distresses of the colony, have been fully verified by other sources of information; and I leave the reader to draw his own inference from it.

Here, as in the United States of America, the curse of slavery holds in subjection thousands of the human race.—Slavery!!!—that word, which even to write, makes the heart turn sick, and which,—to the indelible disgrace of our nature, gives to any ruffian who has the means—the power of purchasing the flesh and blood of his fellow creature—here likewise sheds its baneful curse upon the land and upon its people; and Slave—Slave,—is a word common in every man's mouth!

The expences attending an emigration to the Cape of Good Hope, will be about two-thirds of what is necessary for New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. The length of the voyage, about the same proportion of time. If the emigrant has made up his mind to proceed so far, probably

he had better again consider the subject, and if he can make the necessary arrangement, decide on going on to one of those colonies. He will there have far greater advantages, and be equally free from annoyance.

It can make but little difference if a man has his throat cut, or his house fired; whether it be done by a party of Caffres, Indians, or runaway convicts; excepting, perhaps, as the latter may have had some previous experience in such matters—they may be able to accomplish their purpose more expeditiously and effectively.

What are the first and principal objects all emigrants hope to obtain by leaving their native country?—Independence and comfort; but how can a man be independent, whose property is at all times subject to the inroads of a party of savages?—and

what proportion of comfort can he possibly enjoy, who cannot leave his home unarmed at any hour he pleases, or retire to rest, without a brace of loaded pistols under his pillow?

This sort of life may do very well for the soldiers of disbanded regiments, and half pay officers of every service: it would keep alive the recollection of old times, and a dragoon saddle, or a cartouch-box would be considered as good a pillow as one made of down.—A foray by moonlight occasionally, or the sound of the enemy's war whoop,—would lead to a better acquaintance and more intimate connexion with his neighbour, and inspire a greater zeal and determination to establish himself in opposition to every obstacle.

This, however, is not what the generality of emigrants require, and

although a man does not deserve either house or land, or any connexion in life, if he is afraid to defend them in times of need ; still, the less he has occasion to show his valour in this way, the better.

He will doubtless find himself much happier where he can drive his team afield, under the convoy of his dog and his cow-skin whip, than in a country where even a long gun in the bow, would be scarcely found protection sufficient—for himself or his property.

LETTER IV.

*"The wise and active conquer difficulties,
By daring to attempt them; sloth and folly
Shiver and shrink at sight of toil and hazard,
And make the impossibility they fear."*

As a leader of emigrants, there are few, if any, who can equal a Mr. Boon, who explored Kentucky in 1760. "Since that period he has constantly formed the advanced patrol of civilization, as it is a maxim with him that a country is too thickly peopled as soon as he cannot fell a tree from the forest into his own inclosure. He is now on the Missouri."*

* HALL.

Could this old Backwoodsman's span of life be prolonged, he would doubtless, in time, cut his way to the Pacific Ocean, and not cry out "Othello's occupation's gone," whilst a stick remained standing on the whole continent of North America.

He may, indeed, exclaim with Cæsar of old, "*Veni, vidi, vici,*" for thousands and tens of thousands have fallen beneath the power of his arm.

The character of this extraordinary man, reminds me of a passage in an application from a party of settlers in Massachusett's Bay to the Virginia Company, in the year 1617, where they say, "that they were well weaned from the delicate milk of their mother country, and inured to the difficulties of a strange land. That they were knit together in a strict and sacred bond, by virtue of which

they held themselves bound to take care of the good of each other, and of the whole. That it was not with them as with other men, whom small things could discourage, or small discontents cause to wish themselves home again."

I shall now offer a few general observations on Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland, with a word or two about that first of all lands of promise, Poyais, which although last, is not least in the estimation of some people.

The territory of L'Arcadie, as it was called by the French, formerly extended a distance of 300 leagues in length from New England to the Gulph of St. Lawrence, and back to the province of Lower Canada and the American States; but this range of territory has been, since its pos-

session by the English, divided into two separate governments, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Jacques Cartier, the French navigator, having in 1535, explored and surveyed the Gulph of St. Lawrence and the whole of this coast, conveyed the first correct idea to his native country of Canada, and the advantages of a trade with the natives of all that part of the continent of North America.

There does not appear to have been any permanent settlements established in either of these countries, until the year 1604, when a squadron was fitted out by De Montes, Governor of Canada. Taking the command in person, he founded St. Croix and Port Royale, now Annapolis Royal, in a bay towards the south-west coast of that territory.

The English at that time claimed from the discovery of the Cabots a prior right to the whole North American Continent, they therefore dispossessed the French settlers, and James the First gave a grant of L'Arcadia to Sir William Alexander, Secretary of State for Scotland. He called it New Scotland, or Nova Scotia, and this honor appears to be the only advantage of any importance he derived from it, for in 1630 it was again given up to France. Continual jealousies and disputes with the colonists of New England once more brought the Arcadians into difficulty in 1654, when Oliver Cromwell sent out Colonel Sedgwick to reduce it, and it was confirmed to England the following year. "But Sir William Alexander having sold in 1632 his right of property in the soil, to M. Claude de la Tour d'Ounay, a

French protestant; M. St. Estienne, son and heir of the above Claude de la Tour, came over to England in order to make out his claim, and had the property surrendered to him. This La Tour sold his right to Sir Thomas Temple, who was governor as well as possessor of the soil, until 1662, when Nova Scotia was delivered up by Charles the Second, an equivalent of ten thousand pounds being stipulated for Sir Thomas Temple, but never paid.*

By the treaty of Breda in 1667, it was again given up to France, and continued under her government until 1690, when the inhabitants again became subjects of Great Britain. In 1697, by the treaty of Ryswick, the French took possession of it. Soon after the war between that country

* Russel.

and England, the New Englanders aided by four men of war from the mother country, finally reduced it in 1710. Several ineffectual attempts were afterwards made to recover it by the French in 1745 and 1746, but by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle,—Nova Scotia was fully confirmed to the crown of Great Britain.

“Though the French inhabitants during these hostilities had not actually taken up arms, they had lent such assistance to the enemy as was utterly inconsistent with their political situation,—and as made the necessity of peopling Nova Scotia with British subjects fully evident. The peace which necessarily left a great number of men without employment, by the disbanding of the troops and laying up of the ships, was favourable for such a project; and the ministry offered

particular advantages to all persons, who chose to go and settle in this extensive, and in many places fertile territory.

“ Every soldier, sailor and workman was to have fifty acres of land for himself, and ten for every person he carried over in his family. All non-commissioned officers were allowed eighty for themselves, and fifteen for every person belonging to them; ensigns 200; lieutenants 300; captains 460, and all officers of higher rank 600, together with 30 for each of their dependents.

“ The land was to be free of all taxes, for the first ten years, and never to pay above one shilling for fifty acres: Besides these encouragements, the government engaged to pay the charge of the passage, to build houses, to furnish all the necessary instru-

ments for fishery and agriculture, and to defray the expenses of subsistence for the first year.

“ In consequence of this liberal offer, 3,000 families, chiefly Germans, embarked for Nova Scotia in 1749, and three regiments of soldiers were sent to protect them from the natives, and garrison the new settlement.

“ That settlement was founded on the SE. side of the Peninsula, at a place which the Indians formerly called Chebucto, but which the English named Halifax, in honour of the nobleman by whom it was projected, and by whose wisdom and spirit it was carried into execution.”*

Since 1749 the population has increased wonderfully, and the woods of Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick now contain many thousands of set-

* RUSSEL.

tlers, who are cutting away after the manner of Mr. Boon, who has been before noticed.

In my passage from Halifax to Quebec, I remember being particularly struck with the romantic beauty of the scenery in what is called the Cut of Canso, which divides the Island of Cape Breton from the main. We were seven days beating through this passage of seventy miles, the widest part of which, is very little broader than the Thames at London Bridge. The village (if the straggling huts of the settlers may be called one,) at the entrance, bears the name of Canso; and a few miles farther on, the late Sir John Warren had an estate, which, in a few years, will, it is supposed, be of great value, from its situation, and the quality of the timber. This passage is, in some places, so

exceedingly narrow, and the shores so amazingly bold and high, that the bowsprit of the Success frigate, was often very nearly coming in contact with them, and in several instances the appearance of the immense woods, apparently towering above the masts of the ship, excited in us all surprise and admiration.

“Luenburg* was founded by 800 Germans from Halifax; at first it did not promise much, but by the unremitting exertion of that warlike and industrious people, it is now rapidly advancing toward prosperity. It is but justice to say that the Germans make excellent settlers, they have fertilized all the countries under the English dominion, to which chance has conducted them. By their patient la-

* Russel.

hours Nova Scotia now produces excellent flax, which, independent of its fishery and its utility, as a naval and military station, will in time render it a valuable acquisition to Great Britain."

Frederick town is the capital, and St. John's the principal sea port of New Brunswick.

Newfoundland was discovered by John Cabot, a Venetian mariner in the service of Henry VII. of England,—it is upwards of 300 miles long, and 200 broad; but although many have attempted to succeed in cultivating the soil, instead of depending on the fishery, none appear to have effected the object they had in view. This, therefore, is no very desirable country for the emigrant, but still it would be preferable to Poyais under the Cacique M'Gregor, or any other Cacique.

I feel no inclination to lend myself to either party, the Honduras Baymen, or the Poyais "holders;" and I take it for granted that no man, in his senses, or capable of judging much beyond which is his right-hand and which is his left, would lend himself to the speculations of a party of adventurers, to whom of course in the first instance, power would be law.

It is an odd thing that people should be found so utterly devoid of common sense and feeling, as to place themselves and their families in a country like Poyais, under the despotic government of a few men, total strangers to them, and of whose ability to conduct the affairs of an infant colony they cannot possibly form anything like an idea.

I do not mean to say that those who choose to strike out from the old-

fashioned, beaten track in life, which their fathers have trodden before them, are to be deterred by common difficulties, I would rather point to the text chosen for the head of this letter; but, still I set so high a value upon constitutional law, such as I have been accustomed to see exercised in my native country, that unless the leaders of this said Poyais settlement were well known, as being fully equal to the task of mildly and properly executing despotic power, &c. &c., I should feel no inclination to follow them.

Unless a man has *certain* positive advantages before him, why should he subject himself to the *certain* miseries of such an undertaking as settling on the Mosquito shore, whilst the British provinces and colonies in North America and elsewhere are

open to his exertions and enterprize?

It does not, however, appear to be generally understood that the Black River was actually occupied by the English for several years previous to 1786.—By the resolutions of the House of Assembly of Jamaica in 1782, we see that Colonel Despard (then Captain Despard,) who afterwards terminated his career upon the scaffold — “with a small undisciplined and inferior force, attacked and took the Spanish Garrison at Black River, on the Mosquito Shore, made between seven and eight hundred of the enemy prisoners; and rescued hundreds of our fellow subjects from captivity, and restored them to their possessions.”

In consequence of this and other services, it appears that he was soon

afterwards appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, a colonel of provincials. It was, indeed, considered of such importance that he received the thanks of the Indian chiefs on the coast, of the governor, council, and assembly of Jamaica, and also of the King himself, through Lord Sydney, then Secretary of State.

Black River, with the settlement upon it, and the adjacent islands on the Mosquito shore, remained in the possession of the English until 1786, when they were given up to the Spaniards in return for privileges granted by that power to British subjects in the Bay of Honduras.—At this time there were upwards of 2,000 people including slaves, settled in the ceded territory, the greater part of whom were removed to Honduras.

Whatever may be said to the con-

trary by those interested in the Honduras trade, and by those who know nothing at all about either the climate or the soil, and yet on either side pretend to point out its advantages and disadvantages,—to gull the unwary, or to prevent a rival settlement in that quarter—there can be little doubt—but that if this settlement of Poyais, had its origin in an act of the government, and was supported like the emigrations to Chebuctoo Bay in 1749, to which we have alluded, it would succeed—even in opposition to all the efforts of the mighty monarch of the Mosquito shore, who, I apprehend, with all his household troops, cuirassiers, and lancers, would very soon be made to cry out with a greater man than himself, “Save himself who can,”* by a third part of the

* Napoleon after the Battle of Waterloo.

force sent to guard the first settlements in Nova Scotia.

The following extract from Russel's America will show more clearly how this country, of which we have lately heard so much is situated, and the opinion entertained of it in 1778.

“ A territory, however, no less neglected, claims our notice before we quit this part of the American continent. Between the sea and the Spanish provinces of Honduras and Nicaragua, extending from Cape Honduras to Port St. Juan, lies a country inhabited by a free people, whose attachment to the English has long been remarkable, and who permit no other Europeans to visit their coasts.

This space takes in 150 leagues of the shore, and forms an obtuse angle at Cape Gracias a Dios, having one

of its sides exposed to the North, the other to the East.—The general name of Mosquitos is given to all the nations or tribes who occupy this tract, as well as to those who inhabit the inner space, between the coast and the higher chain of mountains, which form the Spanish Frontier, and their country in like manner, is known by the name of Mosquito, on the Mosquito shore.

“Of all the tribes, the Mosquitos are the most numerous, as well as the bravest. They muster about 15 or 1,800 warriors. Their country, properly so called, is about Cape Gracias a Dios, near the mouth, and on the banks of the Great Cape River. It is one of the most healthy and beautiful spots in the world. Here are settled about thirty English families, who have begun plantations

of sugar on the lands given them by the Mosquitos.

“The government of this people is perfectly republican, they acknowledge no kind of permanent authority. In the wars which they carry on against the Spanish Indians, and which must obstruct their population, they choose as their commander the most brave and experienced of their warriors; he who, on former occasions, has given proofs of his prudence and valour. After the war is over, his power ceases.

“The Mosquitos are distinguished into two sorts—the Red, and Blacks, or Sambos. The first are the original inhabitants of the country; the second, the descendants of about fifty negroes, whom a Portuguese Captain had brought from Guinea, and was carrying to Brazil; but who ren-

dered themselves masters of the vessel, and threw all but one man overboard. The assistance of this man, however, was insufficient to enable them to navigate the vessel; which left at the mercy of the winds, was driven upon Cape Gracias a Dios, where the crew fell into the hands of the Mosquitos, among whom the negroes lived for some time in a state of servitude, and afterwards became the partners of their dangers and toils.

“The Portuguese mariner was so much like a Spaniard, against whom the animosity of the Mosquitos is implacable, that his life was with difficulty spared; and after he had been a slave for two years, it was determined to sacrifice him at the funeral of the master to whose lot he had fallen, that he might serve him in the

other world. Luckily, the Portuguese had but one eye. He represented to the general assembly of the nation, which was convened upon the occasion, that a one-eyed man could be of service to nobody in the other world, as it was difficult to see clear there, even with two. His argument succeeded, the Mosquitos not only granted him his life, but also his liberty, with a wife; and the surname of, 'the Man who knows a great deal.'

“The Mosquitos are divided into four principal tribes, under the protection of the English government, to which they submitted themselves early in the last century. They consider the governor of Jamaica, to whom this submission was made, as the greatest Potentate upon earth. Their enmity against the Spaniards,

by whom their ancestors were driven from the fertile possessions near the Lake of Nicaragua, goes as far back as the conquest of Mexico, and their friendship for the English is as old as the first expeditions of the Buccaneers, against their common enemy.

“ Like all uncivilized nations they have but few wants, and are very indolent; ‘ I am not hungry,’ is their common saying, when they do not choose to work, nor do they even labour except when this need is very sensibly felt. Then they go to hunt, fish, or to catch or harpoon turtle, an exercise at which they are very dextrous; or otherwise they hire themselves to the English settlers to cut mahogany, or to build canoes, which are sold at Jamaica for the purpose of fishing. Rice, cacao, indigo, tobacco, and other valuable produc-

tions, might be cultivated to advantage in this country. At present, England receives from it tyger and buck skins, dying woods of several kinds, gums and balsams, sarsaparilla, tortoiseshells, and zebra wood for the cabinet makers; but those only in small quantities. All the free tribes, both inland and upon the coast, are allies of the Mosquitos, and of the English.

“Besides this settlement, so unreasonably neglected, we find another English colony about twenty leagues to the East of Cape Honduras, at the mouth of Black River, by which name it is generally known. This place was, during sixty years, the asylum of the log-wood cutters, when driven by the Spaniards from the forest of East Yucatan. There they waited in safety, until such time as their enemies

retired; and as those expulsions were frequent, and always unforeseen, the ships that went to load with wood in the Bay of Honduras, chose first to touch at Black River, in order to get intelligence, and determine, in consequence of it, the manner of pursuing their voyage.

“Wood-cutters, sailors, deserters, and adventurers of every kind fixed themselves insensibly in this place. They received merchandise in return for the fruits of their industry, and soon established a lucrative trade with the Spaniards in the inland parts. The last treaty of peace, which secured to the wood-cutters the uninterrupted enjoyment of their forests, far from making Black River be deserted, has given more activity to the settlement.

“The sea coast here is sandy, gene-

rally low and swampy, with mangrove trees; but higher up among the rivers and lagoons, the soil is more fertile, and produces many plantains, coconut-trees, maize, yams, and other vegetables. The passion for drinking rum has made the colony begin the planting of sugar-canes. The rivers, as well as the lagoons, are extremely well stored with fish, and the forests are filled with deer and game. On the shores they catch the finest turtles from March until September. Besides this fishery, which is very advantageous, the Black River settlers cut mahogany and zebra wood, and gather a great deal of sarsaparilla.

“A colony so well situated, though neglected by government, cannot fail of increasing. It is one of those plants which, placed by the hand of chance in a corner—flourish, mul-

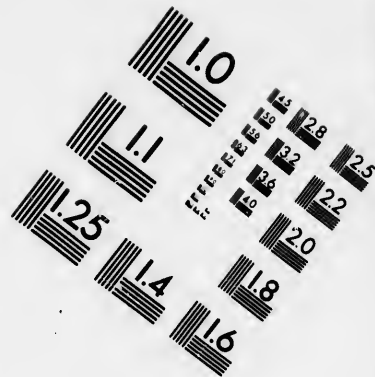
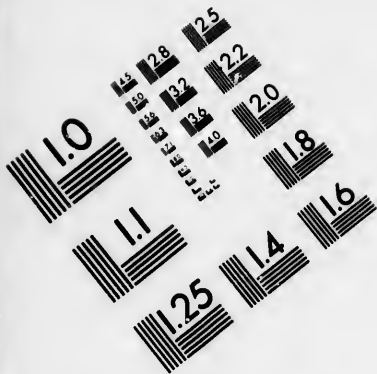
tiply, and bear fruit of themselves without the attention of the gardener."

Such is Russel's description of the country called Poyais; a description, no doubt, highly coloured, particularly in that part of it which states it to be, "one of the most healthy and beautiful spots in the world."

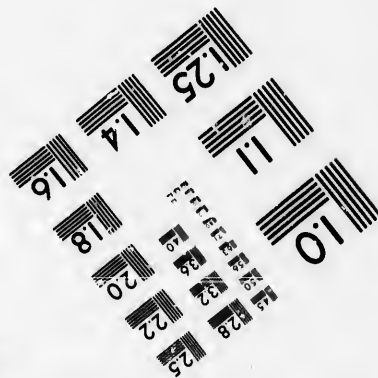
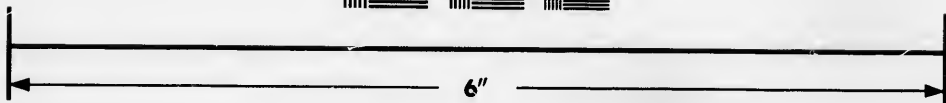
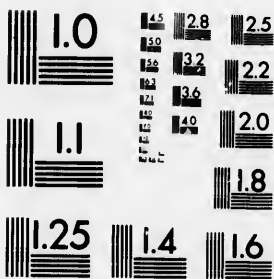
Granting it, however, to be all this, and judging from the result of similar attempts in various parts of the world; we have, certainly, no reason to expect that whilst the enterprize, and the promised advantages, remain with one individual, unauthorised, unacknowledged, and unsupported by the government, it ever will succeed.

It is not to the climate, the soil, the geographical situation, or the person, at the head of this Poyais scheme that I object, it is to the





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system of making the interests of the many subservient to the good of the few.

Poyais may very probably present as many advantages to the emigrant, as any of the other countries to which we have alluded, when first settled; and of Sir Gregor M'Gregor I know nothing, excepting by common report;—common report, what is it?—if it is once resolved to sacrifice a man's character who has struck out from the common track of life—“it is an easy matter to pick up sticks enough from any thicket where it has strayed to make a fire to offer it up with.”

How many brave men has common report made cowards of? How many good men has this many-tongued monster transformed into villains. therefore feel no inclination to discuss

the conduct or merits of Sir Gregor M'Gregor; for what man can place his hand upon his own heart, and say that he is himself altogether what he ought to be.

But as I have professed to devote these few pages principally to those who are looking round the world for some spot, where they can live upon the fruits of their industry, free and undisturbed—I shall conclude this letter by the following observations, and leave the reader to form his own conclusions.

We will suppose that some sort of law will be administered in Poyais, not altogether military, but civil; to these the emigrant of course, on taking possession of his land, makes himself amenable. These laws may be good or bad, just as it happens—or according to the ability of the law

giver, who, by the way, must necessarily be just the person who will take care to secure the power in his own hands.

Now should the emigrant in Poyais, *through a dulness of intellect*, not see things so clearly as the Cacique wishes him; or should he, inadvertently, transgress these laws made not by his own concurrence, but by the cacique, and by him declared absolute—he must abide the consequences.

If he is sentenced to be hanged, who can he appeal to for a reversion of his sentence? The Cacique is as absolute in his small way, as the great Mogul; and, if he chooses to put *the law* in force, nothing but a general turn-out can prevent him.

In any of the British colonies, should the governor be guilty of any

arbitrary stretch of authority, he is amenable to a higher power for his conduct; but, in Poyais, there is no one higher than the despotic head of a despotic government.

Let the emigrant, therefore, bear in mind, that in Poyais he will be subject to laws not made by himself or his representative, and that these laws may be either good or bad; if good, so much the better for all parties; if bad, and he dares to give his opinion of them, he will, I imagine, stand a very fair chance of promotion, over the heads of his fellows.

When he is kicking his heels, in a very uncomfortable manner, upon a stage fifty feet high, between this world and the next,—however much he may regret ever having placed himself out of the pale of protection from the government of his native

country, it will then be of no service to him. He may appeal to Heaven, and prepare for his departure; but nothing can save him, if the Cacique be determined to exercise the despotic power he possesses.

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; but
acique
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LETTER V.

“England, with all thy faults, I love thee still.”

As I have no wish to enlist myself with those who have already succeeded in detaching from the bosom of their mother country, so many thousands of her sons and daughters; I leave others, when writing on emigration, to eulogize the United States of America.

For the honour of my country I am bound to think, that there are but few—a very few amongst us, excepting those deceived by the grossest mis-

representations, who would array themselves under a foreign state, add to her strength in peace by their industrious efforts, or in the event of a war between the two powers, take the field under her banners; and call this becoming patriots in their old age.*

There have been certainly traitors, and renegadoes in every age and nation, but I will not believe that many of my countrymen would willingly throw themselves in the way of becoming out-casts of this description.

Excepting such men as can publicly ask—what is country? and answer it by saying, “the soil, of this I was only the occupant—the government? I abhorred its deeds and its principles.

* I am thus become a patriot in my old age.—
Birkbeck's Letters from the Illinois.

the church? I did not believe in its doctrines, and had no reverence for the clergy. The army?—No—the law?—We have the same laws here with some omissions and some improvements," &c. &c. Excepting such men, or those egregiously deceived by false statements, and those who are totally unacquainted with the British Provinces in North America, very few would emigrate to the United States.

Men possessed of superior intellect, it is true, choose to hold up America to the admiration of the world, and by their conduct and writings, endeavour to induce others to think and act as they profess to do on the subject; but whilst they are so employed, as it were, offering a premium for desertion, may it not be asked, are

they not prostituting those abilities, disgracing themselves, and dishonouring their country?—I leave them to settle the question with their own consciences; for myself, it is sufficient to show the emigrant, as clearly as my humble ability will permit, a British Colony, where he may enjoy, at least, as much liberty, independence, and comfort, as he would in the United States of America; where the people are, at least, equally happy, industrious, and brave, as the people of the United States; and where riding the rail, gouging, and rifling, with all the minor *etceteras* of liberty and equality, are altogether unknown.

Liberty and equality, these are the high sounding phrases which the American dins in the ear of the stran-

ger, even in the midst of slavery exercised by himself.

The same man, who in his boasted republican pride would pretend high offence at being required to drink the health of the king of England, would, in his despotic brutality, turn round and chastise his slave, probably for merely holding his horse by the curb, instead of the snaffle.

Slave, did I say?—in a country where we hear so much about liberty, equality, and the rights of man, we naturally suppose that personal slavery is altogether unknown. In a country where all men profess to be equal, we are led to imagine that no portion of the human race can be put upon a level with the brute creation. In short, in a country where liberty is the universal theme, we think it

probable, that its principles may be fully understood, and its attendant blessings properly appreciated.

But what is the fact? let us see her great admirer, Mr. Birkbeck.

“I want language,” he says, “to express the loathing I feel for personal slavery; practised by free men it is most detestable; it is the leprosy of the United States, and a foul blotch which more or less contaminates the entire system, in public and in private, from the president’s chair, to the cabin of the hunter;” and yet, just before, he tells us that, “Liberty is no subject of dispute or speculation among us Back-woodsmen, it is the very atmosphere we breathe.”

Now as I hate tyranny as cordially as Mr. Morris Birkbeck, let me not, in deciding upon a new country,

choose one in which slavery exists ; for it is a perfect farce to talk of liberty in a strain as if all the rest of the world were totally ignorant of its blessings, in a country where the eye constantly turns upon objects degraded merely on account of their colour ; or of law, where there is one for the white, and another for the black man ; indeed, where such things are, it is an insult to proper feeling and common sense, to talk about the rights of man, or a superior knowledge and enjoyment of rational freedom.

When divested, therefore, of the false colouring which some people have given it, America does not present itself in all that purity, or enjoy all that liberty and equality, which the American would fain make all the rest of the world believe it to possess.

From the writings of several it would appear, that of the many thousands who settle in the back woods of America, not one of them ever think of bettering their condition by crossing into Canada. If we are to form an opinion upon what they say on the subject, we should conclude that "the beautiful prairies," the "loveliness of nature," and her bounties, so superabundantly and especially bestowed upon the United States, were fully sufficient, together with the superior liberty they enjoy, ("to imitate which is forgery,") to keep them within the American boundary.

But, alas, how fatal to all this is the reality; there is no man who has passed from Montreal to the head of the Great Lakes, who will not remember seeing thousands of Ameri-

cans settled within the Canadian boundary. Previous to the late war, and since the peace, vast numbers of emigrants from the United States have taken up lands and distributed themselves throughout the whole of Upper and Lower Canada, and they still continue to do so.

Surely this fact speaks volumes, for if the government of America, its soil, and climate, are so vastly superior to the British Provinces, why, in the name of Yankee independence, do so many hundreds and thousands leave it?

For the emigrant, therefore, who has no inclination for "liberty and equality" in a land of masters and slaves, or to sever himself for ever from his native country, his early connexions and friends, either of the British colonies of Nova Scotia, New

Brunswick, or the Canadas, is far preferable to the United States of America.

The emigrant, in a movement of so much importance as that of choosing a new country, where he will have to await what farther portion of good or evil providence may have in reserve for him, will do well to consider and reconsider the subject. For me it now only remains to give such particulars of Upper and Lower Canada as may probably prove useful to those who have already decided upon settling in that country.

Should the recollections of old friends and circumstances connected with the places through which we shall pass (in our line of march of a thousand miles from the sea) occasion me to digress occasionally, I doubt not but the liberal reader will readily

forgive me. Why, however, should I attempt to apologize, I am but a plain man, and had better proceed in my own way.

The emigrant who has ample means at his disposal, and who resides in any of the ^{North or Ireland} western counties of England, should proceed by way of Liverpool to New York. The expences of this route will be greater than by Quebec, but this disadvantage will be more than compensated, by the great additional comfort.

The distance from London to Quebec is 3,000 miles, from Liverpool to New York about 2,000, and as the sea voyage is the worst part of the undertaking for a family man, the convenience of the latter route is evident.

Should he live at any considerable

distance from Liverpool, a conveyance, suited to his family and circumstances, may be purchased, instead of travelling by coach, which would be found equally expensive and more inconvenient. This vehicle, on his arrival at that port, can be shipped on board the packet, and will be found serviceable on the other side the Atlantic. The heavy baggage, and in fact everything but such articles as are absolutely necessary for the voyage, should be insured, and shipped in another vessel direct to Montreal, which place they will most probably reach by the time he arrives with his family.

He will find the packets fitted with every consideration for the comfort and accommodation of passengers, and ready to sail on the 1st, 8th, 16th, and 24th of every month. Messrs.

Cropper and Benson, the agents, will furnish every information respecting them. The charge for each cabin passenger is thirty-five guineas, half price being generally demanded for children under fourteen years of age. The steerage passage is about half the expense of the cabin, and is provided accordingly. The chaise freight will be at the rate of thirty shillings per ton measurement, and 10% for himself, the same for his wife, and half as much for each of his children will be found amply sufficient to bear all the expences of the cabin passenger up the Hudson to Montreal.

No person, whether he embarks at Liverpool or London, unless he has some positive advantage before him, should take out any kind of merchandize, if he does he will assuredly

repent it; independent of anxiety and inconvenience, he will in nine cases out of ten, find that from the want of a previous local knowledge of the country, he has purchased just such articles as are not wanted, and consequently, should he wish to turn them into cash to enable him to commence operations, he must sell them at a loss.

If he has a capital to spare for this purpose after he has established himself, and become in some degree acquainted with the general imports of the colony, and the wants of his immediate neighbourhood, he can then send home with his small venture of pot and pearl-ash, an order for the proceeds to be returned him in goods fit for the Canadian market. By this arrangement he will secure a

double advantage, in which, if he has any previous knowledge of trade, he will soon find his interest.

No person has the least occasion to take out with him any kind of agricultural implements—every description of instrument for cultivating the earth may be purchased at Montreal, for the price they will cost if taken out from England. A few of the superior kind of carpenter's tools may probably cost a little more; but clothing is all the emigrant need be at all desirous of taking from this country.

The route I have just mentioned from Liverpool to New York, must only be undertaken by the wealthier class of emigrants—others with more confined means should embark from the nearest port, from whence they can ship themselves direct for Quebec.

From the river Thames the charge is nearly the same to that city, as from Liverpool to New York, but the accommodation and the table provided is inferior, the Liverpool packets being fitted expressly for passengers. The poorer class of emigrants may get out to Quebec for 6*l.* each, in ships which are occasionally entered out for passengers only; for this, they are provided with beef, biscuit, and rum, but their bedding and every other requisite for the voyage they must themselves prepare previous to going on board.

Although ships go up as far as Montreal, 180 miles above Quebec, still from the great delay at the latter place, and occasionally in working up the river St. Lawrence afterwards, it will be much better for him to engage his passage to Quebec only.

On his arrival he should if possible, so contrive as to move from the ship to the steam vessel, instead of going on shore, where he will incur expence and a loss of time, which he may afterwards find of greater consequence. The length of voyage from Liverpool to New York is generally from twenty to forty days, from London to Quebec from thirty to sixty, and from Quebec to Montreal, in the steam vessel, about a day and a half, in a sailing vessel it may be three weeks. The passage in the steam vessel is about 2*l.* each person in the cabin, 1*l.* in the steerage, and for this sum an excellent table is provided.

It should be borne in mind that the river St. Lawrence is impassable from about the beginning of November to the end of March. The ice during

that period either stretches entirely across the channel, or floats about in such formidable shoals as renders navigation totally impossible; added to which, late in the season and very early in the spring, bad weather and gales of wind are frequently encountered after making the banks of Newfoundland. Indeed, here, the Heavens appear eternally shrouded in gloom, and the waves perpetually agitated.

The Island of Anticoste, in the Gulph, has proved fatal to many, but there are now two solitary beings stationed upon it by government, whose duty it is to furnish every assistance in their power to any unfortunate people who may be wrecked upon the coast.

When the celebrated Captain Cook was under the command of Admiral

Saunders in this quarter of the world, he minutely surveyed the whole of the gulph and river, since which time it has gradually become better known, and although it still is, and always will be, a dangerous navigation, but very few accidents occur.

The emigrant who has never been to sea before, must constantly bear in mind that the same providence, which shows itself daily in a thousand instances of wonderful interposition in his native country, is equally willing and able to protect him whilst exposed to the perils of the ocean.

Cowardice, although perhaps in some cases, a constitutional infirmity, is still a disgrace to any man, but more especially to him who has professed to set all personal hazard and

difficulty at defiance. Let him rest fully assured that the greater portion of what is generally considered danger, bears no affinity to it if looked manfully in the face.

When the Success, Trooper Frigate, Captain Barclay, in which I had my passage from Halifax to Quebec, was nearly lost in a gale of wind in the night at the entrance of the gulph, I went below to inform my sleeping friends in the ward-room of their situation. My valued friend, Lieutenant John Hewitt, of the corps to which I have the honour to belong, immediately took a view of the rocks, and then seeing clearly that it would, in a few moments, be all right, or all wrong with us, he began to draw on his inexpressibles, and to dress himself with great minuteness. "My

fine fellow," said I "I think you may dispense with your drapery, and prepare to swim for your life." "My good friend," replied he, with admirable *sang froid*, "let us by all means go on shore decent, for how do we know who we may be introduced to?"

Those who were on board the Success, Fox, and Nemesis Frigates, will remember, that had we struck upon the rocks that night, the great probability is, that not one person could have been saved; and, indeed, those on board the Fox, having been exposed to greater danger than ourselves, will well remember the circumstance to which I have now alluded. Although I do not mean to assume to myself a greater share of fortitude than other people, let me not live or die like a coward.

“ Gracious powers ! which erst
 have opened the lips of the dumb in
 his distress, and made the tongue of
 the stammerer speak plain, when I
 shall arrive at this dreaded page,
 deal not with me then with a stinted
 hand.”*

* Sterne.

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LETTER VI.

When I think of death as a thing worth thinking of, it is with the hope of one day pressing some hard fought and well contested field of battle, and dying with the shouts of victory in my ear, that would be worth dying for, and more it would be worth, having lived for.

Claverhouse in Old Mortality.

THERE is not in nature a more beautiful scene than the Harbour of Quebec and the surrounding country presents, immediately after passing the Island of Orleans.

Here, at the distance of 130 leagues from the sea, the St. Lawrence shrinks from the breadth of three

leagues to that of a single mile, and although the long line of settlements on the left shore may have gradually prepared the mind for some place of importance, still it will be taken by surprize on falling as it were suddenly upon a new world.

The Upper Town rises magnificently a considerable height above the level of the river, whilst the lower divided into wharfs and spacious warehouses, and standing on ground over which the tide, until these few years, regularly flowed, conveys at once an idea of commercial prosperity and independence.

The fortifications are formidable, and present many a dark and frowning battery, one in particular, completing, commands the harbour and Lower town.

The palace and several other

buildings hanging tottering over a perpendicular rock, gives to the city of Quebec an appearance of more than common interest. But however much we may feel gratified in contemplating this noble entrepôt of our North American possessions, the eye turns with more pleasing satisfaction to the wild and romantic scenery which surrounds it. The celebrated fall of Montmorenci, the numberless cascades rushing from the woods and tumbling down the rocks, together with the little village of Point Levi, with its whitened cottages scattered amongst the green foliage of the trees, presents a scene upon which the contemplative mind will dwell with incessant delight.

The Island of Orleans, which is twenty miles long, and well cultivated, demands more than common

attention, from its having been occupied by the English army during the operations against Quebec.

Here it was that the gallant Wolfe planned that brilliant attack, the success of which soon after covered him with immortal glory, and finally led to the conquest of the whole country.

As a farther proof, if any were wanting, that amiability of disposition is not incompatible with public duty, or with the character of a hero, and that minds capable of forming and executing enterprizes of the greatest daring, are susceptible of the mildest and kindest impressions, General Wolfe declared, that he would rather have been the author of "Gray's Elegy in a Country Church Yard" (which had just then made its appearance) than the conqueror of half the world.

Seated near the stone on which that truly great man sat, when his gallant soul took its flight for the realms of eternity, amidst the glorious shouts of "Victory, and they run," I readily gave myself up to that elevation of soul, a portion of which even the coldest hearts must feel, when conscious that they are upon ground, sacred to valour, and where the bones of so many fine fellows have long ere this, mingled with the dust.

Whilst enjoying this intellectual feast, I beheld in imagination the gallant Wolfe, struggling with the innumerable difficulties he had to encounter previous to the action, which immortalized him for ever, and enrolled his name amongst departed heroes. Then, through the gloom of night I beheld innumerable boats, silently wafting upon the bosom of the

tide, the troops destined for the attack, the final overthrow of the enemy, and the routed Frenchmen flying within the walls of the city, to avoid the lightning of the Scotch claymore.

Time rolled on, and I beheld the brave Montgomorie, vainly endeavour to storm the Lower Town, and perish in the attempt, the arrival of the British Squadron, and the consequent raising of the siege.

The Marquis de Montcalm, the French General, and his second in command, were both mortally wounded in the battle of Quebec, about a thousand of the enemy, including a great number of Officers, were made prisoners, and almost an equal number were killed in the battle, or in the pursuit.

The wreck of their army unable

to keep the field, retired first to Point au Tremble, and afterwards to Trois Rivieres, and Montreal. The loss of the English in numbers was inconsiderable; both the killed and the wounded did not exceed 500 men. But the death of General Wolfe was a national misfortune, and accompanied with circumstances sufficiently interesting to merit a particular detail.

He first received a shot in his wrist, but wrapt a handkerchief round it, and encouraged his men to advance, without the least discomposure. Soon after, he received a shot in the groin, which he also concealed: even when the fatal bullet lodged in his breast, he suffered himself unwillingly to be carried behind the ranks. Still his anxiety for the fortune of the field continued under

all the agonies of approaching dissolution, and when told that the French army was totally routed, and fled on all sides—"Then," said he, "I am satisfied," and immediately expired, in a kind of transport of departing joy, which gave to his dying countenance an air of exultation.

Wolfe at the age of thirty-five, united the ardour, the humanity and enlarged views of the HERO, to the presence of mind, and skill of the commander. He needed only years and experience, to place him on a level with the greatest generals of ancient or modern times.

Montcalm, the French general, was scarcely his inferior. Though less fortunate in the last scene of his life, he made the most perfect dispositions that human prudence

could suggest, both before the action, and during the engagement. *

The ride from Quebec, to the fall of Montmorenci, (a distance of six miles), is exceedingly interesting, the whole line of road being covered with pretty little villages, and detached farms, the rural neatness of which, cannot fail in exciting admiration.

The Canadians, naturally a happy people, partake in a great degree the animation of countenance, and the light hearted vivacity of manners of the natives of Old France.

With plenty of land to cultivate, the man who lives by the produce of the earth, depends only on the Almighty and himself, and this feeling of real and perfect independence,

* See Russel's History of America, and Gazette.

making him happy and content, influences every thing around him, and the stranger consequently feels himself to be amongst the simplest, and the happiest people in the world.

There can be no recollection more gratifying than that in travelling to the very outpost of civilization in this extensive country, nothing like distress is to be seen, no man soliciting aid with his hat in his hand, or asking indiscriminate charity.

In the principal cities and towns, where the idle and the profligate congregate together, and endeavour to find some easier way of procuring a subsistence than by cultivating the land, such things are; but in districts removed from those sources of evil, although there may be poverty in abundance, positive distress, such as we daily meet with throughout all

the countries of Europe, is altogether unknown.

The falls of La Chaudiere, and Montmorenci, in the neighbourhood of Quebec, are objects of great interest to travellers in British North America, and have consequently been often described.

The latter with the river, derives its name from the French General, Montmorenci, who resided near it, and whose Indian Servant being called after his master, was precipitated over them in his canoe, when in a state of inebriety. It has ever since been called the leap or fall of Montmorenci.

Should the emigrant, by any unavoidable circumstance, be detained a few days at Quebec, he should avail himself of the opportunity, and visit

both these falls. In his walk, or ride, he will see an abundance to interest him, and he may glean some information that may be useful in forwarding his future views.

If he is an old soldier, and fond of his profession, with all its right and left ramifications, he may feast himself to his heart's content; and will return much more gratified than if he had shut himself up, mind and body, heart and soul, within the walls of the city.

The emigrant on arriving at Quebec will be 230 miles from the settlements on the Ottawa River, 300 miles from Perth, and 550 miles from the Niagara frontier. These distances will appear immense, but as regular water conveyances are now established the greater part of the way, upon terms proportionably reasonable

with the voyage from England, the expenses will not be found so serious as may be imagined.

It will probably be more advisable, however, for the settler with small means to pitch his tent upon the Ottawa, which he can reach at such a small comparative expense, thirty shillings for each person being fully sufficient to pay the carriage from Quebec to the mouth of that river; about thirty miles above Montreal.

The latter place being the principal commercial depôt of the interior of Canada, will at all times afford the settlers in the neighbourhood a better market for their produce, than they can possibly have higher up the country. This will alone, in most cases, equal the advantage of the superiority of climate, which the

Upper Province enjoys ; and the saving of expence and time, the two essentials of the greatest consequence to the emigrant, will go a great way toward building him his log house upon the Ottawa.

Another reason for giving the preference to the settlements which strike off from the river St. Lawrence, in Lake St. Louis, and those in the neighbourhood of Perth, and the river Rideau, is that in the event of another war with the United States of America, the grand channel of communication with Kingston, our great naval depôt upon the Lake Ontario, will branch off at the Ottawa River, a route running at a considerable distance from the American frontier, and preferable, for a variety of reasons, to the St. Lawrence.

This is a consideration of the first importance, and the settler should be especially anxious, whether here, or in the Upper Province, to obtain a grant of land as free as possible from the chance of annoyance from a future enemy. From such inroads, the back settlements in the Lower Province, above Montreal, are perfectly secure, being well defended by Forts Coteau du Lac, and Wellington, with a long line of rapids on the St. Lawrence, and Montreal at the foot of Lake St. Louis.

The nearest point of the American territory, is at least fifty miles distant from the Ottawa, and from Perth on the river Tay.

All this will be more readily understood by reference to the map, where the boundary line will be seen running from the Portage, on Lake Superior,

through the Lakes Erie, and Ontario, down the St. Lawrence, to latitude 45, and on to the Connecticut river, from thence it follows the highlands, which separate the waters running into the St. Lawrence and Atlantic, until it reaches the boundary between the United States, and New Brunswick, due north of the river St. Croix.

The divisional line which divides the two Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, strikes off a little below the Point au Bodét, in lake St. Francis, about thirty miles above the mouth of the Ottawa, and runs northernly across to that river, and up it to its source on Lake Tomiscaming, and then due north to the Hudson Bay boundary

Although it may be optional for the emigrant to settle on either shore of the Ottawa, and consequently in

either Upper or Lower Canada; still as the seat of government for the Upper Province is at present York Town, upwards of 300 miles distant, if he settles on the Ottawa at all, he had better choose the eastern shore of that river. The great mass of the population are agriculturalists, but if the settler on the Ottawa, or in the other districts of Lower Canada, had to depend solely upon the growth of corn, the long winter of six months would be fatal to him. It would indeed be extraordinary, if he could by his exertions in the summer, produce enough to support him in idleness, whilst the whole face of the country, lakes, and rivers, are covered with impenetrable ice, and snow, and vegetation dormant.

This however is not the case, for no sooner are the snows well hardened

by a few frosty nights, than the emigrant must set to work, heart, and hand, to clear away for the ensuing spring. The timber thus felled, will find a ready sale, either on his own ground, (provided it is on the borders of a stream), or Montreal, where he will likewise get a better price for his pot and pearl ash, than in the upper country.

The very great importance of the latter articles of commerce, has induced me to add, in the appendix, instructions for their manufacture, and the emigrant will do well to turn his most serious attention to this source of profit, immediately he commences clearing away his land. If properly managed, the pot ash produced by the lops and tops of trees, he is preparing for sale, and the underwood on the ground he is clear-

ing immediately round his house, will repay him all the expenses in building it.

Whiskey is likewise now becoming a profitable article of exportation, and the Upper Canadians are likely to succeed in raising tobacco, equal to the produce of Maryland and Virginia: indeed, in a country where Melons are brought to maturity in the open air, without the aid of superficial heat, there is no reason why it should not become a staple commodity of the very first importance.

All kinds of vegetables which thrive in Europe, may be produced in Canada; but the great heat of the summer, and the cold in winter, requires more care and judgment in their cultivation. This is now more essential than it was, previous to the rapid increase of the population, and the

consequent alteration in the face of the country; at that time the winds were less variable, and fair and foul weather less intermixed.

In Lower Canada the wind generally throughout the summer, blows either from the eastward, or westward, and in almost all storms, the upper range of clouds are observed to be moved by a westerly wind. In the winter the easterly inclines more to the north-east, and the westerly to the north-west.

This season of the year, instead of being passed in idleness, is in fact to the new comers, the one in which the greatest activity and industry is exerted. To the traveller the echoes of the woodman's axe resounding in every direction, strikes upon the ear, like a distant fire of musketry.

But to those capable of looking be-

yond the short scene of their own existence, the falling crash of surrounding forests, and the rapid march of civilization, appearing as it does to outstretch the bounds of human possibility, will occasion a thousand extraordinary ideas connected with the future, to rush upon the mind, affording abundant matter for serious contemplation, and reflection.

In a very few years, comparatively speaking, the whole extent of country from the Pacific, to the Atlantic Oceans, will become the great highway of industry and commerce.

When the river Columbia attracts the attention of wealthy American settlers, and they have permanently established themselves, it will become the Mississippi of that quarter of the vast American Continent.

That government has quietly and

almost unobservably taken formal possession of the entrance, and have lately employed a detachment in establishing military posts in that direction.

A more ready communication for the trade of the interior with India and China, will thus be opened, of which the Columbia will become the grand entrepôt; and to say that a city will be founded here, which will in a very few years rival New Orleans, is an assertion probably borne out by a mere reference to the map. Its situation will there be seen, as well as the advantages which, to a trading colony, California, and the whole north-west coast of America presents. As a convenient reference, I shall merely add that the mouth of the Columbia river lies in latitude $46^{\circ} 22' N.$ and longitude $123^{\circ} 51' W.$

LETTER VII.

“The land has peace, freedom, and liberty of conscience.
And what would you more?”—*Old Mortality.*

THE honour of having discovered the country, now called Canada, is given to the Cabots; but Jacques Cartier, a celebrated French navigator of the fifteenth century, first explored the Gulph of St. Lawrence in 1534, and carried off from Gaspé two natives of the country round Quebec, who the following year served him as

interpreters. He arrived on the 8th September in his boats at the Indian village of Stadaconé (where the city of Quebec now stands) searching for some place to lay up his vessels for the winter, and at last determined on the river St. Charles. Soon after his squadron, consisting of the Grand Hermione of 120 tons, the Petite Hermione of 60, and the Emerillon of 40, joined him from the lower end of the Island of Orleans, where he had left them. After laying up the two largest, he proceeded in the Emerillon towards Montreal, but left her at the upper end of Lake St. Péter, and reached Hockelaga (now Montreal) on the 2nd October.

On the 11th he again arrived in the harbour of St. Croix, a name he had given the mouth of the river St. Charles in honour of the Saint, whose

anniversary is celebrated on the day his vessels arrived there.

On the 3rd May, 1536, he seized on the two Indians whom he had taken with him the former year, and also the Indian Chief of Stadaconé, and on the 6th made sail for France, leaving one of his vessels dismantled in the St. Charles for want of hands, twenty-five of them having died during the winter of some unknown malady, and on the 10th July he arrived at St. Maloes.

Four years afterwards a person of the name of Robertual was appointed governor of Canada, and settlers were sent out. Cartier was made captain-general of the vessels employed on the expedition, but Robertual fixed on Cape Breton for a settlement, where Cartier remained seventeen months, and then returned

to France with a ruined fortune, and died soon afterwards.

In 1588, his nephews, Delaunay, Chaton, and Jacques Noel, obtained an exclusive privilege to trade to Canada for twelve years as an indemnification for the losses their uncle had sustained; but this order was revoked a few months after it was granted.

This brief outline of the Canadian account of the discovery of the country, will, doubtless, excite a strong feeling of sympathy and commiseration for the misfortunes and fate of him who, after penetrating so far up the St. Lawrence in opposition to innumerable difficulties, finally died of a broken heart, on beholding all those hopes and expectations he had so fondly cherished, withering in the gloom of inactivity, or blighted by

the chilling blasts of cold indifference. A river bearing his name falls into the St. Lawrence, about forty miles above Quebec, and to those travelling by land to Montreal, forms one of the most picturesque scenes of nature in Lower Canada.

The hill from which it is first seen, is crowned with woods, whose variegated verdure, clothes the steep and rugged descent to the river, "deepening the murmur of the falling floods," which rush with headlong impetuosity over a winding valley of rocks into the St. Lawrence.

At a distance may be seen that great and noble river, rapidly moving toward the ocean, bearing away upon its bosom the superabundant produce of the immense territory through which it has flowed. On its banks the whitened cottages of the

Canadians, scattered at unequal distances, complete a scene of rural beauty, and of wild and uncultivated nature; to which no description of mine can do adequate justice.

When I first contemplated the extraordinary beauty of the prospect of which I have now but vainly endeavoured to convey a correct idea, I was not aware that an object of still greater admiration was soon to present itself. Do not, however, imagine that, like the novelist, I am about to introduce to your notice a fairy sylph, or a spirit of the waters; or that, like the writer of a romance, I shall attempt to make some "dead men rise to push us from our stools."

No! it was an object of far greater interest than any old dry bones that ever made himself amenable to the White-boy act, by leaving his

home at unseasonable hours, in order to frighten honest men out of their senses. No, it was in fact, the prettiest girl in all Canada, who, at that time, lived in the neighbourhood, and whose agreeable *naïvete*, aided by the scenery around her, had well nigh tempted me to strike my colours and lay up my weather-beaten hull in the Jacques Cartier river for the remainder of my days.

My time however was not yet come, and although this blue-eyed maid of the village might even have rivalled Sir Walter's lady Helen, for—

Ne'er did Grecian chisel trace,
A nymph, a naiad, or a grace
Of finer form or lovelier face.

still, as making love with sighing and dying was not exactly my forte, I escaped the greatest danger I had

ever encountered of making a fool of myself.

There is an excellent stone-bridge thrown over the river, for the passage across which, a toll is required: but this is evaded by the country people during the summer, by a ford about half-a-mile lower down, and nearer the River St. Lawrence.

The City of Quebec, the first permanent settlement in Canada, was founded in 1608 by Samuel Champlain, a gentleman of birth and education, who accompanied De Montis in his expedition to Nova Scotia; and it soon became the centre of the French power in America.

The settlers, however, do not appear to have increased much in number, for in 1626 they had only three establishments. This arose from its trade having been up to this time in

the hands of an exclusive company, whose chief object was to enrich themselves by the fur trade, instead of creating a national power in Canada. Cardinal Richelieu, who at that time governed France, and whose ideas were more liberal than those of his age, as well as more magnificent than those of common ministers, chose to employ a more numerous association, composed of men of greater property and credit.

To this company the government gave the disposal of all the settlements that were, or should be, formed in Canada; together with the power of fortifying and governing them; and of making peace or war, as should seem most conducive to their interest. The whole trade, both by sea and land, was secured to them for the term of fifteen years, except the cod

and whale fisheries, which were left open to all. The fur trade was secured to the company for ever.

Further encouragements were added to these. The king made the company a present of two large ships of war, manned with a crew of 700 sailors; and he granted them the extraordinary privilege of conferring titles of honour; of creating dukes, marquises, and earls or counts, with the royal letters of confirmation on the presentation of Cardinal Richelieu, grand master, head and superintendent of the commerce and navigation of France. Ecclesiastics, noblemen, and others, associating themselves in the company, might do it without derogation of their rank or character. Twelve of the members were created nobles, and all the natives of Canada were, to all intents

and purposes, to be reputed natives of Old France.

The company were allowed the privilege of sending and exporting all kinds of merchandize, duty-free; and every person who had exercised any trade in the Colony for the space of six years, was entitled to exercise the same in any town in the Mother Country. The last favour was of a very singular nature:—all goods manufactured in Canada were permitted a free entry into France; a privilege which gave the workmen a vast advantage over those of the Mother Country, loaded with a variety of oppressive taxes.

In return for so many advantages, the company, which had a capital of an hundred thousand crowns, engaged to carry over to the Colony, in 1628, the first year of their privilege, two or

three hundred artificers, of such trades as were most wanted; and 16,000 persons of all conditions, before the year 1643. They were to lodge, maintain, and furnish them with all necessaries, for three years; and then to make an equitable distribution among them, of the lands that should be cleared, according to their respective wants; furnishing each family with a sufficient supply of grain to sow its allotments for the first year.

But fortune did not second the endeavours of government in favour of the new company to such a degree as to enable them to fulfil their engagements. The first ships which they fitted out were taken by the English, who had commenced hostilities against France, on account of the siege of Rochelle.*

* Russel's America.

They dispossessed the French of all their settlements in Canada, in 1629, but through the influence of Champlain, who pointed out their importance to the council of Lewis XIII., they were restored the following year by the treaty of St. Germain.

The colonists appear to have been reduced to great privation and misery during the next two-and-thirty years, by the bad management of the affairs of the company, and a war with the Indians. In 1662 they made a voluntary surrender of all their privileges to the king; and from this moment the French settlements gradually improved in trade and population.

In 1745 there were 83,000 French colonists, dispersed, or collected on the banks of the River St. Lawrence. About the head of the river, and what is called the Upper Country, there

were 8,000 more, who were rather engaged in trade and hunting—than agriculture.*

Until 1759, Canada, like the other countries and colonies of the Old and New World, was subject alternately to peace and war, and their consequences,—good or evil. These, it is not necessary to particularize in a small tract intended for the information of the generality of emigrants. In 1760, therefore, the conquest of the whole of New France was completed by the English; and under the name of Canada, it has ever since remained annexed to the Crown of Great Britain.

* Russel.

LETTER VIII.

“ I remember,” said my Uncle Toby, sighing again, “ the story of the Ensign and his wife——and particularly well, that he, as well as she, upon some account or other, (I forget what) was universally pitied by the whole regiment: ——but finish the story thou art upon.”

Sterne.

ON the afternoon of a clear October day, in the year 1813, after a heavy march of twenty-eight miles along the margin of the St. Lawrence, and passing the rivers St. Anne and Batiscan,—we halted at the small town of Trois-Rivieres.

Our orders to await here the arrival of the steam-vessel from Quebec,

afforded an opportunity for a careful inspection of the battalion ;—and as the war had now assumed a threatening aspect in the Upper Province, and the Americans were moving in great force upon Montreal—the appearance of 600 men, who had seen some service, excited extraordinary interest amongst all classes of the Canadians.

It must not, however, be imagined, that in the groups of people who hailed our arrival as an interposition of Providence in their favour,—were those capable of bearing arms in defence of their country ;—oh, no!—the old,—the feeble,—the women and children, were all that remained. —The young men had nobly repaired to their posts,—regardless of danger, and animated by those feelings which alone occupy the hearts

of men when called upon to defend all that is dear to them in life. To their assistance we were hastening, anxious to relieve a body of brave, but undisciplined volunteers, from the chance of being overwhelmed by the superior force of the enemy.

Surrounded by their relatives and friends, we were the following morning assembled in the Stockade Barrack, when my attention was rivetted by the appearance of a man, apparently ninety,—who, although his silvery locks bespoke extreme old age,—still carried himself bravely, and as would have well become one half a century younger.

He was dressed in tartan plaid, and I observed him mark with the keenness of a soldier, the appearance, and every movement of the men.—His eyes, bright and animated, be-

spoke the enthusiasm of his soul; and nothing more was necessary to convince me,—that in this remote spot,—in the woods of North America, so many hundred miles from his Highland home,—I had met with a “Hero of other days.”

Little did I imagine what afterwards proved to be the fact,—that in the tall, venerable figure before me, I contemplated one of the few remaining followers of Prince Charles Edward.

A Scotchman, a gallant friend now no more, stopping with me close to his elbow, desired the drums to beat “the yellow-haired laddie,”—and in an instant we observed him struggling to suppress his emotions.

Soldiers and sailors on foreign service are soon known to each other; useless ceremony is thrown aside,

and man meets man at once,—either as friend or foe,—with those sentiments and feelings, which of necessity are unknown in private life. These, therefore, produced from my companion an observation in Gallic; and the return was immediately—a hearty shake of the hand; whilst the countenance of the veteran brightened into an expression of melancholy satisfaction.

“Sir,” said I, “I am tempted to wish I was a Highlander myself, since you certainly appear to possess more genuine national feeling toward each other, than any other people under the sun.” “It may be so,” replied he, “I always meet a countryman with pleasure, particularly a Highland soldier;—but the delight I at this moment experience, proceeds from those well-known sounds, connected as they are with the recollec-

tion of my early days,—my favourite yellow-hair'd laddie:—to me your notes strike upon the ear, as the voice of a long-lost friend.”

He could say no more;—for in spite of himself, the rising emotions of his heart choked his utterance; and the manly tears which quickly came to his relief, and rapidly stole down his furrowed cheek, made me regret that I had incautiously touched that finer chord of sensibility which, —fixed upon the most acute sensations of pain and pleasure,—vibrates upon the soul of man,—lifts him, as it were, above himself,—and calls into action the strongest and best feelings of our nature.

We were now sufficiently known to each other to enter freely into conversation;—and as it afforded the old soldier an opportunity to

“Shoulder his crutch, and shew how fields
were won,”

we soon learned the leading circumstances of his life.

Born in the Highlands of Scotland he had assembled with his Clan, under the banners of Prince Charles Edward, and followed him, “thro’ weal and woe,” until his final discomfiture, and disastrous retreat from the field of Culloden.

With great difficulty he succeeded in making his escape to the Colonies, and after a variety of adventures, when General Wolfe commenced the siege of Louisburgh, he joined the English army as a volunteer,—here by the bursting of a shell he was severely wounded; but soon recovering, he again joined the Brigade of Highlanders before Quebec.

After the entire subjugation of Ca-

nada, he settled in the neighbourhood of that city;—and, finally, pitched his last tent, in his wearisome march through life, in the spot where we had now the gratification of seeing him, in the winter of his days,—like an aged oak in the midst of the forest,—and surrounded by three or four generations—sprung up imperceptibly around him.

After a long conversation on subjects deeply interesting to him—Scotland—and the war—we parted, promising to call at his cottage the following morning. The reader will easily imagine that in this we were punctual, and that—we found every thing in the true style of “my Uncle Toby.” Indeed, the picture was finished to the life, by the actual appearance of another Corporal Trim, who, with the precise soldier-like

step and attitude of his worthy prototype—handed round a horn of welcome, with—“ I was, your Honour, once a soldier myself; indeed, I was bred and born one,—for I was brought into the world in the English camp, before Louisburgh.”

Nothing more was now necessary to convince us,—that in reality we had found Captain Shandy, the friend and patron of poor Lefevre,—of all who needed support and assistance,—and his generous messenger of comfort to the distressed. With this enthusiastic idea, in the warmth of our feelings we again took each of them by the hand, and freely indulged in the delusion of the moment.

Whilst the venerable figure and manner of the old soldier every moment inspired greater interest and

esteem, the Trim-like countenance and action of the Corporal provoked me to ask him several questions privately, relative to his affair with Bridget; and whether his friends, Dr. Slop and Obadiah, were still in the land of the living.

My Uncle Toby, however, drew our attention to his armoury; and I was obliged to defer the pleasure I was promising myself.

Over the chimney were arranged, with great care, a Scotch claymore, —a common English broad-sword,—a halbert,—a Highland dirk and shot-belt,—a brace of pistols, and a musket and bayonet,—together with a variety of weapons of attack and defence, commonly used by the American Indians. In the centre was painted on a fancifully-carved tablet,

“ We are loaded, and ever ready for action :”

a motto well suited to the spirit of the garrison, and in an instant I added underneath:—

“Small in number, but of war-proof valour.”

“There,” said the veteran, with indescribable pain and pleasure in his voice and manner:—“there, you see the arms we carried in our youth; but, alas! I am now too old to fight, and too old to run away; therefore, I am told I must remain at home:—but, should our home be attacked, then be assured we will again to arms, and do our duty, as we best can: and,” rejoined the Corporal, “I am by your side whilst there’s a drop of blood in my body.”

In the conversation and countenance of the veteran, we read the history of an age, during which one or two generations of men had been swept from the face of the earth,

“time flew on rapid wing,” and the distant appearance on the lake of the steam-vessel destined to convey us nearer the scene of action, was scarcely sufficient to remind us of the necessity for an immediate separation.

His parting blessing was bestowed with that warmth and sincerity which stamps the remembrance of it more strongly upon my mind ; and his last admonition,—“ Be brave, my children, and never fear death,” was a sentiment worthy of the man who had fought and conquered with the immortal Wolfe, and who, even at the verge of the grave, could feel like a hero.

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LETTER IX.

How lustily your sons endure the hour
Of wintry desolation; and how fair
Your blooming daughters greet the op'ning dawn
Of love-inspiring spring.

Progress of Liberty

THE town of Trois Rivieres is situated near three branches of a river, which falling near this place into the St. Lawrence, gives it its name.

This place was formerly the principal depôt of the fur traders before Montreal had grown into its present magnitude and importance.—Here they carried on an extensive and ex-

ceedingly lucrative trade with the Indians, who descending in their canoes laden with furs, took back in exchange, brandy, rum, and gunpowder, &c. &c.

These advantages have, however, long since passed away, and the commercial inhabitants of Trois Rivieres now depend chiefly on the trade of the town and its vicinity for their support.—They have an iron foundry in the neighbourhood, where vast numbers of stoves are cast, these being an essential article in Lower Canada during the winter.—There are likewise two churches, and several convents, into one of which we attempted to penetrate, but the good Lady Abbess was inexorable; she might probably be apprehensive that the colour of scarlet was in reality what the blind man had represented

it to be in his opinion, "Like the sound of a trumpet," which might, perhaps, have disturbed the religious exercises of its inmates. I must confess that I am too great a friend to freedom, and lover of nature, particularly in its fairest form, to admire this unsocial and unnatural practice of shutting up for life in the gloom of a cloister, and hiding as it were "under a bushel," the most beautiful work of the Creator.

The man who first invented such a system ought to have been tried by a court martial of Amazonians, and drummed out of existence.

In the revolutionary war in 1776, the Americans formed a very daring, and not ill laid plan, for the surprize of the English forces at Three Rivers; which had it been attended with all the success it was capable of, might

have been ranked amongst the most considerable military achievements of that nature.

The British and Brunswick forces were at this time much separated. A strong detachment was stationed at Three Rivers, under the command of Brigadier General Frazer. Another, under Brigadier General Nesbit, lay near them on board the transports. A greater than either along with the Generals Carleton, Burgoyne, Phillips, and the German General, Reidesal, were in several divisions by land and water on the way from Quebec. The distance from Sorel was about fifty miles, and several armed vessels full of troops, higher up than Three Rivers, lay full in the way.

In the face of all these difficulties, a body of about 2,000 men, under a

Major General Thompson, embarked at Sorel in fifty boats, and coasting the south shore of Lake St. Peter, arrived at Nicolét, from whence they fell down the river by night, and passed to the other side, with the intention of surprizing the forces under General Frazer.

Three Rivers was at that time a long village rather than a regular town, and the design was, that it should be attacked a little before day-break by a strong detachment at each end, whilst two other parties were to be drawu up in readiness to cover or support them.

If this plan had succeeded, the destruction of all those vessels lying near the shore was meditated.

The concurrent circumstances necessary to give effect to this design were too numerous to afford any

strong confidence of success. It was one of those bold undertakings which might have been productive of great advantage, but which was of too perilous a nature for any thing less than the most desperate situation of affairs to justify.

They missed their time by about an hour, which, though they had passed the armed ships without observation, occasioned their being discovered, and the alarm given at their landing.

They afterwards got into bad ground, and were involved in other difficulties, which threw them into disorder and confusion. In this state they found General Frazer's corps prepared to receive them, having landed several light six-pounders, which played upon them with great effect. Whilst thus engaged in front, General Nesbit

landed his brigade from the transports in their rear.

Nothing was now left but a retreat, the accomplishment of which was more to be hoped than expected. Between Generals Nesbit and Frazer's corps they were driven for several miles through a swamp, which they traversed with inconceivable toil. The British troops at length grew tired of the pursuit, and the woods afforded them the wished for shelter. The first and second in command, with about 200 others, were taken prisoners. The loss of the British, as may be imagined, was but trifling.

This was the last effort the Americans made of any importance in Canada during the war.

The steam vessels which navigate the St. Lawrence lay too for a short time at Trois Rivieres, to take in a

farther supply of fuel. A description of this mode of conveyance is unnecessary, steam vessels having now become pretty generally known throughout Europe. Mr. Malsham, of Montreal was the first to establish them in British North America, and it is only a proper tribute of justice to acknowledge, that the tables provided, and the accommodations in all of them, are most excellent.

The earlier in the summer the emigrant reaches Montreal the better. To those who intend to rent or purchase a cleared farm, it is not of so much consequence, but to him who purposes taking up a grant of land, it is absolutely necessary that he should be at Montreal, if he intends to settle in the Lower Province, and at Kingston if in the Upper, by the middle of July.

He will then be able to obtain possession of his land, and build his log-house before the setting in of the winter. This period of the year in Lower Canada is from the 15th of November to the 15th of April. In the Upper Province agricultural labour may be prosecuted during seven months of the year. About a month from the renewal of vegetation in both provinces, the apple-trees are in blossom, and the verdure of the wheat fields and meadows wave in the wind. All sorts of grain are sown in the spring, the wheat first, which generally ripens in four months from the time of its being put into the earth; there is, however, another kind, a bearded wheat, which is fit for the sickle in three months, the time oats require.

In the Upper Province wheat is likewise sown in the fall as in this country.

I shall now attempt to give an idea of the geographical situation, laws, and government of the Lower Province, and for the observations I have to offer in this letter, I am principally indebted to a brief account of Canada, published annually in the Quebec Calender.

The public institutions of Upper Canada being modelled agreeable to the British, will not require any particular description.

The name of Canada was originally applied by Europeans to all the land on the south western shores of the Gulph of St. Lawrence, and on both sides of that river from its mouth to some distance above Quebec.

The River St. Lawrence itself was called "La Grande Riviere du Canada," the name was afterwards extended to all countries explored by adventurers from the settlements

along the river. The whole of the French possessions in North America were afterwards comprehended under the name of New France.

Canada, as it is understood at the present day, is bounded to the east by the Gulph of St. Lawrence, and the country on the Labrador coast, annexed in 1809 to the government of Newfoundland; to the north, by the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company; to the west, by undefined boundaries, but which may be supposed to extend (by virtue of occupation by the fur traders, and the discoveries of M'Kensie) to the Pacific Ocean. To the south it is bounded by unexplored countries, and by the United States of America, the Michigan territory, the State of Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York,

Vermont, New Hampshire, the district of Maine, and by the British Province of New Brunswick.

The whole of this extent of country, as far as it was then explored, was from 1774 to 1791 under the government of the Province Quebec. In 1791 it was divided into Upper and Lower Canada, by a line which strikes off near M'Ghie's Point in Lake St. Francis (or Point au Bodét,) which has been alluded to in Letter VIII.

Lower Canada lies between the 45th and 50th degrees of north latitude, and the 62d and 82d degrees of west longitude, from Greenwich. The eastern half of this province is mountainous, and generally uncultivable. On the south shore of the St. Lawrence the mountains do not recede considerably from the river

until about sixty miles below Quebec, they then run in a south westerly direction until they reach Lake Champlain.

On the western side of this lake they extend north-westerly, in the direction of the Great Rapids of the St. Lawrence. They can hardly be said to leave the river until they reach Quebec, from whence they extend in a western and southern direction, and again appear in sight of the mountains on the south shore, toward the above rapids.

The countries lying within these mountains (comprising an extent of above 200 miles from East to West, and 180 from North to South, at the broadest part) is level, with the exception of the isolated mountains of Montreal, Beliel, and Chamblay.

Nearly in the middle of this tract

of land, flows the St. Lawrence, varying from a mile to upwards of twenty miles in width, navigable for vessels of 300 tons burden, 600 miles from the sea.

On the north, the waters of the Ottawa, L'Achigan, the St. Maurice, the Batiscan, the St. Anne, and the Jacques Cartier, empty themselves into it; and on the South, the Chamblay, the Yanaska, the St. Francis, the Nicolét, the Besancour, and the Chaudiere.

All of these in Europe would be considered rivers of great magnitude, and the sources of all, excepting the Ottawa and Chamblay, lie considerably to the east of their embouchures. They have generally high banks, along which the soil and growth of timber is inferior to that of the country farther back. All of them,

excepting where they are nearly on a level with the St. Lawrence, have a second bank at some distance from that which now contains their waters. The same thing is observable of the St. Lawrence.

The waters of none of these rivers are clear, excepting the St. Lawrence itself, which, before its junction with the Ottawa, is as transparent as any in the world.

The soil on both sides of the Saint Lawrence, in the western portion of the tract of country above described, is for the most part clayey, without stones,—excepting here and there globular masses of granite lying on the surface.

Newly cleared it is invariably covered with a dark mould, produced by dissolved vegetable substances. As you approach the mountains the

soil is more light and loamy. These lands are the easiest cleared, and are at first very productive; toward Quebec the soil is poorer, frequently stony and shingley, and there are large tracts of sandy soil, covered with only a very slight coating of vegetable mould.

The mountains generally consist of granite, though there are throughout the country extensive strata of lime, and not unfrequently stones having the appearance of volcanic eruption.

The part of Lower Canada in cultivation,—consists of from one to ten leagues back on both banks of the St. Lawrence, and the rivers which fall into it. There are also settlements along the boundary of the United States, from the River Connecticut to St. Regis, the rest of the country to the very tops of the mountains is

covered with timber of a species and growth congenial to the soil.

The landholders in the Lower Province are mostly Canadians, or of Canadian extraction, very few of them hold upon lease, but are the owners of the soil, subject only to a very small annual rent to the Seigneur or person holding immediately from the crown, and the fine of a twelfth on a change of proprietor by sale, or act equivalent to a sale,—one-fourth of which twelfth is usually deducted upon prompt payment.

The other conditions are by no means burthensome according to the existing practice. They consist chiefly in having their corn ground at the Seignorial Mill, paying one-fourteenth for grinding—and in making and repairing the highways passing through their land, and assist-

ing in the bye-roads necessary for the use thereof. Lands held by Catholics are likewise subject to a tythe of a twenty-sixth part of all grain for the use of the curate, and to assessment for the building and repairs of churches and parsonage houses.

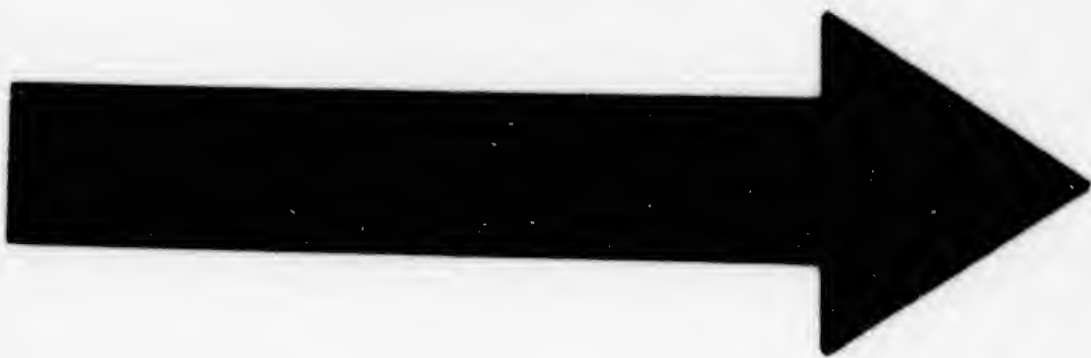
There are no people on the face of the earth more strongly attached to their religion, laws, and customs than the Lower Canadians. During the late contest with the United States of America, their loyalty and attachment to the government and people of Great Britain, were exemplified in a thousand instances. Their conduct at Chrystlers Chataguay, and La Cole Mill, sufficiently established their character for personal bravery and self-devotion to the cause for which they fought.

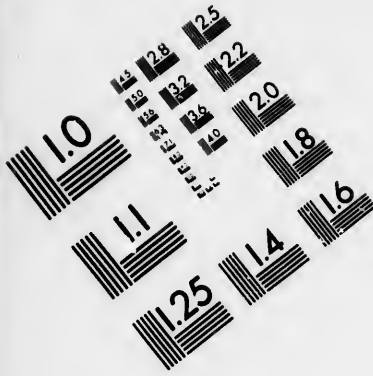
The 104th regiment raised in New

Brunswick, the Nova Scotia, the Canadian, and Glengary Fencibles, the Canadian Voltigeurs, and one or two other Corps raised in Lower Canada, were of the greatest service during the war.—They proved themselves on every occasion worthy of their colours, and fully justified the opinion formed of their courage, and discipline.

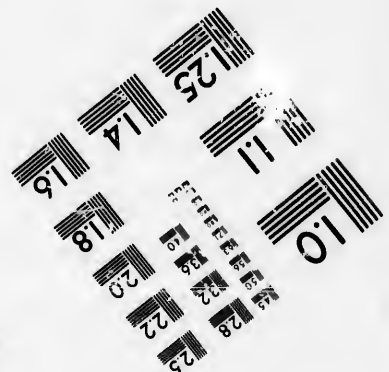
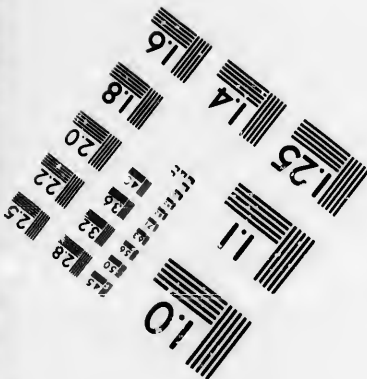
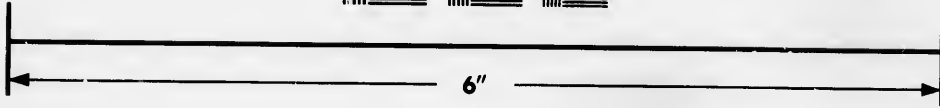
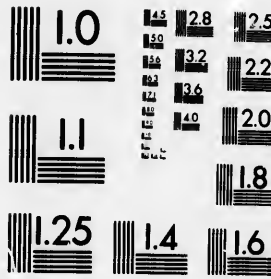
This character may likewise very justly be given to the Militia of the Upper Province, who suffered severely on the Niagara frontier, particularly in the affair of Lundy's-lane, in 1814, where a battalion of incorporated militia sustained the brunt of the action for a considerable time, in a style that would have done credit to regular troops.

The commanding officer of the corps was a captain of the 8th regiment, who held a brevet rank, with





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the local one of lieutenant-colonel whilst detached,—and I well remember an anecdote told of him at the time, too good to pass unnoticed. This gallant son of the Emerald Isle having been severely wounded in the action,—made the following laconic report of his situation to the lieutenant-colonel who commanded the 8th.

DEAR —,

I was shot through the head yesterday morning, but they tell me I am doing very well, and I think so myself. A plague on that villainous salt-petre, I think it will be the death of me at last.

Your's, &c.

The sovereign legislative authority

is in His Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament. This authority is again limited by the capitulations and its own acts,—the most remarkable of which is the Act 18 George III. chap. xii., confirmed by 31 George III. chap. xxxi., which declares that no taxes shall be imposed on the colonies but for the regulation of trade, and that the proceeds of such taxes shall be applied to and for the use of the province, in such manner as shall be directed by any law or laws which may be made by his majesty, his heirs, or successors, by and with the advice and consent of the legislative council and assembly of the province.

The provincial legislature erected by the aforesaid Act of 31 George III. chap. xxxi. (1791), consists of his majesty acting by the governor,

or person administering the government of Canada,—of a legislative council of not less than fifteen members, appointed by his majesty for life under some exceptions,—of a House of Assembly of not less than fifty members, elected for four years, by British subjects resident within the province, and possessed for their own use and benefit in the country of real property of the annual value of forty shillings sterling; in the towns of the yearly value of five pounds, or paying rent to the amount of ten pounds. It is empowered to make laws for the “peace, welfare, and good government of the province,” such laws not being repugnant with the above Act.

The governor in his majesty’s name assembles, prorogues and dissolves the two houses, but they must be

called together once in every twelve calendar months. All questions arising in the two houses are decided by a majority of the members present. The governor gives, withholds, or reserves for the farther signification of his majesty's pleasure—the royal sanction to all bills proposed by the two houses:—laws assented to by the governor may be disallowed by his majesty within two years. His majesty cannot assent to any Act or Acts affecting the employment of the dues of the clergy of the Church of Rome, or affecting the establishment of the Church of England within the province,—the provisions made for the same, or the real enjoyment, and exercise of any religious form or mode of worship. Neither in creating penalties, burthens, disabilities, or disqualifications on that account;

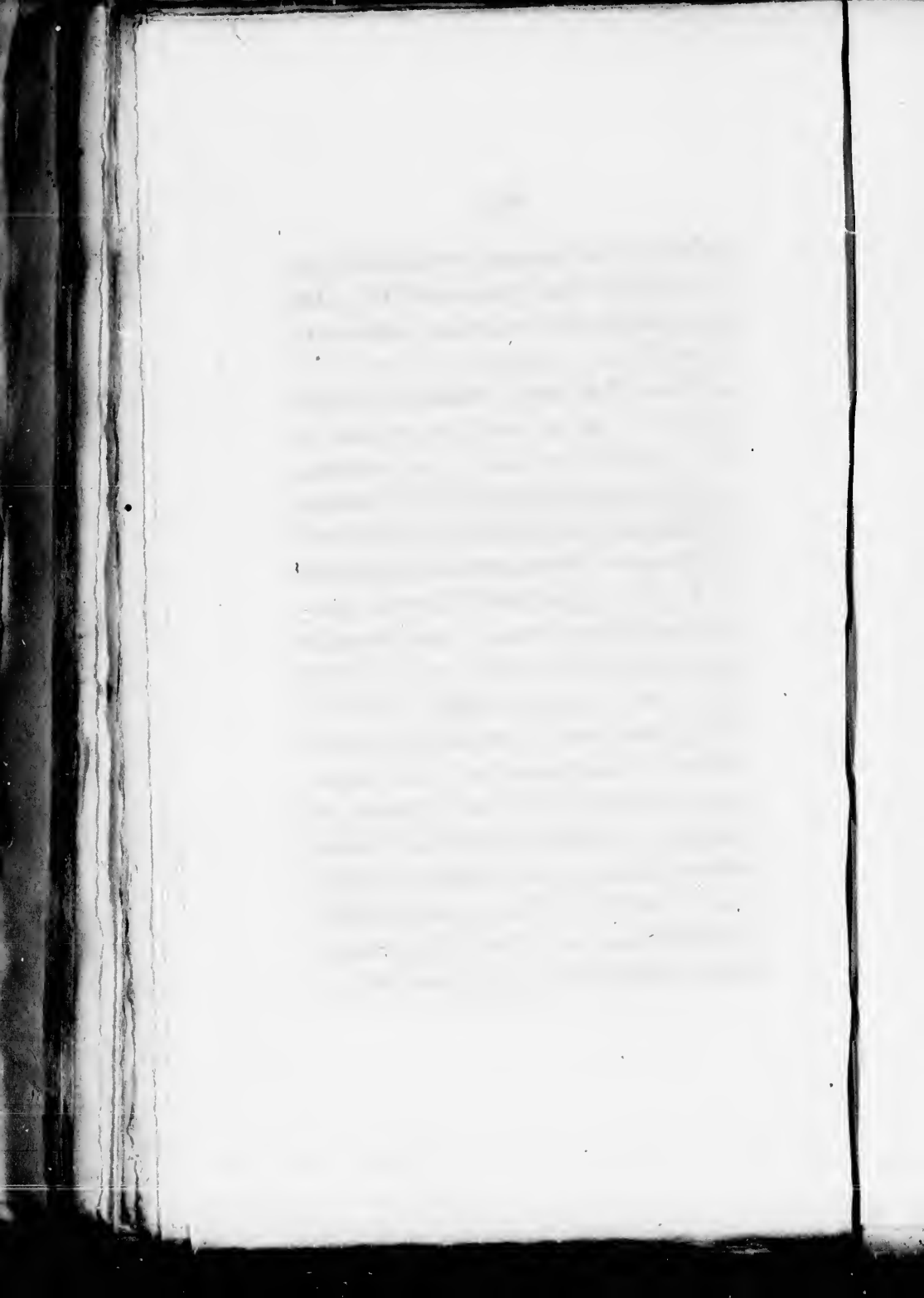
in granting or imposing any new duties in favour of any minister of any particular form of worship—or affecting the prerogative touching the granting of the waste lands of the crown—without such Acts having been thirty days before both houses of the British parliament, and neither of the houses having addressed his majesty not to sanction the same.

The laws in force are first the Acts of the British parliament which extend to the colonies.—2ndly. Capitulations and treaties; 3rdly. The laws and customs of Canada, founded principally on the customs of Paris, the edicts of the French kings, their colonial authorities and the Roman civil law; 4thly. The criminal law of England as it stood in 1774, and as explained by subsequent explanatory statutes; 5thly. The ordinances of the

governor and council established by the Act of that year; and 6thly. By the Acts of the provincial legislature since 1793.

These laws are executed in his majesty's name, and by virtue of his commission and instructions, by the governor—and his inferior officers, all of whom he appoints (with a few exceptions) during pleasure. The governor likewise possesses all those powers and prerogatives, which his majesty may legally enjoy, and delegate to him.

The Judiciary, consists of a chief justice of the province, and three puisné justices for the district of Quebec. A chief justice and three puisné justices for Montreal, a provincial judge for Three Rivers, and one for Gaspè. The police is administered by the magistrates, &c.



LETTER X.

And soon a score of fires, I ween—
From height, and hill, and cliff, were seen ;
Each with warlike tidings fraught ;—
Each from each, the signal caught ;—
Each, after each, they glanc'd to sight :
As stars arise upon the night.

Lay of the Last Minstrel.

MONTREAL is an extensive, well-built city, situated on the north shore of the River St. Lawrence ;—on an island of the same name, (about twelve leagues long, and four in width) which is exceedingly fertile, abounding in corn, fruits, romantic scenery, and handsome country-seats ;

aided by the mildness of the climate, when compared with Quebec, it is by far the most agreeable residence in all Canada.

Every article of luxury or comfort that money can purchase, are to be obtained in Montreal. Fleets of ships, many of them upwards of 300 tons burden, are here to be seen loading and unloading their cargoes at the distance of 600 miles from the sea. Respectable libraries, and other public institutions,—with a theatre, and indeed nothing appears to be wanting that can either contribute to the wants or amusement of its inhabitants. These amount to more than 25,000 Canadians and Americans, &c. They have two good markets, well supplied, at moderate prices. The hotels and boarding-houses are, indeed, excellent; and in the latter,

the respectable traveller who purposes remaining a short time in Montreal, will find no difficulty in procuring good and comfortable quarters, at a moderate expense.

Montreal may be considered as the grand entrepôt to the Upper Province; and the merchants here drive a most extraordinary and profitable trade, with the people of both provinces, as well as with the different nations of Indians, in the North-west, and Western divisions of this extensive country.

A more particular description of Montreal is unnecessary; because the emigrant will, if he is prudent, not remain longer here, than is absolutely requisite to make his arrangements. In a great city, he will find his money fly like the wind, and his time will likewise be too valuable to be thrown

away; he will therefore do well to move on as soon as possible.

Should he purpose taking up a grant of land in the Upper Province, on his arrival at Montreal, if he has much luggage, he had better probably, immediately engage a batteaux, (or flat-bottomed boat, suited to the navigation) to convey him to Kingston. It is totally impossible to say positively, which arrangement will be the most prudent for prosecuting the voyage up the St. Lawrence,—whether a batteaux, or a passage in the steam-vessels; as it must depend entirely upon the number of his family, weight of baggage, and other circumstances,—of which he alone can form a correct opinion.

To avoid leading any one into error, I shall merely give a general account of the route, noticing as we pass, the

several towns and villages on the right and left (N. & S.) shores of the St. Lawrence.

From Montreal to Lower Lachine, the river is a continued rapid, over which no boats but the batteaux can pass with safety. These are forced along the edge of the current, by the main strength of the boatmen, who use long poles shod with iron, provided for that purpose. Four or five hours will be occupied, in advancing to this place, although only nine miles from Montreal; but in coming down to that city with the current, half an hour would be more than sufficient to run that distance, without the aid of either oars or sail.

The canal, which is cutting from Montreal to Upper Lachine, will, however, do away the necessity of passing these rapids, and conse-

quently, materially facilitate the conveyance of goods to the settlements on the Ottawa, and the Upper Province. There is a steam vessel now employed navigating the Ottawa, and Lake St. Louis, which will convey passengers and baggage to the foot of the Split Rock Rapids, about six miles below the village of Cedars.

Lake St. Louis, although a small lake, when compared to others of North America, would in Europe, be considered a magnificent piece of water. The country around it is indeed beautifully picturesque, and the "green mountains of Vermont," although seventy miles distant, are here visible, towering to the clouds. When viewed from the northern shore of the lake, they may be compared to the Pyrenees, for variegated grandeur and sublimity.

The Indian village of Cocknawaga, lies immediately opposite Upper Lachine, and the glittering spire of the church of Point Clair, will be seen on the right; the emigrant may here, if he pleases, call to his recollection "the Canadian boat song."

— — "Ottawa tide, this trembling moon,
"Shall see us float over thy waters soon," &c.

The Canadians have an odd way of covering the spires of almost all their churches, in the Lower Province, with a sort of polished tin, which has a very pretty effect, and is visible for several miles, above the green foliage of the trees.

The village of Cedars stands very pleasantly on the north shore of the river; and I remember it with greater satisfaction, from having received the

most hospitable attention in 1813, from Colonel Murray, who at that time commanded the 5th battalion of militia. It was the same night that general Wilkinson passed Fort Wellington with the American army, and as the alarm guns were fired at the Coteau du Lac, and the beacon at that post was seen flaring through the moonlight,—

——“like a blood flag in the sky,”

the old women and children were nearly frightened into fits; but the militia under their venerable commander, (who had passed his youth in the regular army) pushed on at midnight to the Coteau.

After the departure of the garrison, the uproar increased; alarming reports were spread; and it appeared as if the place was on the point of

attack, by the ghosts of these 5,000 invincible Yankees, who were in reality fifty miles distant. So completely had that wild eyed monster, fear, taken by the nose every soul in the village, and so strenuously did this infernal demon, pull away at the common 'larum bell of their senses, that, to them, the thought of sleep, conveyed an idea little short of instant death, and a speedy preparation for the next world, was the order of the day.

The Coteau du Lac, is eleven miles farther on; this was a military post of considerable importance, during the war. The 2nd battalion, R.M. formed part of its garrison in the winter of 1813, with the 103rd regiment, who were the following year unfortunately blown up, in the disastrous attack

upon Fort Erie. The whole effective strength of the regiment, about 600 men, went into action that night, under their gallant commanders, Colonels Scott and Drummond, who, together with almost every officer and man, a few minutes afterwards, fell victims to an unforeseen, and unaccountable explosion.

The same night, captain Alexander Dobbs, R.N. C.B., who was co-operating with a party of seamen, and marines, was knocked backwards whilst gallantly advancing to plant the scaling ladders, by a cannon shot, which having several times bounded from the earth, struck him directly on the forehead. He was carried from the field senseless, but, however much he feels the effects of it, I am happy to say, he still lives, and is

ready and willing to shew as bold a front as ever, to the enemies of his country.

Whilst on the subject of narrow escapes, I may perhaps be permitted to record another, which occurred under my own immediate observation.

In the attack upon Norfolk, in Virginia, it became necessary for the second battalion to change its position, by a retrograde movement. I beg the reader will not think that the marines are in the habit of retreating; excepting out of this world, into another: their character in this respect, is, I hope, pretty well understood, I shall therefore proceed.

In this movement, a cannon shot from the water battery, on Crany Island, struck the ground close behind Captain Steele, RM., rose again, and passed directly between

his thighs, knocked him down,—dead, it was supposed; but although he was likewise severely wounded; he also, I am happy to say, lived to tell the story, and is now barrack master of the royal marine artillery.

To be serious, however, this is queer work after all, for tenpence a day, and your rations.

A mile and a half in advance of Coteau du Lac, is Point M'Donald, which derives its name like a great many other places in Canada, from the proprietor. This is the head of the Cedar, and Coteau du Lac rapids, which the emigrant will find the worst part of the navigation between Montreal and the Upper Province.

It will take him, even with a fair wind across Lake St. Louis, three days to get his batteaux to

M'Donald's, forty-six miles from Montreal; should he be a steam vessel passenger, he will have to cart his baggage from the Cedar's to M'Donald's Point, where he can convey it across Lake St. Francis, as far as Cornwall.

During the late war, a strong party of seamen, for the service of the lakes, halted at the Coteau du Lac, in their way up the country. They had been previously supplied with a complete fighting apparatus, and with ammunition in abundance, but a haversack to hold their "prog" as the nautical term is, and a canteen for the "liquor of life" was omitted, amongst the other articles of equipment.

The next morning, the blue petre was hoisted, as a signal for getting under ^{weigh} way, and "toe a line," the word of command, was as promptly

obeyed, as might be expected under all the circumstances. It is true they complained loudly of the cursed straps across their shoulders, a musket and bayonet, with forty rounds of ball cartridge, being no joke, and that such infernal trumpery, was only fit for a soldier, and a disgrace to a blue jacket. "Give me a cutlass," cried one, "give me a boarding pike," roared another, and "give me my grog," vociferated a third; however, "toe a line," being again whispered in their ears, by the soft murmur of the boatswain's mate, order was restored to the Blues, and they amused themselves in silence for a few moments, drawing up in their own minds, a declaration of war against every unfortunate pig between the Coteau du Lac and the falls of Niagara. Four days' rations of rum, soft

bread, and beef, were now distributed from the commissariat store, but this only produced a new difficulty.

The rum it is true, could have been easily stowed away, but the beef and bread,—what was to be done with that? There was no sea chest, no canvass bag, no haversack; one tried the top of his hat, another his P. jacket, and another, more ingenious than the rest, was for slinging it over his shoulders, in the seat of his old trousers. Now this appeared to be an excellent idea, but—

“Hope told a flattering tale,”

for behold, one of them had accidentally found a still better plan, and was seen hoisting his in the air, upon his fixed bayonet. The thought—

“flew like lightning 'long the line,”

and was acted upon immediately by all hands.

The cry of "shove off" "shove off" now became universal, and was at length complied with, by the commanding officer ;

" Oh ! it was a goodly sight to see,"

when they extended themselves, after the manner of naval tactics, for at least three-quarters of a mile, all along the margin of the bay, and a party of Indians encamp'd a short distance from the Fort, staring with astonishment, shook their heads, and very wisely concluded, that if the war was to be carried on in that manner, it would very soon be all up with the Yankees.

LETTER XI.

"That is all which is worth caring for, which distinguishes the death of the brave from the ignoble."

Old Mortality.

POINT AU BODET, nine miles from M'Donald's, is generally the first stage for the Canadian boatmen, but should they have a fair wind across Lake St. Francis, they invariably make the best of it, and push on as far as the River Raisin, Camerons, or even to Cornwall, a distance of thirty-seven miles from the Coteau.

A small party was stationed at

M'Ghie's Point, (Point au Bodet) whilst General Wilkinson's army lay in the Salmon River, and three gun-boats were kept constantly cruising on the Lake, until the winter, as a precautionary measure against Fort Coteau being surprised by the Americans.

Glengary, the first settlement after passing the boundary of the Upper Province, is a sufficient specimen of what may be effected by industry and perseverance. The majority of the people in Glengary speak Gallic. A French Canadian, or an Englishman, will here find as much difficulty in making himself understood, as he would in Otaheite, or any other out-of-the-way part of the world.

Here are the Donald M'Donalds, the M'Kenzies, the M'Niels, the M'Dougals, the M'Kinnons, and the M'Phersons, the Scots, the Frazers,

and the Camerons—indeed I am half inclined to think that there is not a braw hinny, “that ever wore bottomless breeks,” who could not in this said district of Glengary—if he was disposed to take a stretch across—find either his cousin or his namesake.

A Highland friend of mine, whilst quartered at Cornwall, discovered in one old woman, the person who had nursed him in his infancy. It was a droll scene enough, for the “gude wife” had no sooner clearly ascertained that her foster bairn was actually before her, than making a most affectionate spring, she caught him round the neck, and half smothered him with caresses and imperial mackaba. He had on one or two occasions afterwards, a very narrow escape of being brought to close quarters in a similar manner, in spite of the sharp look out

kept by him upon the old lady's movements.

The entrance of the River Raisin is in a deep bay on the Canadian shore. The block-house at the entrance will be seen when about three miles above M'Ghie's; and the passage from hence to Cornwall will afford ample matter for pleasure and observation.

After passing Cameron's, the Indian village of St. Regis, on the south shore, becomes an object of much interest. Here the boundary falls into the St. Lawrence, and from this point upwards, runs in the centre of that river, and through the lakes.

As this line had never been correctly described, commissioners were appointed by both powers at the cessation of hostilities for that purpose; and the British executive have spared no expense or exertion for effecting

this desirable object, and a perfect survey of the Upper Lakes. This is absolutely necessary, because in these immense inland seas, tremendous gales blow with incredible violence, and the numerous shoals and small islands, scattered in every direction, make the navigation sometimes both difficult and dangerous. In several parts of Lake Ontario there are no soundings, but by the great efforts made to keep the ascendancy upon it during the late war, this lake is better known than either of the others.

St. Regis was occupied by the American army during the winter of 1813. General Wilkinson, after the defeat of his rear division at Christler's farm, having crossed his army at Cornwall, and given up all hopes of reaching the Lower Provinces by the River St. Lawrence.

Excepting the innkeeper, and Monsieur Joseph Marcoux, the Catholic missionary, the inhabitants of this village are all Indians, or of Indian extraction. The church and houses are commodious and well built, and the priest appears to have adopted every means in his power to civilize the people, but whether they are more happy in consequence, is a question not so easily ascertained. The St. Regis Indians have advanced farther in civilization, than any other tribe in this part of North America; but generally speaking, those who have had much intercourse with their neighbours verify the old and true proverb—"Evil communications corrupt good manners"—which may be well applied in this instance.

Instead of becoming better, many of them exchange, for their native

hardihood, simplicity and bravery—indolence, pusillanimity, and all the vicious inclinations and habits of the Europeans—very few of them imbibing any of their virtues.

The Indians of the six nations, in the neighbourhood of Lake Huron, and Michilimacinac, are however a very different race of men, and the name of Tecumseth will be held in veneration as long as Canada exists.

Of all the chiefs attached to the British army during the late war, none could equal Tecumseth. He stood pre-eminent, and it is the opinion of many who knew his character, that he had a head and a heart capable of planning and executing the boldest actions imaginable. He fell mortally wounded in a skirmish with a party of American riflemen, in October, 1813, when his services in the field,

and his powerful influence over a strong body of Indian warriors, were of the greatest importance in the defence of Upper Canada.

The Indian chief Norton, likewise, rendered very valuable assistance to the British cause in Canada. After the cessation of hostilities he came with his wife and family to England, —was introduced to His present Majesty, who conferred upon him the local rank of Major in the English army. After a short stay, however, in this country, he returned to Canada, and now passes his life in retirement, near York—his literary acquirements affording him the principal source of amusement.

Mrs. Norton has considerable personal attractions, and possesses a mind and manner, that would do credit to a more exalted station.

Sackanaigh (alias Black Bird) is another chief who made himself conspicuous during the late war. He is a nephew of Tecumseth's, and appears to inherit a great deal of the bravery and warlike genius of his gallant relative.

When Capt. Miller Worsley, R.N. in September, 1814, arrived at Michilimacinac, on Lake Huron, with a few seamen in boats and canoes, from the Nottawasaga River, where he had been obliged by the superior force of the Americans to destroy H. M. S. Nancy, he found the port blockaded by Commodore Sinclair with two heavy schooners.

With that spirit of enterprize so absolutely necessary in carrying on the war upon the lakes, he immediately determined upon attacking them with the crew of the Nancy, and a party

of the Newfoundland Regiment, under Lieut. Bulger of that corps, who were placed under his directions by Colonel M'Dowal, the Commandant.

In this affair Sackanaigh, the Indian chief, accompanied Capt. Worsley as a volunteer, and evinced great gallantry.

When closing in upon the vessel under her fire, Sackanaigh was observed with his tobacco pouch, and with an apparent devotional feeling, spreading a small portion of the contents upon the lake, and to pour over the boat's side a quantity of rum. Whether this was intended to invoke the "Spirits of the Waters," I know not, neither is it of any consequence, for it was evident that the spirit was a good one, under whose influence he acted. After returning his rum bottle to its station, "Now," said he, "we

shall take her;" and, with the determination that it should be so, he was immediately afterwards one of the first to leap on board the enemy.

By reference to the Gazette it will be seen, that the action was crowned with the success it deserved—that Capt. Worsley, like Capt. Barclay and his crews on Lake Erie, with British seamen, "behaved like British seamen;" and that the conduct of the officers and men of the Newfoundland, commanded equal praise and admiration.

1841

Received of the Honble the Secretary of State
the sum of £1000 for the purchase of
the office of Secretary of State
for the Colonies
on the 1st day of January 1841
in full for the year 1841
£1000

LETTER XII.

—————"The current turns
Beneath them, from its onward course;
Some mighty, unseen barrier spurns
The vex'd tide, all foaming back;
And scarce the oars, redoubled force
Can stem the eddies whirling ~~force~~ *tide*

Lalla Rookh.

As the emigrant to Upper Canada may perhaps feel inclined to become a naturalized Indian, should a proper opportunity occur, I shall give a short account of the ceremony of initiation, as performed during the war.

Each person who intended proposing himself to the Indians, provided a trifling present, a gun being the most valued ; but above all things a bottle of rum.

With these he repaired to the spot where the Indians were encamped, and having told them the object of his visit, by means of an interpreter, a consultation was held by the chiefs, and principal warriors. This question however was soon settled, after drawing the cork of the rum bottle, that liquor having a very powerful influence in all their deliberations.

An oration was now delivered by one of the chiefs, generally expressive of their wishes, that their adopted brother should lead the life of an Indian warrior, and concluded with observations similar to these: "That as the Great Spirit has for some wise

purpose sent you across the wide lake to become an Indian, we hope that you will raise the hatchet of war with us against our enemies, and that you will teach us to revenge on them, the injuries we have sustained, &c." The name was then given to each, the presents offered in return, and the war dance commenced.

During this part of the ceremony, the whole party made one of the most hideous yells imaginable, called the war whoop, and instructed the newly initiated in the use of the tomahawk, &c. &c. At length the repeated pledges between this august family, drained to the very dregs the unfortunate bottle, which, now no longer affording them either pleasure or profit, (like a minister who has lost all influence) was kicked from

one side to the other, regardless of all former favour and affection.

The Canadian Indians are never known to molest the settlers in any way; indeed, excepting in the country above Lake Ontario, very few are to be seen, and those perfectly inoffensive. Unlike the Caffres at the Cape of Good Hope, and the aborigines of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, there is nothing disgusting, or even disagreeable in their appearance, and many of the women are exceedingly pretty.

The men have been represented as most outrageously jealous, but I do not believe that they are more so than any other people. It is however a melancholy fact, one that will scarcely bear reflecting upon, and "one that will melt even *lawyers* to

pity," that the American Indian has no more idea of a Lord Chancellor, than he has of the chief officer of the Inquisition; and knows no more of a suit in Chancery, than he does of the North-west passage.

Poor devil, he does not even know the meaning of crim. con.; totally senseless to all the charms of briefs, and refreshers; he actually lives, moves, and has his being, without the assistance of "letters and messengers," or even one solitary six-and-eightpenny, to inform him that black is not white, and vice versâ.

Now where people thus destitute, are left to follow their own ideas of right and wrong, it is not to be wondered at, that they should act promptly upon the impulse of the moment. I would therefore most strongly and seriously advise the emigrant to Upper Canada, to con-

stantly bear in mind the tenth commandment. If he does not, his blood be upon his own head, for he will be scalped to a certainty. He may rest fully assured that the only law offices of the crown, introduced to his notice, will be a scalping knife and a rifle gun; and the only brief, a round piece of lead, which will find its way through his Court of King's Bench in as short a time, as a suit in charge of one of those—who are—all—all—honourable men!!! God forgive me

* * * * *

But I have compared one of those pillars of the state, a lawyer, to a scalping knife; now I must beg one moment to explain, or I may bring down to the charge such a host of bashaws with one, two, and three tails, as will not be very easy for me to withstand. How shall I begin? Why indeed should I attempt it?

The honourable and respectable members of the profession, will rest fully assured, that this comparison can in no possible way apply to them; but the worthless and the valueless, those who persuade the poor man still farther to impoverish himself, by advising him to pursue, what they know to be merely a vain shadow, those who pervert the truth, and under the protection of their official situations, their gowns, and their big wigs, insult misfortune, and hold up to the ridicule and contempt, of a pitiless world—men far better than themselves. If any such should read these observations, and think the cap fits—they are welcome to take it, and wear it, and to enjoy it, until they are called upon in due time to receive that reward, which, from the nature of their services, they so richly deserve.

In war, the American Indians supply the place of light cavalry, in harassing a retreating enemy ; but their war cry, or war whoop, as it is generally called, is only heard in perfection by those, who, in the dead of the night, fall into an ambuscade, and these worthies are closing in upon the party pell mell. Steadiness, however, is all that is necessary, as from want of discipline they have then no chance of success. A volley or two, well and closely applied, will be found amply sufficient to make them take to their heels, and "the devil take the hindmost," will very soon afterwards be the only word of command for the runaways.

"Waybadan payshik shemagonish kitchie Manneetoo, nee wee waybenan nee yoe, Matchee Manneetoo," is part of the dead war song of one of

the tribes, and for music, it is only necessary to make the most horrible noise the human voice is capable of producing, and the original air is hit to a nicety.

We will now move on to Cornwall, a respectable town on the Canadian shore of the St. Lawrence. This may be considered the foot of the great rapids of Upper Canada, and consequently will become in a few years a place of considerable wealth and importance. The inhabitants indeed, deserve every good that can befall them, and my memory must fail me in all things, when I forget their kindness and hospitality. The Mac Leans, the Andersons, the Frenchs, and the Woods, in fact almost every individual inhabitant, appeared to vie with each other, in their generous

efforts to contribute to our comfort and accommodation.

Although Cornwall is at present only in its infancy, the town is nearly a mile in length, and the church which stands about the centre, is neat and respectable. There are several excellent houses in the place, and the neighbourhood is improving in a most extraordinary manner, hundreds of emigrants having settled near it, in what are called the back concessions.

If the emigrant should by any chance, remain a short time at Cornwall, he will be much gratified by a walk upon the line of road leading to these settlements. He will be not a little astonished at the extraordinary prospect on all sides of him, and may probably see his interest in establish-

ing himself here, instead of prosecuting his journey farther up the country. The greater part of the settlers are Scotch, but a few English and German are intermixed.

Mr. M'Donald, the catholic priest, appears to have greater influence over them than any other person. He took the field with the Glen-gary men in 1813, and fully proved, that as well as teaching them how to deserve their homes, he could likewise set them an example how to defend them.

From M'Donald's Point to Cornwall, (thirty-six miles) the navigation is uninterrupted by rapids, and a regular daily communication with Montreal, is constantly kept up by a mail-coach, which passes through Cornwall in its way up and down the country.

The next village is Mill-rush, on the north shore, five miles farther in advance, where there is a small rapid; indeed the St. Lawrence, from Cornwall upwards to the head of the Long Sault rapids, is a continuance of difficult navigation, of which it is scarcely possible to convey an idea. Although the Long Sault, the Coteau du Lac, the Cedars, the Cascades (or Split Rock) and the Montreal rapids, are great obstacles in the passage up the St. Lawrence: they afford a most extraordinary display of romantic scenery.

In passing down the river, the roar of the rapids being heard at a great distance, appears to the passenger who has never before gone through them, as if the batteaux was hurrying toward some fall of water equal to Niagara. Whenthey become visible,

the velocity of the current soon carries him into the midst of them.

It would be no specimen of cowardice in any man, if he then felt more than a common sense of danger, as should the boat broach too, or fall with her broadside to the current, nothing can save her from being swamped, and her passengers from a watery grave. To prevent such an accident, on approaching the rapids, the sail is lowered, and the boatmen rest on their oars ready to pull, right or left, as occasion may require.

In this manner, whilst surrounded by a thousand whirlpools and dangerous rocks, the batteaux is hurled forward by the mere force of the current, at the rate of fifteen miles an hour. In fact, you may be said to ride full gallop over danger, which

even to look at from the shore, appears more than commonly appalling.

The Cascade, or Split Rock Rapid, is the most dangerous; and here in 1815, a few of us had well nigh taken our departure for "that bourne from whence no traveller returns." There is an old proverb, which might perhaps be one way of accounting for the escape of some of the party, but I hate proverbs that take up the subject so quaintly, and shall therefore pass on to describe how the service had like to have been deprived of one lieutenant, three serjeants, one drum, and sixteen full privates, of his majesty's royal marine forces.

We had passed all the rapids above, with perfect safety; but on approaching the Split Rock, where the river rushes with frightful velocity round a point of land, and forces itself into a

narrow channel; our pilot appeared to have either lost all confidence in himself, or to have taken too strong a pull at the Commissary.

The batteaux was flying like lightning, in the direction of an immense vortex, caused by the recoil of the rush of the river—large enough to swallow a-line-of-battle ship.

The pilot fancied he had time to make the passage on the right, but finding this scarcely possible, he endeavoured to regain the channel on the left.

Seeing what this manœuvre would end in, and that I should never live to tell the tale, I look'd through the skylight of his mind, and clearly saw that he gave himself up for lost, and was calling upon all his red letter friends in the almanack for assistance.

Now, I should have venerated him

for this on any other occasion, but in the present instance it had quite a different effect!—it was like a starving man, instead of taking the trouble to catch the fish, waiting in the hope of seeing them jump out of the river, ready fried.

In fact, I saw clearly that it was necessary “to be up and be doing,” instead of looking for a miracle to deliver us; and consequently ordered one of the serjeants, a native of Lombardy, and a very brave and powerful man, to put the pilot out of the way, seize the oar, and assist in navigating the batteaux. The laying Jean Jacques along quietly at the bottom of the boat, was to him but the operation of a moment, and another, brought us close in with the enemy.

“Je suis perdue,” cried the Cana-

dian in an agony of fear; “ Je suis perdue;”* but it was no such thing, for we contrived to take the shock upon the quarter of the batteaux, and in two minutes—after a momentary glance to the bottom of the infernal gulph, and although the boat had half filled with water, and the oars, knapsacks, &c. were washed overboard—all hands jumped on shore, safe and sound, at the foot of the rapid.

* I am lost—I am lost.



LETTER XIII.

“Eh! Sirs! ye’re sair alter’d hinny, your face is turn’d pale, and your een are sunken,—and your bonny red and white cheeks are turn’d a’ dark and sun-burn’d.

“O weary on the wars!—many’s the comely face they destroy.”

Old Mortality.

FROM the head of the Long Sault rapids, there are but one or two trivial obstacles in the passage of the river, all the way to Kingston. The first stage by land is Ault’s Inn, fifteen miles from Cornwall; or Haine’s Inn, a few miles farther on, both of them affording very good accommodation.

A short distance in advance is Matilda. In this settlement there are a great many of Colonel Sir W. Johnson's corps, who took up arms for the mother country in the revolutionary war with America, and were afterwards given lands on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, from Glengary to Prescott.

The margin of the river upon which they were thus distributed, is now almost entirely cleared, and the intervals between each family are rapidly filling up by their numerous offspring. This is by far the most interesting settlement in British North America, if we properly associate the misfortunes, the adventures, and the characters of those who compose it. Captains Anderson, French, Robinson, M'Donald, M'Clean, and the two Frazers, are still living, and

never omit an opportunity of paying every hospitable attention to strangers.

The emigrant will, on his arrival here, be about 120 miles from Montreal, and 300 from Quebec. Augusta, Johnstown, Brockville, and Gananoqua on the Canadian, with Osnaburg and Hamilton on the American shore, are the only villages or towns visible from the St. Lawrence, until the emigrant reaches Kingston, eighty-five miles farther, on Lake Ontario.

He will find tolerable accommodation at all these places, should he travel by land; but the passage by water will be found much more agreeable from the head of the rapids.

The Canadian boatmen, five of whom generally constitute the crew of a batteaux, are guided entirely by the wind, as to the distance they go

each day, it being perfectly immaterial to them where they lay too for the night. After cooking their suppers they sleep in their boats, and a common tent will therefore be found of the greatest service to the emigrant in his passage up the river. One good enough for the purpose may be purchased in this country for £2., and will afterwards be found of twice that value, either to be cut up into boat sails, or to transmogrify into an elegant real, mock Turkey carpet, for his very best drawing room.

Great numbers of emigrants have, within the last ten years, settled in the concessions (as the New Townships are called), at the back of Johnstown, Prescot, and Brockville.

The latter place was named in remembrance of General Brock, who

fell on the 18th Oct., 1812, whilst gallantly leading on his men to the charge, in the battle of Queenstown. He was buried at Fort George, and as a proof how much he was beloved in Canada, and how sincerely his loss was felt by the people, and how anxious they are to perpetuate his memory, it is only necessary to remark, that Brock is now a christian name common amongst them for their children.

Fort Wellington, in the village of Prescott, lies immediately opposite Osnaburg. The former was a post of considerable importance during the war, the river being here not more than three quarters of a mile broad, and frozen over during the winter, ten minutes is sufficient for an invading army to cross the frontier.

In 1812, Lieut. Colonel M'Donald,

the Commandant, was in the constant practice of exercising the garrison upon the ice, between Fort Wellington and the Osnaburg batteries. His repeated appearance for this purpose only, lulled the Americans into an idea of security, which was no sooner clearly ascertained by the British officer, than he determined on a coup de main.

After making the necessary arrangements, the garrison, with the militia of the district, paraded as usual on the ice, moved forward in double quick time, and in less than half an hour, were in full possession of the place. A treaty was then agreed upon, by which the Osnaburgers bound themselves not to admit an American force within the precincts of the town, during the remainder of the war, under the pe-

nalty of having it blown about their ears by the guns of Fort Wellington.

When General Wilkinson descended the St. Lawrence, in the November of the following year, with 5000 men, in thirteen gun boats, and 300 scows and batteaux, he landed his cavalry and a strong detachment of infantry at Johnstown, having passed Fort Wellington in the night, under a fire from the garrison. A few days afterwards, however, instead of attacking the Fort as was expected, he again pursued his route toward the Lower Province.

Lieutenant Colonel Morrison immediately followed him with a corps of observation, consisting of detachments of the 89th, 49th, Canadian Fencibles, and about fifty Indians, with two light six pounders, and a few Royal Artillerymen, in all

about 900 men. Captain Mulcaster, R. N., was ordered by Sir James Yeo, the naval Commander in Chief, to co-operate, with the small vessels and gun-boats from Lake Ontario.

On coming up with the rear-guard of the Americans, they harassed them with great success, until the 3d December, when the American General Boyd faced about near Christlers Farm, (a name from henceforth memorable in Canadian history), with about 2,500 men, determined to try their mettle; but after a severe action of two hours, he was defeated, with a severe loss in killed and wounded. Two highly respectable and gallant young Canadian officers, fell in this affair, Captain Nairn, and Lieutenant De Lorimer.

It must at all times be a gratifying task, to record the actions of the brave, whether friends or foes, let me

therefore not forget to mention also, the American General Codrington, who fell, mortally wounded, at the head of his brigade, whilst conspicuously mounted upon a white horse—he was making every exertion to secure the success of the day.

Would to God that the two nations could for ever remain at peace with each other!—Would to God it were possible for ever to avoid again rousing up those feelings of hatred and enmity, which make men, speaking the same language, enjoying the same laws and customs, and sprung from the same fathers, so anxiously endeavour to destroy each other.

War with any nation on the Continent of Europe, is preferable to a war with America. The appearance of a thousand men lying wounded in the field after an action, if they speak a

language foreign to our ear, will not excite half that sympathy felt for one wounded American. It is true we hear their groans, and it will be no disgrace to a man, if his heart inwardly bleeds at witnessing their agony whilst administering to their wants. But this is nothing—in America after an action, sounds of distress strike upon the ear, which immediately annihilate every feeling of animosity.

Take up a man mortally wounded, speaking as we speak, and thinking as we think, he will, as it were naturally, rest his head upon your shoulder, as upon that of a brother. He will talk to you of his family and of his home, and whilst the film of death is fast spreading over his eye, he will endeavour to express his gratitude, by faintly pressing the hand held out to his assistance.

The last sentence, the last request quivering upon the lip (every word of which is felt and understood), will force upon the mind a thousand thoughts and sensations not possible to be described ; and I am not ashamed to confess, that so situated, I have called upon the Almighty to shower down the curse of eternal perdition upon all those, who either in their madness or their folly, had occasioned the war between the two countries.



LETTER XIV.

“Thae whigamore bullets ken unco little discretion, and will just as soon knock out the life of a psalm-singing auld wife, as a swearing dragoon.” *Old Mortality.*

TWENTY-FOUR miles below Kingston, the Gananoqua River falls into the St. Lawrence. There is a good inn here, and on an eminence is a block-house, which was attacked in 1812 by a detachment of American light troops, who were repulsed. In this affair an old lady in the neigh-

bourhood was seriously wounded near the hip by a musket-shot, whilst assisting in the defence of the place; and if this heroine is still in the land of the living, the emigrant who has an introduction to her will observe, that in consequence of this unmannerly ball, striking her so hard upon the tender, she is no longer able—

“ To trip it on the light fantastic toe.”

In short, he will see that her dancing days are over, and that in these “ piping times of peace” she must now content herself, like Donna Clara of Saragossa, in shouldering her crutch to “ show how fields were won.”

During the war, Gananoqua was the rendezvous for the flotilla of gun-boats, under the command of Captain C. C. Owen, R.N. employed convoy-

ing the brigades of batteaux up and down the River St. Lawrence. The Lake of the Thousand Islands is just below Gananoqua, and upon one of them, on the 4th of Dec. 1814, I was obliged to take up my quarters for the night. I had left Kingston Hospital on leave of absence for the Lower Province, having been previously an invalid on board H.M.S. Princess Charlotte, (now the Kingston) for several months. To the friendship and kindness of Captain Edward Collier who commanded her, I consider myself indebted for the preservation of my life; and no words of mine can convey anything like an adequate sense of the gratitude I feel to him, who, in the hour of extremity, afforded me every comfort, with that generosity and kindness of heart, so conspicuous in his character.

I left Kingston in company with a son of Colonel M'Donald of Matilda, who had been serving with the Nova Scotia Fencibles as a volunteer, and I remember our batteaux was manned by invalid soldiers of the 103d regiment. The first night we arrived at a small island above Gananoqua, which the emigrant will observe on his left, in passing up the River St. Lawrence. Seven or eight men, employed in rafting timber from the saw mills, up to Kingston dock-yard, had already taken possession of the only log hut, which was divided into two rooms. One of these was occupied by the family, so that when my party of six, was added to the number, it became very little better than the celebrated black-hole of Calcutta. Sleeping in the boat, in the open air, would have proved a fatal experiment,

the winter having set in ; we therefore wrapt ourselves in our buffaloe skins for the night, determined to make the best of it.

At day-break the following morning, we were awoke by our fellow navigators, who appeared in great apprehension of being obstructed in their passage up the river by the ice, which now began to float down the stream in solid masses, or to spread its brittle barrier across, from shore to shore. Having nearly the same prospect before us as the lumber-men, we started as soon after, as possible, and reached Down's Inn, at Gananoqua, by ten o'clock. Here we expected to find some Canadian, or Indian, capable of piloting the batteaux down the river, and through the great rapids, as far as Cornwall, where I purposed remaining a short

time, after leaving my friend M'Donald at Matilda. In this, however, we were disappointed, and were obliged to proceed without a pilot, still indulging the hope of reaching Matilda, where one might possibly be found, for the remainder of the voyage.

This was only a plan, and like many other plans, appeared to be formed merely to be frustrated. As we approached the Lake of the Thousand Islands, where the river divides into numerous channels, we saw clearly, that the odds were nearly a thousand to one, against our being able to carry it into effect. We were likewise well aware that had the ice intercepted us in our course, we must all have either died from want; been frozen to death in the batteaux, or perchance have been taken prisoners by the Ameri-

cans. One of these disasters had very nearly happened ; for when completely bewildered as to which was the proper channel, with the evening fast closing in upon us, one of the soldiers was suddenly taken very ill, and the rest of the party (excepting Mr. M'Donald) being invalids, appeared totally incapable of bearing fatigue or exertion. In addition to other difficulties, the wind which had hitherto favoured us, now died away, and the only chance of escape therefore, appeared to be, putting the boat's head round, and getting clear of the islands.

There is nothing like necessity to make people, in cases of life and death, exert their strength and ingenuity ; and as necessity was commanding officer on this occasion, the lame, the sick, and the convale-

scent manned the oars, and gave weigh cheerily against the current. This severe labour however, soon rendered another of the soldiers perfectly useless, and the remainder in a short time after, were in a situation nearly as deplorable.

We lay upon our oars, anxiously listening to catch some sound of human habitation, but darkness had already spread her sable wing over the whole face of nature, and nothing was to be heard through the stillness of the night, but the wild rush of the river round a distant headland, when Providence—whose extraordinary interpositions are so often manifest, especially in the lives of most men moving about the world—afforded us that relief of which we had began to despair. A feeble light, suddenly glimmering through the woods on the

Canadian shore, gave us renewed hope; with renewed strength we directed our exertions toward it, and after a severe struggle against the current, succeeded in making a landing close to the light.

The settler, whose solitary taper had served us as a beacon, came down to the beach, and assisted in removing the sick men into his house. Our worthy host possessed a humane disposition, and his wife was likewise a kind-hearted creature; they therefore immediately busied themselves in preparing the best supper their humble means afforded, and after partaking of it, we once more rolled ourselves in our blankets and buffaloe skins, hoping to enjoy something like comfortable repose.

But as before, we were here like-

wise all in one room, and as the soldier who was taken so seriously ill in the early part of the night, had now become much worse, the necessity of constantly attending to him, prevented the possibility of closing my eyes the whole of the night. It was in vain that I wished for sleep—

“Great Nature's second course
To steep my senses in forgetfulness.”

“The dread of being again awaked, was always uppermost in my imagination, and so incessantly stept in between me, and the first balmy pre-
sage of repose, as to rob me of the whole sweets of it.”* .

The next morning, the ice had apparently set in for the winter, and we

* Sterne.

were consequently obliged to give up all idea of proceeding farther down the river, in a batteaux manned by invalids. We therefore returned it to the storekeeper at Gananoqua, and the sick men, I gave in charge of the medical officer at that post.

The two following days and nights, it blew violently, again breaking up the ice, and in consequence a batteaux from Kingston, belonging to the house of M'Kay and Kirby, made its appearance. The former being on board, very kindly offered a passage for myself, servant, and baggage, which I gladly accepted, my friend M'Donald having gone on to Matilda by land the day previous.

The Hon. George Markland, Captain Cartwright of the Canadian Fencibles, Lieutenant Coleman, R.N.

and an officer of provincial light dragoons were of the party, and from them I received every attention, and was safely landed at the place of my destination.

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LETTER XV.

Ontario's ample breast is still,
And silence walks the distant hill,
And summer barks are gently gliding
Where lately yonder war towers riding
Seem'd like leviathans to load
The bosom of the groaning flood.

Hall's Canada.

WE have now advanced very nearly eight hundred miles into the interior of British North America, and have been guided all along this extraordinary line of country, by the marks of civilization and improvement. But, if the interest, and astonishment, of the emigrant, has been excited by what

he has already seen, how shall I describe his feelings, when he arrives at what may very properly be considered, the source of the mighty river, which has borne him this immense distance from the ocean; and to which the most magnificent in Europe are in comparison, but mere rivulets and summer streams.

As the batteaux strikes in between two small islands, under the heights of Point Henry, he will be presented with a distant prospect of Lake Ontario, two hundred miles long, and sixty miles in width. Above him, on his right, he will observe Fort Henry, the principal land defence of the town and harbour of Kingston; and on rounding the point upon which it stands, he will see the dock-yard and naval arsenal upon Point Frederick, with the old sea lions laying along

the wharfs, tame, harmless, and motionless.

The hulls of the fleet, upon which the safety of Upper Canada in a great measure depended, during the late war, now lie basking in the sunshine of public favour and protection, like the remnant of officers, seamen, and marines, who once composed their crews. In order to convey some idea of the magnitude of the British naval force and power in this inland sea, it is only necessary to observe, that had the late war with the United States continued another year, we should have had one ship of 112 guns, two ships of 74, one of 64, one of 44, two of 24, three of 18, and two of 10 guns, with from 30 to 40 gun-boats. The American naval force would have been no doubt fully equal, as their facilities of equipment were much

more numerous. The French had a military post on Point Henry in 1672, which they called Fort Frontinac, from the governor, whose name was likewise given by them, to the Lake Ontario. The River St. Lawrence, was at that time called the Catarauqui, or Iroquois, and this name it still retains in several of the maps.

Kingston is a place of extraordinary importance in the warlike operation for the defence of Canada; and as such, landed property in the town, and its immediate vicinity, is of great value; indeed, for nearly one hundred miles, to the right and left of it, there is now very little land remaining worth having, to be obtained by grant from the crown.

The late war did more for Kingston, and the country round it, than fifty years of the quiet sort of life the

inhabitants enjoyed previous could have done. The vast sums circulated by the public establishments, past into the coffers of the merchants, who again distributed a portion of them in the neighbourhood. Many fortunes were made by the persevering and industrious, and since the cessation of hostilities, these have necessarily tended to the general improvement of the country.

There can be little doubt, but that in the event of another contest with the United States, Kingston being the naval depôt of the upper country, will be the grand point of attack, should that power gain a temporary ascendancy on the lakes; but as long as the Upper Canadians are true to the cause, and as long as Forts Henry, Frederick, and the town, are well garrisoned, "the

tug of war" may last for ever, without the Americans having the least chance of success.

From Kingston to York, a distance of one hundred and forty miles, thousands of settlers are now, not only establishing themselves around the margin of the Lake Ontario, but all the way to Detroit, two hundred and sixty-five miles farther in advance. In this part of Upper Canada, there still remains tens of thousands of acres of unappropriated land, open for the occupation of settlers. The land above York is much easier cleared than is the lower districts of the Upper Province, and the climate better suited to agriculture. A particular account of the settlements above York is unnecessary, as the generality of emigrants, will now be quite far enough from home, both for

their pockets and their future views, in establishing themselves in Upper Canada.

Throughout the Upper Province, from Matilda upwards, a certain smattering of Yankee gentlemantility will be observed, not a little amusing to the new comer. "You are pretty tolerable this morning, Squire, I guess." "I thank you Mister, I calculate I am." "Mister," said a serjeant of a working party; "Mister, will you help the gentleman at the other end of the log, I guess it will be a main considerable sight heavier to fix than they calculate"—and so on; for it should be recollected that the familiar terms of Tom, Dick, or Harry, are generally swallowed up in the more refined "Squire," and "Mister," of their neighbours over the water. These and other eccen-

tricies however, in the character of the Upper Canadians, may probably be accounted for in that importance which every man naturally attaches to himself, who feels that he is only obliged to Providence and his own exertions for all the comfort he enjoys. This feeling, in fact, must influence all classes of society; and where a man in better circumstances than the generality of those who compose the society in which he lives, sees that each person belonging to it is perfectly independent, not only of him, but of all the world, he cannot but regulate his conduct accordingly. This may occasion in a great measure, that familiar address and intercourse which will at first appear so perfectly extravagant and ridiculous. Should it be said that this peculiarity of manner has its origin solely in the inter-

course between the subjects of the two powers, I can only reply, that *I hope this will be the only consequence, of having such hordes of emigrant Americans, spread over every part of Upper Canada in the event of another war. Experience teacheth knowledge!!*

In Canada, as in every other country, society is cursed with a proportion of those grumbling croakers, who in passing through life, see nothing but what excites in their hearts every kind of miserable feeling. For them, nature pours out in vain her bountiful horn of plenty; and to them, the land although covered with waving corn, and the richest fruits of autumn, is but a dreary wilderness. No sooner has the emigrant arrived in the neighbourhood of the new settlements, than he will probably be attacked by some of these dogs in the

manger, who would willingly make him as wretched and as unhappy as themselves.

They will tell him that he ought to have remained in England, that the land is barren, the climate horrible, and the people thieves. That they have toiled in vain to make the former bring forth its increase; that the extremes of heat and cold is worse to live in than purgatory; and their French Canadian neighbours worse than any devils. But let the emigrant rest fully assured that the very contrary is the fact, and that those who express such opinions, are exactly such people as we have alluded to, in considering who ought, and who ought not to decide on emigrating.

Can it be rationally expected, that those whose occupations have kept them confined in large cities and

manufacturing towns, should all at once become good husbandmen? That those who scarcely know a plough-share, from a plough coulter, should all at once be able to till the ground with the same advantage as regular bred farmers? Certainly not, and it is folly to expect it; but as the mind of man is actively alive on all occasions to find some plausible excuse, for every kind of mental, and bodily incapacity, so these people abuse the land, and the climate, and the inhabitants, for what, in fact, arises solely from their own want of resolution, knowledge, and experience.

These observations are, however, not necessary as cautions to the emigrant farmer. He will see in passing up the country, that the soil of Canada, is equal to any in the world:

but that of those who occupy it, and who profess to cultivate it, from their peculiar situation and previous occupation, a great number are about the very worst farmers he ever saw in his life.

As a sensible man, he will not allow any gloomy picture presented to his view, by such people, to produce in his mind a dread of the future. Before he embarks, he will do well to consider seriously, what he is about to undertake, and to gather every grain of useful information, to enable him to decide how far it is desirable for him to emigrate; but when he has decided, and is arrived in the new country which he has adopted as his future home, let no childish vapouring then shake him from his purpose. Let him rather cherish the determination to persevere, and trust in

Providence, for enabling him to overcome all obstacles. Let him constantly bear in mind that—

**“ The wise and active conquer difficulties
By daring to attempt them. Sloth and folly
Shiver and shrink at sight of toil and hazard,
And make the impossibilities they fear.”**

1871
The following is a list of the
names of the persons who
were present at the
meeting of the
Board of Directors
of the
Company held on
the 1st day of
January 1871.

LETTER XVI.

"Don't attempt to succour me if you see me go down, but keep at the head of your men; get off as you can in God's name, and tell the King, and the Council, I died in my duty."

Claverhouse, in O!2 Mortality.

ABOUT sixty miles above Kingston is Sandy Creek, a small village and Inlet, on the American shore of Lake Ontario. On the 30th May, 1814, a division of British seamen and marines appeared off this place in pursuit of a convoy, laden with stores for the American fleet, in Sacketts Harbour.

Although the entrance of the creek was scarcely pistol shot across, and completely commanded by sand hills; yet the capture or destruction of these stores was considered to be of such importance as fully to warrant an attempt to cut them out; accordingly the boats pulled in, leaving the Cleopatra mounting one long twenty-four pounder, and a sixty eight-pound carronade amid-ships, at the entrance, to cover their retreat in case of accidents.

The Americans, however, had had ample time to prepare for their reception: with a force consisting, of part of a rifle regiment, a strong body of Indians, and militia, their commanding officer took possession of the sand hills, and a line of hedge, which enfiladed the shore.

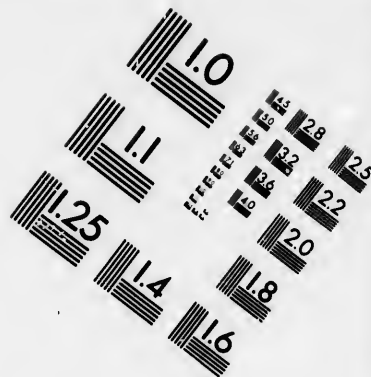
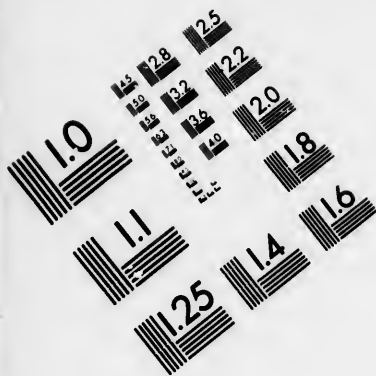
From this position they kept an incessant, and destructive fire upon

the British detachment that had landed, and was forming upon the beach; and it soon became evident, that the capture of the convoy was not possible, whilst defended by numbers so superior, and so advantageously posted.

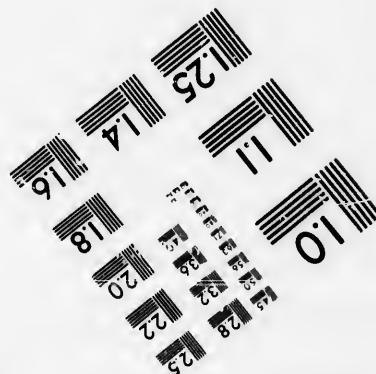
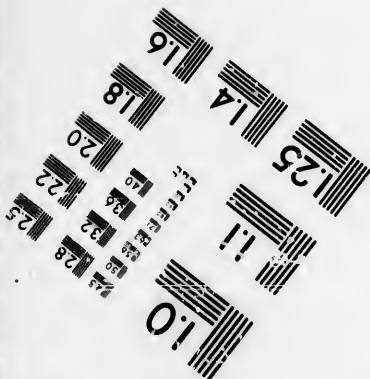
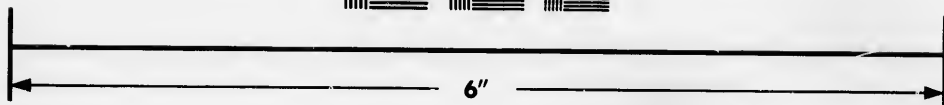
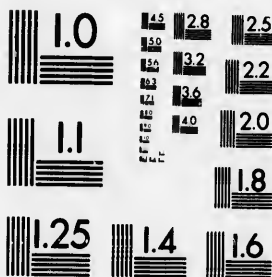
It being absolutely necessary to recover possession of the sand hills, in order to secure a retreat; the marines under the command of Lieutenant Thomas Sherlock Cox made the attempt with the bayonet, but were repulsed; this officer with his gallant companion Lieutenant M'Veagh, of the same corps, (who accompanied him from the squadron, as a volunteer) being mortally wounded.

The Americans now advanced in all directions, and either killed, wounded, or succeeded in taking prisoner,





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every man of the division, consisting of nine officers, and two-hundred of the best men in the fleet; in this they were actively supported by the Indians, who seeing the fate of the marines, rushed down upon their victims, with their usual horrible shrieks. Poor Cox who was down, and totally incapable of resistance, called to a marine to protect him from their merciless tomahawks, and at the hazard of his own life, this man undertook the charge, and bravely stood by him, until he was himself felled to the earth by the butt end of a rifle. At this moment, however, an American officer came up — “who have we here?” cried he; “is this a commissioned officer?” “He is a lieutenant of British Marines,” replied the prisoner; “then I will protect him myself, and see that he is properly taken care of”

said the American; which generous determination he carried into effect, and for it I earnestly pray—that should the chance of war at any future time throw him into the hands of an enemy, under similar circumstances, he may meet some one ready to shelter and protect him, and to return a ten-fold portion of the kindness shown by him on this occasion to my lamented friend.

The Americans carried Lieutenant M'Veagh, to Sacketts harbour, where he died a few days after, and was buried with military honours. But the wounds of Lieutenant Cox were immediately seen to be decidedly mortal; he was therefore only removed to a house in the neighbourhood. Here the naval commanding officer, now his fellow prisoner, whose natural contempt of all danger, when put

in competition with the good of the service, had led him to decide on the attack, soon after visited him. "This is an unfortunate affair Cox," said he. "It is" replied my friend, "but it is only what might have been expected." "If you thought so," rejoined the other, "why did you not give it as your opinion?" "Because," replied the expiring hero, "I would rather die, as I am about to die, than have said a word to induce you to retreat." This was indeed a reason worthy of the gallant heart that uttered it, and which on all occasions of the kind, had prompted him to act with the same conspicuous bravery.

Although only in the twenty-fifth year of his age, he had seen much service in various parts of the world; particularly when belonging to his Majesty's ship *Neried*, Capt. N. Wil-

loughby, in the East Indies; where he was severely wounded, and taken prisoner by the French in 1809.

Besides the recommendation of having seen service, he possessed the highest and noblest ideas of honour, and devotion to the service of his country; indeed, if in his last moments he had felt regret at the early fate that had befallen him, it would have been, that he fell in a paltry skirmish; the particulars of which would be scarcely known in his native country—that instead of dying in action, amidst the animating shouts of victory, he was doomed again to be severely wounded, again to fall thus wounded into the hands of the enemy, and at last to die, “unhonoured and unsung.”

Unhonoured did I say? all those who knew him, will cherish, and

revere his memory, and will be proud to imitate his conduct;—but “as the young and verdant olive which a man hath reared with care, is fair and flourishing, when the sudden blast of a whirlwind roots it out from its bed, and strikes it in the dust;” so has he fallen, and a humble solitary grave, covered with green sods, in this obscure village, on the borders of Lake Ontario, now shelters the mortal remains of one, who, had he been spared to his country, and his friends, would by his future actions have deserved a monument of everlasting fame.

Poor Tom! my brave, my gallant friend! how true was the mournful presentiment of my mind, when seated by the side of my couch, you administered that relief, which you were yourself destined, a very few

hours after to require from the humanity of strangers ; when you kindly took my hand, bade me be of good cheer, and said that all would soon be well ; I already felt in imagination the near approach of death, and would have given worlds for the chance of meeting it by thy side but although within hearing of the musketry, whose distant volleys sounded upon my shattered nerves, like the death-knell of every hope in life—I could not succour thee,—I could not rescue thee. An inscrutable Providence had ordained it otherwise, and I was doomed to feel an aching void, nearest to my heart, which no other object, time, or circumstance, can ever alleviate or remove.

Stranger,—he was my friend, in the truest, and noblest sense of the word ; and if I have one regret, beyond that

of having lost him, for ever, it is, that I cannot here do justice to his memory.

Though years have rolled over my head since this disastrous affair, and these years too, have been years of much bitterness, and mental suffering; this painful remembrance still remains the most deeply rooted in my mind, and in my heart, and I now fondly anticipate the time, when during the remainder of my life, I shall be able annually to visit his grave, to plant and nourish over it the evergreen laurel, the brightest emblem of valour, and finally to cause myself to be laid in death, near him, who, in life, I valued as a friend, more than any other person on the face of the earth.

LETTER XVII.

—————Hail ye Sons
Of rural toil,—ye blooming daughters!—ye
Who, in the lap of hardy labour rear'd
Enjoy the mind unspotted!—

Progress of Liberty.

THE emigrant on his arrival at Kingston, should again take a serious review of his means. He will now have been quite long enough in Canada, if at all observant, to be able to form some idea of it. Upon these gleanings of information, and his resources, he must himself decide on the ultimate extent of his journey, as it is

totally impossible for any person to decide for him. One man may do well in one place, and be totally unfit for another, and it would be perfect nonsense for any person to say to such, and such individuals, "so far shalt thou go, and no farther." I do not pretend to such extraordinary knowledge, and therefore shall only endeavour to afford such general information, as may assist the emigrant in coming to a correct, and advantageous conclusion, as to what part of the Country is best suited to his own peculiar circumstances, and situation. It is a common practice in both the provinces, to let cleared, or as they are called, improved farms, upon shares, viz. the whole farming stock, and implements being provided by the landlord, he receives in return, as rent and payment for hire, a half, or

one third, of every kind of produce. This is in some cases an advantage to a respectable man, who wishes to farm in the immediate vicinity of a large town, and who has but a small capital to commence with. On arriving at Quebec, Montreal, or Kingston, the emigrant will see numerous advertisements, for the letting of farms of this description, as well as several for sale, or to be let, without the stock, &c. &c. after the same manner as in this country. In cases of sale, the principal is generally allowed to remain on mortgage for several years the interest, and a small installment annually, being only required from the purchaser. Should he arrive at either of those places late in the year, and see any desirable property to be let on advantageous terms, he had perhaps better take the opportu-

nity of settling himself immediately. This need not interfere with his ultimate views, which can be promoted more advantageously, after residing a year or two in the country.

By such an arrangement, he will gradually become acquainted with the climate, soil, and advantages of the different districts, and whilst his rented farm is producing a sufficient support for himself, and his family, he can take some convenient opportunity of making a journey of observation. Should he have any one in his family, capable of managing in his absence, he might even take up his land, build his log-house, and clear a sufficient number of acres for their support, before he removes them upon it.

To the generality of emigrants who arrive early in the spring, I should

however say, "lose no time in taking up your land, and settling upon it, in the first instance, in preference to every other."

As in every other country newly settled, the emigrant to Canada must expect to meet difficulties in the education of his family. In Montreal and Quebec, there are seminaries for the youth of both sexes, equal to any private schools in England. At Cornwall, Brockville, Kingston, and York, schools are likewise established, but from the comparative smallness of these places, the advantages they present are far inferior.

In religious matters likewise, the Upper Canadians are in some of the newly settled townships, equally unfortunate; in fact, a very short time since, whole districts were totally destitute of every kind of scholastic

assistance, or religious instruction. As this presents rather a frightful prospect, it requires the serious consideration of the emigrant, who possesses respectable means for providing nearer the principal towns for the mental and personal comforts of himself and his family.

The generality of emigrants however, must make up their minds to experience many privations, and difficulties for a few years, and these among the number. They need not on this account be dispirited; hundreds and thousands whose views and hopes are similar to their own, will soon establish themselves around them. They will not long be debarred the gratification of publicly returning thanks in the company of others equally obliged, to that great omnipotent Power, who has led them in

safety through the perils of the deep, and who now, in the immense forests of a new world, spreads over them the shield of his almighty protection.

The emigrant must constantly nourish serious and religious reflection, he must, in all things,

“Look through nature, up to nature’s God,

in order constantly to maintain that resolution of heart, so necessary for one, thrown as it were entirely upon himself.* I care not of what persuasion he calls himself, for this is of little moment, provided he possesses that quiet satisfaction of mind, arising from the consciousness of feeling as

* To have made this the habitual sentiment of our minds, is to have laid the foundation of every thing which is religious. The world from thence becomes a temple, and life itself one continued act of adoration.

Dr. Paley.

he ought to feel, and of acting as he ought to act, toward all mankind, as far at least, as the real infirmities of his nature will permit him. "Pure and undefiled religion is of no sect, whatever garb it wears, and whatever may be the denomination of the sincere, and faithful believer in Christ, let us in him acknowledge a Brother. Hearts may agree, though heads differ; there may be unity of spirit, if not of opinion; and it is always an advantage to entertain a favourable opinion of those who differ from us in religious sentiments. It tends to nourish Christian charity."

The average number of emigrants landed at Quebec the last nine years, exceed 7000 annually, a great proportion of whom are settled in the Scotch settlements on the Tay, and in

the neighbourhood of Glengary. On the Rice Lake below York, several naval officers have taken up their grants, and are actively clearing away their land. The following official letter will show to officers of the army and navy, the grants to which they are entitled, in virtue of their services and commissions.

Downing Street, Colonial Department.

SIR,

I am directed by Lord Bathurst to acquaint you in reply to your letter of the that government do not give any encouragement to military and naval officers, proceeding as settlers to North America beyond a grant of land, proportioned to their rank in His Majesty's service, which they will receive on applying to the

governor of the Colony, according to the undermentioned scale.—

Lieutenant Colonel 1200 Acres.

Major - - - 1000

Captain - - - 800

Subaltern - - - 500

subject always to the conditions of actual residence, and cultivation of the land assigned to them, within a limited period. Passages are not granted by government,

I am, Sir,

&c. &c. &c.

This does not mean that the officer shall be bound to reside during the whole of his life upon his land, but that he should actually be in North America in the first instance, and perform the location duties of his grant, before he is entitled to the fee simple of it from the Crown. No

comment is necessary on the justice of this measure, because nothing is more baneful to society at large, in any country, than large tracts of land held by non-residents: in Canada if this system was encouraged, the most valuable districts would soon fall into the hands of land speculators, who would in consulting their own private interests, sacrifice the happiness and prosperity of the community at large.

In every district is a land board, whose duty it is to attend to the settlers who make application, the Secretary or some official person being always in attendance, to give such information as may be required. All these things are necessarily much better arranged now, than they were immediately after the war, between America and this country.

I happened to be at Montreal, when the first party of Scotch arrived for

the new settlement of Perth, and never shall I forget the joyful, and happy countenances, of the whole group. They had been long enough in smooth water, to recover from the effects of the voyage, and

“Hope the great nurse of life,”

had evidently administered the balmy cup of pleasing anticipation. Already in idea, had they taken possession of their land; already had they sown their crops, and already had a bountiful Providence granted them independence.

It was in fact a gratifying sight, and in a sincere wish for their welfare, I remember shaking one or two of the party heartily by the hand, and bidding them welcome to a country, where I was sure they would soon become useful members of society, deserving all the assistance, and protection of the government, which in re-

turn, they would be ready and willing to defend at a future time, should circumstances render it necessary.

The township of Perth was first settled in 1816, under the superintendance of Lieutenant Colonel M'Donnell, an officer who had distinguished himself on various occasions during the war, and it was first occupied by disbanded soldiers, and emigrants from Scotland. The latter however soon became the most numerous, and the townships of Richmond, Lanark, North Sherbroke, Ramsay, and Beckwith, have all since been partially located and settled.

A reference to the map will show, that the direction of these new settlements is nearly due north, toward the Ottawa River, and it should be fully understood, that it is through this line of country, that the great military

road is making, which is to connect Kingston with Montreal. From the ready communication which the small inland Lakes, rivers, and canals, afford between these places, from the character and description of the people, and from every other circumstance, I consider these districts or the vicinity, by far the most desirable for those who wish to settle in the upper province.

The steam vessel which runs from La Chine across Lake St. Louis, will take emigrants up the Ottawa, and if they purpose settling in either of the above townships, they will find it much better to proceed up that river, as far as point Nepean, which is about twenty miles from Richmond, than to go by the way of the St. Lawrence, to Brockville.

LETTER XVIII.

_____ forests wild
And Oceans multitudinous unfold
Their wonders to his gaze!—Then why should man
Creep like a reptile,—fearful to explore
The page of human knowledge?

Progress of Liberty.

It should be especially borne in mind, that an elevated spot, near a river, or lake, is preferable to all others; indeed no great progress can be made in a new country where there are no roads, unless the settler has a water communication with the districts already

cleared. He should be most anxious on this account, and if he can obtain a point of land, he will find it preferable to a bay.

To those who know nothing about the woods of America, and the West Indies, it may appear perfectly ridiculous to say, that the greatest pest in Canada are the Musquitos, but such is the fact. I have often been lost in amazement, at the patience of the settlers, in the back concessions and bays, in the months of July, and August, when myriads of these insects attack them without mercy, night and day. A thousand times have I wished for the same volume of curses of the good Bishop Enulphus, with which the enraged Doctor Slop damned the unfortunate Obadiah, to excommunicate these blood thirsty intruders, but it was of no avail, and

in spite of all the philosophy I could muster, I have more than once been fairly beat out of the field.

That part of the country which is tolerably clear of wood, as well as headlands, running into lakes or rivers are free from this annoying pestilence, the constant breeze, either soon entirely destroys, or obliges them to shift their quarters, to places of greater security.

In Quebec and Montreal, however, musquitos are very little known. Olive oil rubbed over the parts exposed is a preventive, but which by the way I am inclined to think, must be all over the body; indeed, if I was to use the traveller's privilege, I should say, that a thorough bred Yankee musquito would bite through a two inch board. If the emigrant is obliged

to pass a night in a bay, amongst these gentry, he had better close the doors and windows, and smoke four or five cigars: this sort of fumigation will very soon make them dance about merrily, and join in a sort of bacchanalian concert, after which they fall to the ground senseless, and remain in that state, until the rays of the morning sun, calls them to new life, and the traveller from his repose.

The most general complaint in Upper Canada is fever and ague, and very few new comers, who settle above Cornwall, are fortunate enough to escape the particular attentions of this great patron of the shakers.

Very soon after taking up his land, if it be in a swampy or low situation, and exposing himself to the heat of the sun by day, and the fogs

by night, he will find himself taken by the hand by this powerful demon of the woods and lakes. He may indeed think himself lucky, who avoids his greetings; for with fear and trembling, I remember he well nigh shook the soul of me out of its skeleton habitation.

I found it was of no use trying to give him the cut positive, after he had introduced himself; or by riding full gallop into the woods to avoid an interview, neither of these would do; for like a determined highwayman, he stopped me in my career, tumbled me in quick time out of the saddle, and threatened my very life, for having attempted to escape him.

After being afflicted with this complaint for several months, I was

at last cured by eating a double ration of venison steaks for breakfast, a very comfortable sort of remedy, which I beg leave to recommend, in preference to any thing that can be administered, by any of those worthy gentlemen, who bleed for their country.

Whilst speaking of the faculty, with all due reverence I trust, I must not forget to notice, the great scarcity of medical men throughout the whole of Upper Canada; it is no uncommon thing to see an M. D. A. I. making a journey of thirty or forty miles, to enquire after the health of his patients; his cutting and carving apparatus, with the contents of a small chemist's shop, crammed into a leathern bag, banging away upon the ribs of his favourite Rosinante.

There is a kind of dysentery experienced by some people in the Upper Country, occasioned by drinking the lake waters. These are all perfectly fresh, but flowing, as they do, through such an immense extent of country, they become impregnated with the vast quantities of decayed vegetable substances, swept away in their course. This however, is in reality of no consequence, as there are plenty of good springs; and indeed even if there was not this advantage, that man deserves to be shot, who would drink bad water alone, in a country where good whiskey is to be had for eighteen pence per gallon.

There is no other complaint prevalent in Upper Canada; the inhabitants of the lower province, are as robust, and as healthy, as any people in the world; the stoves, and wood

fires, which are kept burning night as well as day, during the whole of the winter, give them a pallid sickly look ; but the emigrant will not be long in the country before he sees that they are quite the contrary.

When he sees them running along by the side of their sleighs over the ice with their bosoms open, and exposed to all the inclemency of the weather, he will begin to think that habit alone could not produce such extraordinary hardihood ; but that nature has given them a thickness of skin, and a constitutional vigour, suited to the climate of the country in which they live.

The traveller who passes through Canada for the first time at this season of the year, will begin to feel somewhat nervous, when his driver instead of rounding a deep and circuitous bay

upon terra firma, urges his horses with the greatest *sang froid*, right over the bank of the river or lake, and makes directly across the ice for some land mark in his route, probably ten, fifteen or even twenty miles distant, over a depth of water sufficient to float a seventy-four gun ship. Two horses abreast will move him, and three others, with their light baggage, along at the rate of nine miles an hour.

Like every other description of difficulty, the cold experienced in Canada has been represented as much more severe than it really is, indeed some people imagine it to be almost beyond human endurance: the fact is, that although the cold at night and at the dawn of day, in the depth of winter is terribly severe, for those exposed to its effects, still to those

who are able to remain within doors until day-light, and provide against it, by good wood fires, it is a personal inconvenience not worth thinking of for a moment. I remember several persons, who for two or three winters in Upper Canada, scarcely ever wore a great coat during the day, and in this description of the climate I shall be fully borne out by the evidence of many. Those who know that country, will remember the extraordinary brightness and warmth of the sun, which in Canada shines for several hours almost every day, throughout the year, apparently anxious to make all the reparation possible to the animal creation, for the tyranny exercised over the vegetable world.

They will likewise recollect that this North American winter, so much dreaded by Europeans, is in

fact the happiest, merriest season of the year.

“ A wrinkled crabbed man, they picture thee,
 Old winter, with ragged beard as grey
 As the long moss upon the apple tree ;
 Close muffled up, and on thy dreary way
 Blue-lipped, an ice drop at thy sharp blue nose
 Plodding along through sleet, and drifting snows.
 They should have drawn thee by the high-heap'd hearth,
 Old winter ! seated in thy great armed chair,
 * * * * *
 Tasting the old October, brown, and bright.”

Excepting those who have newly taken possession of their lands, and to whom every day at that time will be more precious than as many weeks three or four years afterwards, every person in Canada enjoys a certain portion of recreation and pleasure during the winter. At the very first appearance of Old Grey Beard, they begin to prepare the sleighs, and carriages, for visiting their neighbours

and friends, probably many miles distant.

The careful house-wife then begins to anticipate a holiday, and once more wrapped in her best bear-skin cloak, surmounted by a fur bonnet large and ugly enough for half a dozen people, she shines forth in all her glory, ready and willing to share in all the pleasures of her lord. Indeed during this universal holiday, "the better half of man" relax from their constant attendance upon domestic operations, and for the time, appear armed at every point, with all the gad-about propensities of the dear creatures on this side of the water.

Apropos.—The Indian ladies wear long blue cashmere pantaloons, with petticoats of the same kind, reaching no lower than the knee; a dress in some cases becoming and interesting;

this although a serious and very valuable piece of information, obliges me again to remind the emigrant of the command, "thou shalt not covet, &c."

During the war, it was no uncommon thing to see an hundred sleighs and trains, in one continued line crossing the different lakes and rivers, between Quebec and Kingston, and the weight of six hundred men, in close column, with two pieces of artillery, horses and ammunition carts, made no more impression upon the ice, than it would upon Hounslow Heath. Although this great highway affords such facilities to the emigrant, who in the first instance takes a cleared farm, to move about the country, still he must not decide on the spot, for ultimately settling himself, without first seeing it during the summer. He will find the woods

so full of hard frozen snow, and ice, as to render it totally impossible for him to form any correct idea of the quality of the land, and although the height and size of the timber, is some criterion, as the best and finest always grow on the richest soil, still, he cannot possibly ascertain whether it be swampy or not. He should therefore take care to see it at a more favourable season of the year, before he either completes his purchase, or decides upon the district in which he purposes taking up his government grant.

The Canadians have an odd way of attaching to the necks of their horses, what is termed a choke halter. In cases of accidents on the ice, immediately the horse falls into the river or lake, the driver, who generally manœuvres so as on the first appear-

ance of danger to save himself, pulls hard upon the choke halter, which prevents the water rushing into the lungs, and with singular dexterity, and small assistance, he very soon after extricates the animal from his perilous situation.

The settler who resides near the water is not only enabled to supply his family with fish during the summer, but even in the winter. This is effected by making holes through the ice, over which he takes his stand at night, with a lanthorn, or torch, and as the fish rise to the surface, and remain stupidly gazing at the light, the fisherman strikes them with his spear, or entangles them with a net prepared for the purpose.

Although the woods produce a vast variety of birds,—from the majestic eagle to the little wren, the only one

of its kind, possessing peculiar beauty that I observed, was the Canadian woodpecker, (*picus erythrocephalus*) which is considerably larger than the English bird of that name, and of a variegated grey colour, with a top-knot of glossy crimson. This is believed by some to be a superior bait for the Masquinonge. There is a peculiar kind of owl in Canada, not more than half the size of the English owl, with plumage something similar to the woodpecker, excepting the colour of the top-knot.

The woods likewise abound in squirrels, rabbits, hares, foxes, racoons, deer, ferrets, weasels, &c. &c. but the flying squirrel is by far the most interesting of all the wild inhabitants of the forest. Nature has given these little creatures, a thin skin from their fore to their hind legs,

which they extend at pleasure, and thus prepared, fearlessly throw themselves from the tops of the highest trees, and spreading their slender parachutes, gently alight upon the ground, at a very considerable distance. In the country above Lake Erie, wolves have been known in very severe seasons to leave the forests, and attack the sheep folds of the settlers, but as they are generally not larger than a common sized dog, and immediately fly at the approach of man, this danger may be easily avoided. In the settled districts such an event is never apprehended, as these animals as well as every other description of creature, supposed to be constantly at war with the human species, are seldom seen excepting by hunting parties of Indians. Beavers,—the most sagacious brute inhabitants of the new world,

are now scarcely ever to be met with. Man, the great tyrant of the earth, is gradually approaching their most solitary haunts, breaking up their peaceful communities, and towns, and driving the wreck of the inhabitants into the trackless regions, nearer to the pole. From the unerring rifles of the hunters, very few, if once seen, ever escape, and as their skins are eagerly sought after by the fur traders, the Indians pursue them with great anxiety and perseverance.

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LETTER XIX.

————— long may discordant bralls,
Be sever'd from thy shores ; may howling War,
Blow its dread blast, far, far from thee,
While thy bold ramparts tow'ring o'er the wave
Shall bid thy foes defiance !

THERE cannot, possibly, be more gratifying reflections for all those who think of settling in Canada, than that positive distress, and absolute want, are scarcely known in either of the Provinces ; excepting as I before observed in the immediate neighbourhood of large towns ; and that capital

and other crimes, are likewise very rarely heard of; throughout both the Canada's not more than half-a-dozen civilians have been executed, or even condemned these last twenty years. In passing through the country, from Quebec to Michilimackinac, not one house in a hundred will be found at any hour of the night, for which a wooden latch is not considered a sufficient protection.

It may be said that there are no locks and bolts, because they are difficult to be obtained; but I suppose it would not require a very great conjuror to manufacture a wooden bar, in the midst of a forest; and as these even are seldom used, it is only fair to conclude, that such precautions are unnecessary.

The emigrant may therefore settle in any place he pleases in perfect

safety; and if near a river, or lake, his canoe, his dog, his fishing tackle, and his gun, will afford a pleasant relaxation from the constant toil of clearing and cultivating the earth; it will likewise relieve him from that stupefaction of intellect, which the dull monotony of a life passed entirely in the woods, cannot otherwise fail of producing.

It is scarcely necessary to observe, that there are no game laws; he may go out as often as he pleases, and kill as much as he can, without any other person than himself, and his family feeling at all interested in the matter. What is called game in this country, is difficult to be obtained in some parts of Canada, from the thickness of the underwood; but wood-pigeons are to be had in abundance.

There is likewise plenty of water fowl, and fish of every description; the largest, which is called by the Indians, Maskinonge, is good eating, and appears to be the only inhabitant of the waters, of any size, peculiar to North America.

In speaking of the immense forests, inland seas, and rivers of Canada, it may appear a proper association of ideas, to talk of wild beasts, crocodiles, and rattle-snakes—but these are things long since passed away, like the days before the flood. It is true, that the younger generation of the bear tribe are sometimes introduced into the markets of Quebec and Montreal, on the top of the cabbage waggons, and passed into “durance vile,” at the rate of 15s. per head, but their “very grave,

and reverend" fathers, are now very seldom seen, on the Canadian side of the Hudson Bay boundary.

On one occasion, I remember hearing of a stately old gentleman of this description, who by some chance or other, strolled into the neighbourhood of a church, and after roaming about for some time, at length popped his head in at an open window, and from thence, took a review of the congregation, with great apparent satisfaction. This however proved no joke for poor bruin, for in consequence of the masterly directions immediately given by the clerk, and the finely executed manœuvres of the congregation, his retreat was cut off, and his life made to pay the forfeit of his temerity.

The emigrant has therefore nothing to dread in Upper, or Lower

Canada, neither the natives, the beasts of the forests, reptiles, or insects of any kind but the musquito, and these are as common in any other thickly wooded country, as they are in Canada. A man may here with perfect safety take his dog, and his gun, and make a coasting voyage in his canoe, of several days, in any direction; he may likewise without the least chance of molestation, join a hunting party of Indians, strike with them into the woods, and not return until tired of the sport.

If he is surrounded by people who are poor, when compared to the wealthier settlers of New South Wales, and Van Diemen's Land, he has the satisfaction of knowing, that they are honest, humane, and brave; and therefore, that they deserve to be happy.

In Canada, although we *hear* very

little about liberty, there are no slaves; the emigrant will here find no hordes of Caffres, ready to sweep away his cattle, or destroy his corn, and all the fruit of his labour, when ripe for the sickle. Here are no cut throat house-breakers, laying wait to destroy him and his family, if he ventures to move out unarmed, or to plunder his property should he not be upon the spot to defend it; indeed, here he will have nothing to fear, whose conduct evinces a proper respect for himself and for the laws; these being the same as those he has left behind him, and written in the same language, cannot be misunderstood.

The trial by jury, that great foundation of the liberty of the subject, secures to him the most valuable of his rights and privileges. This is a

blessing of which the emigrant to the colonies, to which I have just alluded, as well as to the cape, is derived, and although there can be no doubt but that this, and other privileges, already enjoyed by the Canadians, will be granted to all, in due time, still why should he subject himself even for a moment to such privations, and a military government? Why should the man, who seeks not riches, but quiet independence, go four times the distance, to a land principally inhabited by the very outcasts of society, or to one nearly as far, over-run with Caffres.

The merchant who merely makes a temporary residence, in either of those colonies, may, for the ultimate object before him, readily submit himself to many things; but his situation is far different from that of the

emigrant, who leaves his native country for ever. He begins life again as it were, with renewed vigour, and with renewed hopes; anxious only for the welfare of his family, and in quietude and retirement to move on "toward that bourne from whence no traveller returns."

To such a man, I say, that the British Provinces in North America, and especially the Canadas, possess advantages superior to all the other countries which we have noticed; and that in Canada, although he must not hope to accumulate a fortune in money, he may in a few years obtain, and enjoy unmolested, that inestimable blessing of a beneficent providence, a full and perfect independence.



APPENDIX .

POT AND PEARL ASH.

To show the emigrant the vast importance of these two great staple commodities of the Canadas, it is only necessary to give a rough estimate of the quantities imported at Liverpool only, from Quebec and Montreal, between July 1st. and September 30, 1823.

This period I selected without any kind of reference either to the season, or the year, and which may be either good or bad, according to circumstances.

Number of Barrels.	Total Average Weight.	Lowest Average Price.	Amount:
10,922	32,766 cwt.	40s. pr cwt.	£65,532

A considerable portion of the above was no doubt manufactured in the states bordering upon Canada, and sent down to Montreal by the Americans, the river St. Lawrence affording them a greater facility for getting their ashes and timber to market, than their own inland water communications. This circumstance, however, does not lessen the importance of the subject to the emigrant. In a country like Canada, where a long winter prevents industry in the field, he will find it of the most essential consequence, as during severe weather, instead of exposing himself in clearing his land, he may be advantageously employed manufacturing his potash.

In the observations which I shall offer, in order to show the most easy manner of procuring this article, I shall endeavour to use only such terms, as may be easily understood by all those who know but very little of chemistry; these pages being intended more especially for the guidance and instruction of those, who, possessing a fair proportion of common sense and ingenuity, with a great deal of perseverance and industry, are anxious to turn these qualities to the best advantage.

In the first place, the emigrant must bear in mind that no sooner has he taken possession of his land, than it is necessary for him to make such arrangements for preserving every particle of inferior timber, underwood, and weeds, which he has occasion to remove from the spot where

he intends erecting his log house, as shall, when manufactured into potash, fully repay him for all his time and labour. Every kind of vegetable when burned will produce potash; but unfortunately, so few emigrants know this, or any thing at all about the manufacture of it, that these sources of profit and advantage are thrown away, or totally neglected. For instance, a man takes up a grant of land, and seeing himself in the midst of a forest, has no idea of the value of any part of the timber, but of those trees, which from their size and quality, he naturally concludes are worth sending to market. The consequence is, he begins cutting away, totally regardless of every other object, but that of getting his land ready for the plough. All the underwood, inferior timber, &c. &c

he removes to a distance out of the way of his present operations, where it is left to rot, or probably it is thrown into the stream and allowed to float away with the current.

In thousands of instances this is the case, and I have been often struck with the extraordinary ignorance displayed by many on this subject, who were professedly capable of taking charge of parties of settlers to Canada, and other countries.

I do not mean to say that every man, whatever may be his views and station in life, is an ignoramus if he does not know what pot and pearl ashes are; that would be nonsense; but I think those who intend emigrating to a new country, and more especially those who take charge of the interests of others, ought at least to know, what the exports and imports

of that country are: and this very enquiry will lead them to consider how far any of these can be made available to their own peculiar interest, or to the advantage of those under their charge.

To the Canadians these great staple commodities must continue to be for many years a source of extraordinary profit; and the short distance between Quebec and the European markets, will always ensure a ready sale for all they can manufacture.

As we before observed, every kind of vegetable that is free from sea salt, will, when burned, produce potash in greater or lesser degree; and the following table given by Mr. Kirwan, will shew the proportions contained in some of them.

Names of the Vegetables.	Product in Ashes.	Product in Alkali.
Stem of the Maise.....	88,00	17,05
Large Sunflower.....	57,02	20,00
Twigs of the Vine.....	34,00	5,03
Box.....	29,00	2,26
Sallow.....	28,00	2,85
Ash.....	23,05	3,09
Oak.....	13,05	1,05
Aspen.....	12,02	0,74
Beech.....	5,08	1,27
Fir.....	3,04	0,45
Fern in August.....	36,46	4,25
Wormwood.....	97,44	73,00
Fumitory.....	319,00	79,00

The above was produced from 1000lbs. weight of each of these vegetables, and the result was, 1st. that the potashes from different vegetables have different colours. 2ndly. That the quantity of alkali* is not by any means in proportion to the quantity of ashes in the vegetable: and 3rdly. That ashes require very different proportions of water to become exhausted by lixiviation, (or soaking.)

* Salt.

Names of the Vegetables.	Weight of the Vegetable burnt.	Produce in Ashes.		Weight of Water employed.	Produce in Pot Ash.			Colour.	
		lbs.	oz. dr.		lbs.	oz. dr.	gr.		
Box	800	23		216	1	12	6	24	Bright lead ore.
Oak	915	12	5	134	1	6	4	12	Brownish grey.
Beech	887	8	3	66	1	4	6		Coffee with milk.
Elm	981	11	0	216	1	3	5	36	Greyish white.
Ash	1018	24	1	300	3	15			Reddish grey.
Aspen	648	8	1	120		7	6		Deep black.
Fir	730	2	7	80	3	7			Light black.
Sallow	800	22	12	200	2	5	1	18	Light brownish grey.
Vine Twigs	800	27	0	276	4	10	4		Whitish grey.
Turnsole	100	20	11	333	4				Milk-white somewhat yellow.
Maize	440	39	0	612	7	12	1	56	Ash coloured.

M. Chaptal, when Director General of the Gunpowder and Nitre Works of France, ordered some experiments to be made in the department of Vosges; and the following was the result.

	lb.	oz.
10lbs. of ashes of broom yielded.....	2	5 potash.
10lbs. ditto of fern.....	3	5
10lbs. ditto of heath.....	1	12
10lbs. ditto of roots of pine.....	2	39
10lbs. ditto of maize straw.....	4	3

Instead therefore of all this timber, underwood and weeds, which is ap-

parently useless, being thrown away, it should be cut into convenient lengths, and carefully stacked, until the emigrant can commence burning it into ashes. These stacks should be formed in different places, so that he may not have far to carry his timber, in forming each of them, and where he may burn it on the spot. Some dig holes in the ground for the purpose of carrying on this part of the operation: but the preferable way is to select such situations as are sheltered as much as possible from the wind, and to add the fuel to the fire very gradually. By keeping the entire burning mass well stirred, every particle will be reduced to ashes, which cannot be so easily affected by the former method.

Unless the emigrant is careful to perform this part of the operation

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effectually, he must not hope to make good potash; and when he reflects that all that timber not worth sending to market, all weeds, every unprofitable vegetable, with the lops and tops of the best of his trees, may thus be made to produce a certain return *in money*, for the trouble and expence of clearing his land, he surely will not omit to avail himself of the opportunity thus afforded him.

We will now look to the second part of the process. The emigrant must prepare two, or more wooden troughs, according to his circumstances, &c. &c. it matters not how rough they are, provided they be water tight; six feet by six feet, and five feet deep will be a convenient size, but of course the magnitude of the utensils used must be in proportion to the extent of his means, &c. The man who

has not ingenuity sufficient to knock a few plain boards together, as above described, may rest fully assured he will make but a very sorry settler in the woods, where he will be thrown in a great measure upon his own resources.

These troughs must be raised for convenience the height of a common water pail, and placed by the side of each other, care being taken to ascertain that the supporters are fully able to bear the weight intended for them. The emigrant should now spread a thick layer of stout rushes over the bottom, then a layer of ashes, then a layer of rushes; and so on, alternately, until the trough is two thirds full; the water must then be poured in to the brim. The more care taken in spreading the ashes and rushes, the more easily, and effectually, will the water penetrate; near the bottom, a

tap-hole must be bored to let out the lees, at the expiration of about forty-eight hours, they must then be passed through a strainer for boiling.

I have observed many Americans, and Canadians, in the back-woods, use large sugar hogsheads, instead of such troughs as I have described, but these are very inconvenient. Chaptal says, when speaking of the manufactories in France—"I have seen manufactories of pot-ash, where the steeping-vessels each contained two thousand five hundred pounds of ashes; this size appeared to me too large, it is difficult to effect in them a perfect lixiviation; this inconvenience is but very partially remedied, by the practice of wetting the ashes as they are deposited in the vessel." Some people content themselves with pouring cold water upon the ashes; but if the emigrant has

a copper, or large boiler of any kind, he will find it more to his interest to use water as hot as possible; the ashes will be better soaked, their saline quality will be easier extracted, and a considerable time will be saved in this part of the operation.

As many casks, &c. as the emigrant can provide, will now be necessary to contain the lees, and the remaining part of the process is exactly similar to the manufacture of common salt in this country; in fact all those who have seen an English saltern, have seen just what a pot and pearl ash manufactory, on an extensive scale should be in the woods of Canada. The emigrant who happens to be in the neighbourhood of one, would do well before he embarks, to take every opportunity of observing the principles upon which common salt

is produced. In one day he will derive more information, and understand the thing more clearly, than he would from reading a whole volume of written instructions.

Merely once soaking the ashes, will not be sufficient to extract from them all their alkali, or saline quality; more water must therefore be poured upon them; and these second lees should, when again heated, be poured upon the new ashes, instead of plain water; it matters not what sort of water is used for this purpose, provided it is not impregnated with sea salt. Some manufacturers indeed prefer putrid, or stagnant water; and say that a greater proportion of pot-ash may be obtained by using it.

In order to try the strength of his liquor, the emigrant may, if convenient, provide himself with an aero-

meter,* and by it, when he finds that his lees have acquired the strength of fifteen degrees and that he has provided as much as he can conveniently preserve, he may employ himself during the bad weather, in the winter, extracting the salt or pot-ash.

In some of the northern departments of France, where the forests cover a great part of the land, almost all the inhabitants of the country manufacture the ashes. The women and children collect decayed wood and burn it; the cinders are lixiviated, in warm water, and the evaporation is conducted in small kettles which

* This instrument, however, is not at all necessary, as practice, and common observation will soon enable him to judge sufficiently correct, as to the strength of the liquor.

do not contain more than one hundred pounds of this liquor: In the southern departments of France, where the wood is scarcely sufficient for domestic uses, the ashes are bought at private houses, and are manufactured in works built for the purpose.

The emigrant may purchase every description of iron kettle, in Canada, as cheap as in England; but the shallower they are, in reason, the better. The method of using these kettles is as simple as the first part of the process; all that is necessary is to fill them with the lees, place them over a fire, and keep them boiling; as the liquor evaporates, more lees must be poured into them, until it obtains the consistence of thick paste or honey; care must then be taken to prevent it from adhering to the sides of the kettle or boiler, by

keeping the contents well stirred with a piece of iron. When it assumes a solid shape, on cooling in the air, and can be moved in the kettle, by the iron bar, it is then pot-ash fit for the market.

I will not here enter into a particular description how to make pearl-ash, because the generality of emigrants cannot proceed, with any advantage, beyond the first operation of making the pot-ash; a slight knowledge of chemistry, with one or two good works on that particular branch of science, being indispensably necessary; I shall therefore merely add, that pearl-ash is pot-ash whitened by calcination or burning, and that it fetches a proportionably higher price in the market. Added to the above, a few observations on the subject of pot-ash, by M. Chaptal will, I trust, show

the emigrant the great advantages the manufacture of it presents; advantages which, although derived from so simple a process are unfortunately little understood, and of which so few, comparatively speaking, avail themselves.—

“ When it is intended to clear a forest, the establishment of a manufactory for pot-ash is almost always advantageous; as it is the only means of applying, to a profitable purpose, the small wood, which will not serve for others uses; and this is the origin of the immense quantities of pot-ash, which are manufactured in America. In France, where this combustibile is much less abundant than in countries, less advanced in civilization, and the manufactures consequently less numerous, immense forests are still found where cultivation is impossible,

owing to the want of a market. Manufactories of pot-ash have been established in some ; and might without inconvenience be established in others if the manufacture was superintended in such a manner as might ensure a good return.

“ The herbaceous plants are, of all vegetables, those which produce the most ashes ; shrubs furnish more than trees, leaves more than branches, and the branches more than the trunks. The husks and fibres of certain esculent (eatable) plants ; as the stalks of the French, and the large bean ; the melon, the cucumber, the cabbage, and artichoke, produce richly the pot-ash ; the leaves of tobacco, which form the refuse in the manufacture of snuff, the stems of the sunflower, the maize, and the potatoe, and other rich resources ;

fern, heaths, the fruit of the horse-chestnut, brooms and thistles, may be a great assistance in supplying a manufactory of pot-ash. When it is intended to manufacture it from the plants of the field, it is necessary to cut and gather them with care, so that no earth may remain adhering to them, or communicate impurities to the alkali. The pot-ash most esteemed in commerce is in general that which has a yellowish appearance.

“When the vegetables have been imperfectly burnt, there remains an extractive principle which injures the quality. Pot-ash is very soluble in water; when pure it attracts moisture from the air and deliquesces. Its taste is sharp, acrid and resinous, and it has a slightly empyreumatic odour.

“Although pot-ash is of the most extensive use in the arts, and the

manufacture of it might be established in almost every part of the Empire, in order to use the ashes of our hearths, the unprofitable vegetables, or the timber of forests when the means of cultivation fail; yet is this species of industry known only in a few of our departments. I have attempted, to encourage this trade in the forests of Lozere and of Aveyron, and had to this effect formed an establishment of this kind at Saint Saviour, near to Meyrueis. This establishment prospered during six-years; but the revolution occasioned the annihilation of it."

He then goes on to describe potash as the material which forms the base of the manufactories of soft soap, of glass, and of saltpetre, and that his government ought to "endeavour to give a popularity to this kind of ma-

nufacture. I say popularity, because the materials of the manufacture are every where found, and it is only required to procure a tub, a small bucket, and an iron boiler in order to manufacture potash. This portable apparatus may be fixed any where, and at a small expence, and it would be particularly advantageous to make it known in mountainous countries, where it would furnish a very useful branch of industry to the inhabitants."

I shall conclude this by observing that these ashes before being subject to the operation of lixiviation, which I have discribed, may be sold to the pot-ash manufacturers for, from sixpence to ninepence per bushel, according to their quality,

The emigrant will soon be able to judge for himself, as to which plan

it is most desirable to adopt; but in either case, if he is careful in making the most of these ashes, the produce will, as I before observed amply repay him the first expences, of settling on his grant, and of clearing his lands afterwards.

MAPLE SUGAR.

Thrown as the emigrant must be, almost upon his own resources, it is absolutely necessary that he should know how to manufacture sugar, beer, bread, &c.; and in fact he should be armed at all points; and excepting for his farming implements, and what he absolutely cannot make himself, he ought not to go beyond the bounds of his own grant for assistance. His land, and his own ingenuity, ought to

produce him every necessary, until he is well settled, and can afford to pay for the labour of others.

The following brief observations will show him how to procure sugar; which article he must otherwise purchase by a sacrifice of time and money.

Early in the spring, the maple trees, with which the Canadian woods abound, are bored with a large auger in order to extract the sap, which for about a month flows in very considerable quantities. After making the hole, a small piece of the tree is scooped from below upwards, so as to form a convenient channel for the sap, which is again assisted by a little wooden spout, to drain it away from the body of the tree into pans or troughs, placed at the foot for the purpose. These are emptied every

night, and at the end of the season, by the simple process of boiling and skimming, it is manufactured into sugar. A little milk thrown in when well boiled will materially assist in clarifying it; it is almost needless to observe that in rainy weather, very little can be made, and that a warm sun materially assists the flow of the sap. A good tree will give three pounds of sugar each year; some of the settlers will bore upwards of a hundred; the produce of which will sell in the market, for threepence, or fourpence, per pound.

Present Prices of Provisions, Cattle, and Servants' Wages in Canada.

Beef	}	-	2d. to 3d. per lb.
Mutton			
Pork			
Butter	-	-	8d. per lb.

Cheese	-	6d. per lb.
Flour	-	4 dollars per barrel.
Wheat	-	4 shillings per bushel.
Indian Corn		2 do. do.
Potatoes	-	1 do. do.
A good Cow		20 dollars to 30.
A good Horse		60 do. to 100.
A Sheep	-	8 shillings.
A Farming Servant		about 5 dollars per month.
Woman Servant		3 do. do.

Dollars, dollar notes, English gold coin, and American gold eagles, are more generally used throughout the Canadas, than any other description of money. The currency is regulated by the Halifax standard, so that eighteen shillings English, are equal to twenty Canadian.

ROADS AND DISTANCES.

From Quebec to Michilimackinac.

	miles.	dis.
From Quebec to Montreal	180	180
— — — — — to Coteau du Lac	225	45
— — — — — to Cornwall	266	41
		<hr/>
Carried forward	266	

	miles.	dit.
Brought forward		266
From Quebec to Matilda	301	35
———— to Augusta	335	38
———— to Kingston	385	50
———— to Niagara, } or to York }	525	140
———— to Fort Erie	560	35
———— to Detroit	790	230
———— to Michilimackinac	1107	317
		<u>1107 miles</u>

From Quebec to Halifax.

	miles.	dit.
From Pointe Levi to the Portage	110	110
Across the Portage to the } Lake Tuniscanata }	146	36
From thence to the Forks } of Madawaska }	187	41
———— to the Great Falls	227	40
———— to Fredericctown	351	124
———— to Saint Johns	430	79
———— to Halifax	619	189
		<u>619 miles.</u>

N.B. This journey of 619 miles was performed on snow shoes in the winter of 1812, by the 104th regiment, and by Captains Barelay, Finnis and Worsley, &c. R.N. ; and the following winter by Captain Edward Collier, R.N. and Lieutenant Alexander Phillips, R.M. with a party of volunteer seamen and marines, for the Lakes.

From Quebec to Boston, (United States.)

	miles.	diff.
From Quebec to St. Giles's	30	30
_____ to Ireland	60	30
_____ to Shipton	90	30
_____ to St. Francis	106	16
_____ to the Forks in } Arcot	128	22
_____ to the Boundary } Line	146	18
_____ to Sheffield	169	23
_____ to Linden	188	19
_____ to Haverhill	223	35
_____ to Dartmouth } College	253	30
_____ to Boston	364	111
		<u>364 miles.</u>

From Quebec to Albany, (United States.)

	miles.	dir.
From Quebec to Montreal	180	180
_____ to Lapraire	189	9
_____ to St. John's	203	14
_____ to Isle aux Noix	217	14
_____ to Windmill Point	229	12
_____ to Savage Point	235	6
_____ to John Martins	241	6
_____ to Sandbar	255	14
_____ to Burlington	269	14
_____ to Dr. Smiths	339	70
_____ to Sheensborough	347	8
_____ to Fort Anne	359	12
_____ to Sandy Hill	369	10
_____ to Fort Edward	371	2
_____ to Dumont's Ferry	383	12
_____ to Ensigns	391	8
_____ to Stillwater	397	6
_____ to Waterford	407	10
_____ to Flats (Albany)	419	12
		419 miles.

OSWEGO,

on the American shore of Lake Ontario, has always been considered a military post of some importance, and is now one of the principal stations on the northern frontier of the State of New York. It was taken by assault on the sixth of May, 1814, by the second battalion of Royal Marines; the flank companies of de Watteviles, a company of the Glengary Fencibles, and a body of seamen from the fleet. I mention it, because this affair proved fatal to Captain Holtaway of the marines, and to Lieutenant de May of the grenadiers of de Watteville's.

The former had an extraordinary presentiment of what was to happen to him, and so strongly had this idea taken possession of his mind, that he

requested me (as his subaltern) on the night of the fifth, to explain to his company the state of their accounts. "I wish it," said he, "in case of accidents." I complied with his desire, and endeavoured to rally him into better spirits; but it was of no avail, he felt assured of his fate, and prepared to meet it as if it had been his inevitable doom.

We had attempted to land during the afternoon of the same day, but from bad weather coming on, the signal had been made for the boats to return on board, and it was understood that the attack was deferred until midnight. The night however passed without any thing particular occurring, the weather having continued unfavourable; but the morning presented us with a cloudless sky, a calm and quiet lake, and the last brilliant sunshine which many a

brave fellow was doomed to look upon. It presented likewise my friend Captain Holtaway labouring under the same impressions as the night previous.

A short time before the signal was made for the "troops to prepare to land," he addressed me with great earnestness—he reminded me that it was not the first time that he had been exposed to an enemy's fire, and that he hoped I knew him too well to suppose that he was afraid of any thing that could happen to him. He said he felt strangely, as he had never felt before on such an occasion; but that he trusted he should nevertheless do his duty. At his request I again assembled the men, and made each of them sign his accounts. I did so without a remark, because I saw his heart was set upon it; and although I commiserated his feelings,

I enjoyed the idea, that in a few hours I should have the pleasure of rallying him upon his credulity, and gloomy impressions. The event however proved otherwise.

The signal was made to land, and the boats pulled in bravely upon the enemy's shore, boat cheering boat with loud huzzas, such as no man can form an idea of, who has never heard them on similar occasions, and such as will ring in the ears of him who has, (if he be really and heartily fond of his profession) for the remainder of his life. It was a struggle who should be the first on shore, many of the men landing breast high in water, and Captain Holtaway, sword in hand, amongst the number. In less than ten minutes, however, the marines having formed in column, were ordered to advance in double quick time upon the enemy; and at the foot of the glacis, Captain Holta-

way fell mortally wounded at the head of his company. He was dead in an instant, a musket-shot having struck him on the temple and passed directly through his head.*

Lieutenant de May was mortally wounded previous to this movement, hopes however were entertained for some hours that his life might be saved, but as the ball, which had lodged near the eye, could not be extracted, mortification ensued, and he died two days afterwards. He was a native of Switzerland, a very fine young man, and as this was the

† Captain Holtaway particularly distinguished himself under Lieutenant Colonel Torrens in the defence of the Island of Anhalt in the Baltic, which was attacked by the Danes on 27th of March, 1811. The garrison consisted of marines, (the greater part of whom afterwards joined the second battalion in Spain) and a few seamen. They repulsed the enemy in three successive attacks, and ultimately totally defeated them with a loss of two of their divisions, who were obliged to surrender at discretion.

the first service he had ever been upon, his dead fate excited very great commiseration.

aving Captain Mulcaster, who commanded passed the Princess Charlotte, received a severely grape-shot wound in the groin, whilst gallantly heading a storming party of seamen. He was in the battle of Trafalgar with Lord Nelson, and was second in command under Sir James Yeo, during the most eventful period of the naval war upon the Lakes. On one occasion in particular, when the Wolfe sloop of war, which bore the commodore's flag, was dismasted by the Americans, Captain Mulcaster, in the Royal George, hastened to her relief, and bore the brunt of the action for the remainder of the day.

Five other officers were likewise wounded in the assault of Oswego. Captain Lidergrew of de Watteville's;

Lieutenant John Hewitt of the Marines, who climbed the flag-staff, and struck the American colours. Captain Popham, R.N. ; Lieutenant Griffin, R.N., and Mr. Richardson, Master of the Royal George.

Lieutenant - General Sir Gordon Drummond commanded on this occasion, and Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, Inspecting Field Officer of Militia, (who was second in command in the action at Chrystler's Farm) and Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt of the 103d regiment, who were passengers in the fleet, landed with him as volunteers.

LA COLE MILL

was attacked on the 30th of March, 1814, by a strong force of the American army under General Wilkinson.

The enemy's advance was led by the celebrated Major Forsyth, who by his marauding excursions, enterprise, and great personal bravery, had made himself the complete Rob Roy M'Gregor of the American States, bordering upon Canada. His gallantry was however of no avail on this occasion, for whilst making an ineffectual and desperate effort to carry the Mill, he was mortally wounded, and with him fell every chance the Americans had of success.

The posts of La Cole and Burton Ville were commanded by Major Hancock of the 13th regiment, and the force under his orders consisted of part of that regiment, the grenadier company of the Canadian Fencibles, a company of Canadian Voltigeurs, and a small detachment of the first battalion of Royal Marines, com-

manded by Lieutenants Caldwell, and
Burton.

PLATSBURGH.

Beyond the recollection that every man on board the British squadron did his duty, in the action with the Americans on Lake Champlain, I have no wish to remember any particulars relative to that unfortunate affair. That this fleet, as well as that under Captain Barclay on Lake Erie, was sacrificed unnecessarily, appears to be generally believed ; and under this impression, the loss of such men as Captains Downie and Finnis, of the R.N. and of Captain Anderson of the marines, with their gallant but ill-fated companions, is the more to be lamented. The conclusion of the general order of the 24th of Novem-

ber, 1813, alluding to the action on Lake Erie, may be very justly applied likewise to Captain Downie and the crews on Lake Champlain. "Deprived," it says, "of the palm of victory, when almost within his grasp, by an overwhelming force which the enemy possessed in reserve, aided by an accumulation of unfortunate circumstances, Captain Barclay and his brave crews, have, by their gallant daring, and self-devotion to their country's cause, rescued its honour and their own, even in defeat."

That the British army at Plattsburg was disgraced by orders which compromised its honour for its safety, is likewise pretty well understood; and that there were very few, if any, of those who composed it, who felt vastly obliged for this kind consideration, will be also fully credited. I have

no wish to enter upon a subject so degrading, and as I was not at "Platsburgh Races," as this *celebrated* retreat is sarcastically termed; I may be well excused from the task. To contemplate and to describe great and glorious actions, which do honour to my country and the service, must, as I before observed, be at all times gratifying, and such reflections tend to ennoble the soul; but to record events, such as that to which I have now alluded, I leave to the historian, whose duty it is, for the information of posterity, to faithfully note, not only the good, but the bad, the noble and the ignoble.

The discussion of this affair would likewise lead to the general conduct and character of Sir George Prevost, who is now dead. It is one thing to attack a man whilst living, and another to gallop over him when he is

no longer able to defend himself. In the first case he has the power to publicly contradict any statement affecting his character, and perhaps prove it to be false ; *and what is more, he can resent it* : but when he is gone to a more severe tribunal to answer for his conduct, then let us remember that unless his faults were of the heart as well as of the head, mercy is more honourable than severity. Let us reflect that many a man, who cuts but a very indifferent figure in public life, would perform all the duties of a more retired station, with honour and credit, because it is suited to his capacity and his feelings.

That the disasters to which I have alluded, as well as the extraordinary result of the attack upon Sackets Harbour in 1813, and the defeat and capture of General Proctor's division, near the Moravian village, are to be

attributed to the indecisive measures of the Governor General, is universally admitted; and it is to be regretted that Lieut.-General Sir Gordon Drummond, who commanded in the Upper Province, or some other officer, able to wield the vast machine of war with effect, had not filled the situation. Indecision, however, and a too great attention to the minutiae of dress and parade, which could not be of the least possible service in the field, were his principal faults; for to the best of his ability I believe, the wish of Sir George Prevost was to do his duty; and after passing forty years of his life in the service, in different parts of the world, it is surely only fair to take *all* his actions into the account, instead of condemning him as one, who had no previous established claims upon the consideration of his country.

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CONCLUSION.

“ If when I was a school-boy, I could not hear a drum beat, but my heart beat with it, was it my fault?—Did I plant the propensity there?—Did I sound the alarm within, or Nature?”—*Sterne.*

I TAKE this for my motto, because on looking over what I have here written, a thousand sensations and recollections, intimately connected with it, are awakened in my mind and in my heart. Old times, and old friends, appear before me in

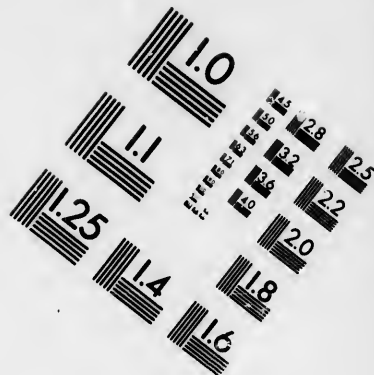
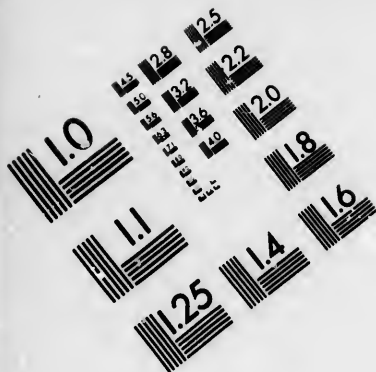
retrospect, and that ardent, passionate affection for the service which I felt in my boyhood, I find still glowing warmly in my bosom. How far this feeling may have influenced me in my allusions to military affairs, is not for me to decide ; but I shall be amply satisfied if this small work, should be the means of rescuing from oblivion, the name of even one brave man, or of imparting to his friends and relatives, one moment of consolation.

Now, reader, I have very nearly finished my book, and if there be much in it, not exactly consistent with your idea of things, take out your pencil quietly, like a sensible man, and note down your observations in the margin ; but if there be much in it you decidedly object to, do not fly into a passion, do not I pray you, throw it

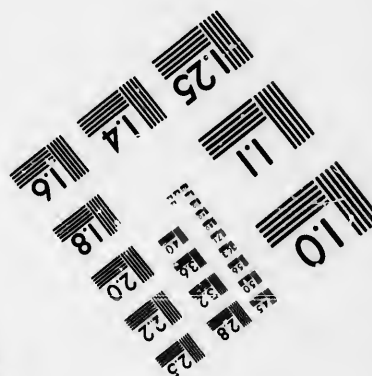
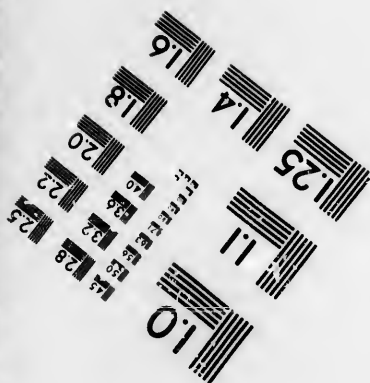
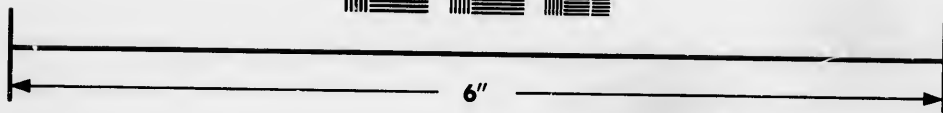
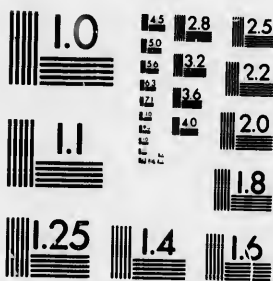
behind the fire, and exclaim, "Let him go to the devil;" for, in the language of the inimitable Sterne, I must remind you, that "it is a cruel journey to send me upon, and that I have had sufferings enough without it." Remember, that "It is one thing for a man to march bravely on, with drums and trumpets, and colours flying about his ears,—'tis one thing I say, brother Shandy, to do this, and 'tis another to describe the miseries of war."

It is one thing for a man on entering the lists for literary fame, to be knocked down the first blow, and well belaboured afterwards by every merciless critic, who chooses to turn upon him; and it is another to be as perfectly indifferent to all this, as the old woman's eel, which in her idea, from being likewise quite used to it,





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felt no more the operation of having his skin stripped over his ears, than a young onion. In short, gentle reader, it is one thing for a man to presume on having written a very clever book, full of very clever things; and it is another, to make no pretensions to anything of the kind.

It is upon this last principle that I have ventured to build my hopes of success; and having now launched my bark, my first venture, upon an ocean, where I must expect *northern storms and periodical tempests* to assail me—gentle reader, and still more gentle critic and reviewer—I bid ye all farewell.

THE END.

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Page 2, line 7, for "which" read "of which."

— 66, end of line 21, read "I."

— 81, line 7, for "western" read "N.W. or inland."

— 179, line 21, for "way" read "weigh."

— 195, line 6, in motto of chap. xii. for "force" read
"tide."

— 347, line 1, for "exclain" read "exclaim."



