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A Journey from Montreal to Kingston in 1791



By

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LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.R.H.S.



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The following paper contains a transcript from a tolerably rare volume bearing the formidable title of "Travels in the Interior Inhabited Parts of North America. In the Years 1791 and 1792. In which is given an account of the manners and customs of the Indians, and the present war between them and the Federal States; the mode of life and system of farming among the new settlers of both Canadas, New York, New England, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia; interspersed with anecdotes of people, observations on the soil, natural productions, and political situation of those countries. Illustrated with Copper-Plates. By P. Campbell. Edinburgh, Printed for the Author, and sold by John Guthrie, No. 2, Nicholson Street, Edinburgh. MDCCXCIII."

The author had been an officer in the Forty-second Regiment, and had a number of acquaintances in various parts of the British provinces and the United States, and a relative, Lieutenant Dugald Campbell, was employed as assistant engineer in New Brunswick. In his preface he states that he took with him "an old faithful servant, a Dog, and gun only." By way of apology he adds:

"As he travelled much in wildernesses, and in birch bark canoes, through lakes and rapid streams, where the mind could not at all times be inattentive to safety, and wrote in these canoes, and on the stumps of trees occasionally as he went along, it is not to be supposed under these circumstances that arrangement of composition, the polish of language, and elegance of style could be much attended to; and as these were, was he more at leisure, beyond his reach, he made no attempt afterwards to attain."

He was, however, an acute and careful observer and recorded his impressions in a very simple and direct manner. His book is accordingly a document of more than ordinary value.

Leaving his residence at Fort William on June 11, 1791, he sailed from Greenock on July 2, and arrived at St. John, New Brunswick, fifty-six days later. On September 1 he embarked in a schooner for Fredericton and, meeting with contrary winds, transferred into the post-boat, but walked a great part of the way and actually reached his destination three hours in advance of the boat. From Fredericton, he made excursions to visit the Highland settlements on the Nashwack and Miramichi. On October 7 he began the overland journey to Quebec, ascending the Saint John river as far as the Grand Falls in a canoe and thence walking by the Temiscouata portage to Kamouraska, where he took a calash to Quebec. The journey to Montreal was accomplished in four days in a carriage. He then went to Kingston by bateau or on foot and obtained a

passage in a government vessel to Niagara, where he remained from December 8, 1791, until the 10th of March following, with the exception of six days spent in a visit to Joseph Brant at the Grand River. From Niagara he went on horseback to the Genesee, accompanied by David Ramsay as a guide and took down a narrative of his adventures from his own lips, which forms a chapter of his book. He continued his journey to the Mohawk river and along its course to Albany, and embarked with his horses in a packet for New York. After a short excursion to Elizabethtown in New Jersey, Campbell sold his horses and obtained a passage for St. John, where he arrived on May 12. He returned to Fredericton and remained a month with his relative, the engineer officer, waiting for a passage to Scotland. From Fredericton he walked to St. John and then visited the settlements on the Kennebecasis and the Schoodiac. Finally, on November 4, 1792, he embarked in a lumber brig at St. Andrews, and returned to Greenock after a voyage of forty-one days.

TRAVELS IN THE INTERIOR INHABITED PARTS OF NORTH AMERICA IN THE
YEARS 1791 AND 1792, BY P. CAMPBELL. EDINBURGH. MDCCXCIII.

FROM MONTREAL TO KINGSTON.

Having got my little baggage on board one of two battoes going together with merchant goods to Kingston, I set out from Montreal on the 5th of November in a carriage, and passed that night at the house of a Mr. John Grant, a Scotchman, who has two large storehouses at that place; and though this gentleman, from the situation of his stores and house is under the necessity of keeping a tavern, and though I dined, supped, and breakfasted, and sat up very late with a Mr. Ross, originally from Rosshire in Scotland, and one of the partners of the North West Fur Company of Montreal, and a lieutenant M'Donell from Knoidart, and drank a good deal of Port and Madeira wine, yet he would accept of no payment for either myself or servant, and procured a passage for us both *gratis* in these boats to Kingston, a distance of 220 miles,—a point of politeness and attention to a stranger I have not met with from any gentleman situated as he was, in the course of my travels in that country, and but rarely indeed that I remember in any other. This gentleman I found to be universally well known and well liked, has a most excellent character, and of so active and obliging a turn that it is said he is in a fair way of realizing a fortune, and is allowed on all hands to be deserving of it.

The river from Montreal to Lasheen is so rapid and rugged with stones, that the boats passing and repassing betwixt it and Kingston are generally drawn up at Lasheen, and all the goods stored there; and as this large tract of country is fast settling above to a great extent, Mr. Grant's large stores at this place cannot miss to become a source of independent fortune to him. All the goods that go up the rivers, and the produce that come down, are landed here and carted to and from Lasheen and Montreal; so that it is already a very public station, and must become more and more so as the country advances in population. These large flat bottomed battoes carry in general from two to three tons burden, some more, some less; they employ five or six hands, and the charges amount to from £12 to £13 each cargo. Opposite Lasheen is a large Indian village on the south side of the river that will turn out three score warriors at a call; they are quite civilized, and carry on agriculture and trade in the same manner as white people.

On the 6th of November we set out pretty early, I in one battoe and my servant in another, manned by six Canadians, each boat. We had very bad poling, owing to the boat's running foul of large stones and banks under water. Towards evening we crossed the mouth of the north river which falls into the St. Laurence, the opening of which is so broad as to appear more like a lake than a stream of running water, and not inferior in width to the St. Laurence itself. I have been informed that this river runs out of Lake Superior; others say that it passes it to the northward. Be this as it will, it has a vast body of water; and the greatest part of the Fur Trade is carried on by it. Mr. M'Kay's sons, of whom I have spoken already, and who had been often there, gave me the latter account of it; and added, that it passes the head of another river which falls into Hudson's Bay that these two streams pass within half a mile of each other, and pursue their courses in opposite directions; that the traders could go from sea to sea by water in these two rivers, excepting in the small neck already mentioned, across which they carry their canoes and goods; that the clerks and servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, and

those of Montreal, often meet about the heads of these rivers, and encroach on each other's territories so much that it creates great disputes among them; what is more, they encourage the Indians to commit outrages on each other, and strive who buys best. Towards the close of the evening we came up to a small canal cut in a narrow neck of land to avoid the opposite rapids that almost surround it.

The boats stopt at the canal¹ all night, and I and my servant pushed on for two miles further, and slept at the house of a Yanky loyalist, who had a fine large farm with a considerable deal of flat cleared land about it. I now passed all the French settlements, and entered that occupied by British and American loyalists; and though it is but eight years since the first tree was cut down in this district, they do not fall much short of having as much of the land cleared as the French who have been more than a hundred years in possession. The cause of this immense difference in the industry of the people, I suppose to be more owing to the tenure of the land, than to laziness on the part of the French and industry on that of the British and American loyalists. The former was given out, as already observed, in large districts, to French nobility, who feued out in small portions such as they could clear of it, and no other would be taken; the latter on their own properties, who could not subsist without using every exertion of industry for the first years, were impelled by a necessity which the others were not subjected to.

Next morning I proceeded by the river side through a close inhabited country, until I came to a point of land where the boats were obliged to unload, and the goods carted for some miles, to avoid rapids, in which the battoes could not be towed when loaded. Here I found that the Canadians had made free with a bag of biscuit Mr. John Fisher, merchant in Montreal, gave me, and a fine roasted Goose a Mr. John M'Arthur had sent with me, so that I had to provide myself with provisions as I went along for the future. I travelled all this day on foot, and slept at a lieutenant Fraser's, who had charge of another short canal² cut through a point of land like that formerly mentioned. Opposite to this place called the Cedars, is a large island in the river used as a place of confinement for several American prisoners taken last war. From this island some of the prisoners were daring enough to swim down and across this immense rapid to a point of land below it, at three-fourths of a mile distance: some of them were taken after landing, and others drowned in the attempt.

From lieutenant Fraser's I proceeded to the foot of the river Raisson, where an Italian Count³ on his return from Lake Superior, was encamped. He had three tents, some baggage, provisions, and a crew of ten or twelve Canadians in one birch canoe, the largest I ever saw of the kind. This small river is closely settled for the space of twenty miles, mostly by Highlanders; and in many parts seven concessions deep, as they are called here, (*i.e.* seven farms deep, the one behind the other. This is reckoned a very fine settlement; the soil extremely rich, and the average of the produce in grain twenty fold. I put up at the house of a Mr. M'Donald formerly from Ardnabee in Glengarry.

On the 10th set out from the Raisson about two hours before day-light; breakfasted at the reverend Mr. Beaton's,⁴ also a Scotchman, and from thence went to the house of a Captain John M'Donald⁵ who was then finishing a new house said to have cost him £1300 Sterling. Here I fell in with a Captain Archibald M'Donald⁶ of the Long Saut. Captain John M'Donald pressed me much to stay that night, but as the boats were likely to get a-head of me I could not. Captain Archibald M'Donald being upon his way home, he and I travelled in company. We put up that night in the house of Lieutenant Miles M'Donald,⁷ at a place formerly called New Johnston, but now Cornwallis. Here the stance of a town is lined out, and the place is very central for that purpose, being nearly midway between Kingston and Montreal, situated on a broad level point of land, where the river takes a sweep and forms a bend or an obtuse angle; the country is closely inhabited, and the farms to the eighth or ninth concessions back; the soil deep, fertile, and not difficult to clear. Mr. Miles M'Donald was from home at a new farm he was clearing, and Mrs. M'Donald, when I informed her who I was, recollected to have seen me in the house of Captain M'Donald of Morar, her father, with whom and family I had the honour to be on the most friendly footing. This lady received me with every mark of politeness and attention, which was the more gratifying to me, as she was the daughter of my particular friend, and universally allowed to be a most amiable as well as elegant woman. I was further told she was allowed to be the most elegant woman that appeared at the assemblies in Montreal the preceding winter. Mr. Beatty, who was then but lately married to a sister-in-law of hers, entertained Captain M'Donald and me with much hospitality with Port and Madeira wines, and kept us up very late or rather early. I have hitherto seen no punch drank in this country.

Next morning we bade adieu to the family and proceeded on our journey. Called at several houses on the way; the owners of which, Captain M'Donald said would clear that fall £200 of his farm mostly in wheat. This part of the country is improving very fast, and will soon be in a very flourishing state. Dined at a Colonel Gray's,⁸ a Scotchman, who had served in his younger days in the Dutch service,—himself a hoary-headed little man, and his wife a large fat Dutch American lady. Stopped and drank tea at Captain M'Donald's, who pressed me much to stay that night, but having yet some hours of daylight I could not think of waiting; on which he

gave me a letter of introduction to a relation of his, a Mrs. Huet,⁹ who lived four or five miles further on, where I passed that night.

When you come to that part of the river called the Long Saut, opposite to Captain Archibald M'Donald's, the attention of the traveller must be particularly arrested by the immense body of water, and the awful rapidity of its current, which some people think nearly as novel and striking as the Great Falls of Niagara. In the middle is a long island, whose stately forests intercept the sight in many parts of the opposite shore. On each side of this island the branches of the river are about half a mile broad, and that which is now in view tumbles down with a tremendous fury, that makes the surge rise somewhat like the sea in a gale of wind. Here the poor Canadians undergo vast risk and trouble towing up their broad bottomed and large battoes, which require the strength of four or five men to haul on the painter, which if not sound and well secured, and if it once give way, the loss of the boat is inevitable; she must be either filled with water, sunk in the stream, or dashed against the stones and rocks on the shore. I have been told that all boats and rafts of timber coming down the river hold by the south channel, which is not so rapid and more safe than that which is now described; but in coming up the river it is thought more tedious, and on that account they rarely go by it. Mr. Huet was not at home; he is one of the king's surveyors in the province. Mrs. Huet and a brother of her's who happened to be then in the house entertained me with much civility, but as the boats were likely to get a-head of me, I set out by daylight, and called at a common farmer's house to get breakfast. They happened to be a German family who scarce understood a word of English, and were lately from the States. Here the little German I could speak was of use to me, and sufficed to procure me bread from one house and milk in another. The scarcity of bread is owing to the water's being so low that the mills could not grind the quantity required in the neighbourhood. Some miles further on, I was informed that a Lieutenant Malcolm M'Martin¹⁰ with whom I was formerly acquainted, lived in that neighbourhood. I sent an express for him. He was good enough to come and conduct me to the house of a Captain James Munro¹¹ who resided some miles further on. We met Captain Munro at a new grist and saw mill he was finishing on a point of land that projects a little into the river, the water of which supplies the mill by a cut in that point, and one wheel sets two saws and the grist mill-stone a-going at once. These two mills were contrived and finished by a common German architect who was never bred to it or to any mechanic trade whatever.

Captain Munro is originally from the north of Scotland, has been a long time in this country, and joined government in the late rebellion. He now enjoys captain's half pay besides the office of sheriff; and is one of the Members of the Land Board, appointed by government for granting lands to such as he and his colleagues in office find deserving. Captain Munro conducted me to his house, and entertained me with a great deal of politeness, attention, and hospitality. We sat up pretty late; and his son-in-law Mr. Allan Paterson, also a Scotchman, entertained us with many interesting stories and anecdotes of a variety of Indian nations he had traded with for several years. He showed us an Indian target made of buffalo skin, proof against dart, arrow, and even a musket ball, as it strikes it obliquely, made in the form of a cuirasse or breast plate, and large enough to cover the whole person when crouching or stooping low. It was tanned to an amazing thickness, and rendered tough and hard by some process only known to Indians. It was of light buff colour, very light, and quite portable, with a large plumage of curious feathers on the middle of it. He said that from Lake Superior there is a portage of twenty-seven miles long, where every boatman and servant of the Fur Trading Company of Montreal is obliged to carry two hundred weight of goods on his back; that some of the Canadians were so remarkably good at carrying burdens as to take the whole at once, some at twice, and others at three times. When they cross this portage they fall in with a river or lake, where they have again water carriage, and go on alternately from land to water to a vast distance. Mr. Paterson said, and which I heard from several others, that part of this great continent abounds with large plains, farther than the sight will carry; that one in particular will take a man fifteen days constant travelling to cross; and for length, neither end of it is known; that when a man enters this plain, he will find the Buffaloes almost as numerous as the trees in the forest, feeding on rich grass near breast high and if the sight would carry the length, he believes 100,000 of them could be seen at once. The ground is so level, that, like the ocean, the horizon bounds the sight. Every step you travel you meet with heads and carcasses of dead Buffaloes. When an Indian has a mind to kill many of them, he mounts his Horse, with his bow and a case containing several scores of arrows: he throws the reins loose about the Horse's neck, who knows by constant practice his rider's intention, and gallops with all his speed through the middle of the herd of Buffaloes. The Indian shoots as he goes along until he expends his last arrow, then he returns to pick up his prey, and from such as he finds dead he cuts out the tongue and the lump on the back, which he carries away with him; the rest of the carcass he leaves to the Wolves and other ravenous animals. A species of Wolves in these parts are milk white, and are larger than those of any other colour, or any Dog whatever that he had seen. The only fuel a traveller can have on these plains, and with which they dress their victuals, is Buffalo's dung; and when

he is in want of water he endeavours to fall in with a path made by Otters going from one small lake to another, by following which he is sure to find it. The ground is so level that you are just upon the brink of the lake before you see that there is any such thing.

An Indian, when he goes in quest of Otters in winter, makes for these lakes, which are covered with ice and snow. He goes about until he finds out every hole they may have about the lake, all of which he fills up excepting one, two, or three, most suitable for his purpose. To these the Otters must have recourse for air. When he has done this, he sprinkles a little snow on the water, which darkens it; when the Otter is just coming, the sportsman finds the water and the snow agitated; and the animal not seeing what is before him, pops up his head through the snow, on which the Indian strikes him with his tomahawk,—puts down his hand,—pulls him out,—throws him aside, and watches the approach of the next, and serves him in the same manner. In this way sometimes a dozen are killed in one pond. The price of an Otter skin is, like penny pies, a bottle of rum; no more is looked for or ever given; though in Canada they are a guinea, and in England two guineas each. The expence of bringing rum or any sort of merchandise two or three thousand miles back, besides the risk of it, must surely be very great; but the profits, now that the Company are firmly established, are in proportion. Mr. Paterson, and a very smart young man his brother, lost during the first three years they were employed in this trade £3000, but in the course of two years cleared this and as much more real profit. But unfortunately his brother and the crew of the boat, with its full loading of merchandise, were drowned and lost on Lake Superior; which induced him to give it up.

When two nations of Indians are at war with each other, the one to the southward burns large tracts of grass in these immense plains; and when the Buffaloes, who annually emigrate from the south to the north, and return in winter, meet with this burned land, they proceed no further, but return. The northern nations, who trust to the Buffalo for food and winter stores, are thus deprived of the means of subsistence, and often perish with hunger. Mr. Paterson unfortunately happened to have resided one winter with a nation in this predicament; so that he and those along with him were reduced to the necessity of eating their own magazines,* and every skin they could find, before the spring opened, and permitted them to proceed to a country where they could get game or provisions.

Before I set out next morning, Captain Munro was good enough to give me a letter of introduction to Colonel Butler, at Niagara; and Lieutenant M'Martin told me that there was a Gleneloch woman whom I remembered to have seen a girl in that country, married to a Captain Thomas Fraser¹² some miles farther up the river, on the way I was to hold. When I came opposite to Captain Fraser's house, which was a little way below the road, my servant said that was the place we had been directed to; but on my looking about, and remarking the good house, but a still larger barn of two stories high, several office houses, barracks, or Dutch barns, the sufficiency and regularity of the rails, and extent of the inclosures, considerable flocks of Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, and Fowls, I said it could be no Highlander that owned that place,—that the barracks or Dutch barns were foreign to any Scotchman whatever,—that I had not hitherto seen any of them that had such a thing,—and that he must be a German who lived in that place. Still he affirmed this must be it, agreeable to the directions we had; but I could not be persuaded, and pushed on to the next house, which was then in sight. When I came up I asked for Captain Fraser's, and was told I had left it behind; I therefore had to return. When I came in, they took no sort of notice of me farther than desiring me to sit down. My trowsers being torn with the bushes, and the rest of my dress being in the like situation, they supposed me to be a Yank come from the States. After sitting a while in this way, nobody speaking to me or I to them, Mrs. Fraser happened to sit by me, I looked full in her face; and clearly recognizing her features, I accosted her in Gaelic, and asked her if she had ever seen me before. She could not say whether or not. This turned the eyes of every body in the house towards us: but on my asking if she had heard of or known such a person, naming myself, she said she did, and knew him very well; but could not suppose that I was him. On my saying I was, she turned about to her husband; 'My dear, (said she,) this is the gentleman whom I often told you was so kind to us when he was forester of Mam Lorn; and whatever disputes we and our neighbours had when our cattle trespassed upon the forest, he always favoured our family.' Captain Fraser on this instantly welcomed me to his house, ordered dinner and venison stakes to be got ready immediately. While dinner was getting ready, Mrs. Fraser showed me nine or ten large fat Hogs then lying dead on the floor of her keeping house, and said they, every fall, killed twenty such, and two fat Oxen, besides other provisions, for their winter store. After dinner, Captain Fraser treated me with Port wine until we could drink no more, and pressed me much to stay that night; but as the boats had passed I could not wait. When he found that I would be away, he ordered a couple of Horses to be saddled directly.

*Moccasins.

I mention these circumstances and the reception I met in this place, as it does honour to human nature, and shews how difficult to foresee, when, how, or in what remote place or period, one may meet the reward of a humane or generous action; I little expected when I befriended a poor widow woman, with a family of children, in the north west of Scotland, I should meet with any returns for it in Upper Canada. She was but a young girl when I had seen her, and emigrated to America with a brother of her's, who, she said, was glad to hear of my being in this country, and would go some hundreds of miles to see me. She was but a short time in America when she turned out a tall well looked woman, and her present husband became acquainted with and married her, of which I am convinced he has had no reason to repent. They have a fine family of children, and I have been told there is not a better mother, or more prudent house wife in the province.

After bidding adieu to Mrs. Fraser and family, Captain Fraser and I mounted his Horses. This was the first time I had crossed a horse since I came to Canada, and the second or third time since I landed in America;—Called at a tavern, drank more wine, for which he would not allow me to pay one farthing. Arrived two hours after night fall at his brother's house, Captain William Fraser.¹³ These two gentlemen, whose father was but poor, and they young, when he emigrated from Stratherrick in Scotland, and unable to give them the necessary education, after they landed in America entered into the Royal Cause, and that of their country, when the rebellion broke out; and by their own activity, alertness, and merit, they raised themselves to the rank of Captains, got money and education by it, and are now in very high esteem among all their acquaintances. Captain Thomas Fraser said he had six score acres of cleared land. The soil a clay loam, with three or four inches of rich mold, black as jet on the top; that his average return of grain was twenty fold at least; but said, when the clay underneath and the black mold were incorporated together, and the stumps out of the ground, he would have a still greater increase. Captain William said that his farm was much of the same quality and extent. These two brothers were, for some years prior to the rebellion, Indian interpreters to the great Sir William Johnson, and had fine farms in his neighbourhood on the Mohauke river.

Next morning I set out before it was clear, and got a-head of the boats,—travelled nine or ten miles before breakfast,—came to a point of land where I was to go aboard, but before the boats had come I went into a little cottage, and enquired if I could get breakfast; they told me I should, if bread and milk would serve me. The owner of this house happened to be one Fraser, a Highlander, who had been a long time a private in the forty-second regiment,—married to a young American woman,—had come from Albany but the fall preceding,—had brought a couple of Cows with him, and put up a little cabin and barn in this place, where he got a lot of land. In the course of our conversation I asked him what he had done since he came here. He said he had cleared nine or ten acres of land, but that the wood was not thick upon it; and that he had raised, (to be within the mark as he expressed it,) ninety bushels of wheat, between sixty and seventy of Indian corn, besides potatoes, and other things on which he did not count. "And what assistance had you to all that?" said I; "None (answered he) but an hoe and axe, and what that woman could give me," meaning his wife; but added as he had not a boat to send it to market he could get no sale for it. On my asking him what I had to pay for my breakfast, he said nothing for the bread; that he had more of it than would serve him for three years; and that I might settle with the wife for the milk, as she and I pleased. I gave her half a dollar, and but for the scarcity of money in the place, I am convinced none would have been accepted.

The boats arriving, I stepped on board, and the water now becoming smooth, and more like a lake than a running stream, the wind favourable, we put up sails, and made great way, till late at night, when we put up at a poor lame ragged man's house with a numerous family of small children; but the wife buxom and well dressed. I and my Canadian crew threw ourselves down upon the floor opposite to the fire, and slept soundly till four o'clock next morning, when we got up and set off in the usual way. The wind still favoured us, and we soon entered the thousand islands, which never were, nor do I suppose ever can be counted, by reason of their numbers, and for which reason they were formerly called by the French, and now by the British the *Mille isles*. They are of very little value, and produce but scraggy wood of useless pine. Here are innumerable flocks of water Fowl, mostly of the Teal kind. Such a diversity of creeks, bays, channels, and harbours, I suppose are to be rarely met with in the world; and if a crew be not well acquainted with the direct course, and if they once miss it, they may chance to be bewildered, and for days may not find it again.

After passing these islands we entered upon the lower end of Lake Ontario, and about night fall arrived at Frontenac, or Catarauquey, now called *Kingston* and put up at the coffee house. On hearing that an Indian of considerable consequence lodged then in the house, whose name was Captain Thomas,¹⁴ I sent him my compliments, and if agreeable made offer to join him; his answer was that he would be happy at it. After I joined him, he asked me very politely what I would choose to drink; I answered whatever was agreeable to him. He then called for a small bowl of punch, of which he took but very little, excused himself by saying he had dined

in a private family, and drank too freely after dinner. We slept in the same room. He was a tall handsome man, extremely well dressed in the English fashion, and had nothing particular about him but a string of small bucles hung down on his breast, fastened to his long lank black hair, from each side of his head. He spoke French fluently, but not English enough to enable us to converse freely in that language; however he understood it better than he could speak, and enough to make me enjoy his company very much; his place of residence is eight or ten miles above Montreal, in the village already mentioned opposite Lasheen. In this village there are about 170 houses, in an elegant stone church. What is singular in that place I am informed is that several of these houses, covered with bark of water ash and bass wood, have stood so for three score of years, and are now so close covered with moss as to be perfectly every tight. Captain Thomas is the principal man in that place,—has a fine house, and a squaw every day elegantly dressed; he deals much in the mercantile line, mostly in furs; and can get on his credit at a call in any of the principal mercantile houses at Montreal, two thousand pounds worth of goods. I saw him pick up all the skins worth buying from the merchants in this place. I was informed there were twelve hundred pounds worth of his property seized last year, which he had hid in the woods, and meant to smuggle into the States dominions, where they give a better price than at Montreal. White people practise smuggling of this kind as well as Indians, and when detected, the goods are confiscated in the same manner.

Kingston is situated upon a broad point of land, the Grand Lake Ontario on the south, and a creek on the east and north east runs three or four miles into the country, so that it is surrounded with water on three sides. At the foot of this creek is a fine safe anchorage, and on the shore quays and wharfs are beginning to be built. The whole point of about two or three miles broad is clay lying on limestone, not high, but with an easy slope descending to the water. The limestone in this place lies in curious strata level with the surface of the ground, and cut short; some in square pieces, others in pentagons, hexagons, and polygons, and many different flat sides; and is the finest and most easily quarried perhaps in the world, and so fit for building as not to require the stroke of a hammer. The very beach on the shore is limestone, and so pounded that if a kiln were made close by it might be shovelled in and burnt into lime without any further trouble; yet notwithstanding the materials for building with stone are so easy to be had here, even on the very stance of the houses, they prefer building them all with timber. I never saw a prettier situation for an inland town than this place. The country along the coast, and about the Bay of Kenty, for fifty or sixty miles is closely inhabited, and in some parts three or four concessions deep. The timber upon this flat, but not low point, is mostly of hard wood of a fine growth and very stately, and useful for most purposes. The town is in its infancy as yet, but fast encroaching. It is well supplied with provisions of all kinds from the fertile country behind it. It is a little surprising the stir of trade that is in it already. I have been told that above 6000 bushels of wheat were bought up and stored here the preceding year and that at least a fourth more would have been so this one; and so on in proportion every succeeding year. This is a very extraordinary circumstance in a country not above eight years settled. I have been also informed that six score of Deer have been sold in this town this same year. I see venison every day in the market and pressed upon the inhabitants to buy; but the best only is bought.

Here I fell in with Lieutenant William M'Kay,¹⁶ originally from the north of Scotland, and Lieutenant Daniel of the twenty-sixth regiment, an Irishman, both going for Niagara, with whom I lived in strict intimacy and friendship afterwards while I continued in Canada. In this town there are two companies of foot and some artillerymen, kept for guarding the king's stores for supplying the troops of the forts on the Upper lakes; the troops were commanded by Captains Porter and Ingram. I met with a great deal of politeness and attention from them both; with the latter I dined every day at the mess, when I was not otherwise engaged; and the like civility from Mr. Joseph Forsyth,¹⁶ merchant, and Mr. Neil M'Lean,¹⁷ commissary. Here I staid for several days, waiting a fair wind to proceed in one of the king's sloops to Niagara.

November 23. I took a ride into the country along with Captain Ingram who furnished me with a Horse, and Lieutenant Daniel. We went through a thick wood for about six miles, passed several settlements newly begun in the middle of the wood, every one of which was on limestone. I saw neither stone nor rock in this neighbourhood of any other quality. We returned by another road. The wood mostly hickory, straight, and almost of equal thickness for forty feet to the branches. The hickory nuts are very sweet, and very much resemble the walnut, but are not so large, and much thicker in the shell. Here are great quantities of chesnuts also, and some butt[er] nuts. On our return, we rode about a mile up the side of the Grand Lake,—passed Parson Stewart's¹⁸ house and farm, who has £200 sterling salary, from the British government, and a fine farm of 200 acres, which lies on the side of the lake, and large tracts of it clear. We crossed again from Parson Stewart's along the summit of this flat and charming point, to the house of Sir John Johnston, which is situated above the town and harbour of Kingston, and commands a beautiful prospect. Near this place, but a little more in view of the Grand Lake,

it is supposed the new governor of Upper Canada will erect his place of residence and fix the seat of government. If so, surely none can be more suitable; everything is inviting, and it seems by nature intended for the emporium of this new country, capable of being extended to a considerable empire.

NOTES.

¹At the Cascades.

²At Coteau du Lac.

³Count Andreani.

⁴Reverend John Bethune, formerly chaplain of the First Battalion of the Royal Highland Emigrants, which became later the 84th Regiment.

⁵Captain John Macdonell, formerly of Butler's Rangers and afterwards the first speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the province of Upper Canada. The house referred to was no doubt the building afterwards generally known as "Glengarry House," the ruined walls of which are still standing.

⁶Archibald Macdonell of Leek, late a captain in the First Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York.

⁷Miles Macdonell of Scotas, late an ensign in the First Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York.

⁸James Gray, formerly a captain in the 42d Regiment, and late major in the First Battalion of the Royal Regiment of New York.

⁹Perhaps should be written Hewett, but more probably Wm. Chewett, Deputy Surveyor, who, upon the subdivision of Upper Canada by Lord Dorchester's government into four districts on July 24, 1788, was despatched to the District of Lunenburg with headquarters at Lake St. Francis in order to conduct surveys of lands for the settlers. Soon afterwards he removed his headquarters to Williamsburgh, which appears to have been the place where Campbell found his house in 1791.

¹⁰Malcolm McMartin had been a tenant of lands belonging to Sir John Johnson in the Mohawk Valley. He served for eight years as an officer in the First Battalion of the Royal Regiment of New York.

¹¹This must have been John Munro, formerly an officer in the 48th Regiment and late a captain in the First Battalion of the Royal Regiment of New York. He was appointed a member of the first Legislative Council of Upper Canada in 1792.

¹²Formerly captain in the Loyal Rangers, afterwards a member of the Legislative Council and lieutenant colonel commanding the First Regiment of Dundas Militia in the war of 1812.

¹³Formerly a captain in the Loyal Rangers and afterwards colonel commanding the First Regiment of Grenville Militia and the flank companies stationed at Prescott in the war of 1812.

¹⁴An Iroquois from Caughnawaga, whose name sometimes is written Tomah.

¹⁵Formerly a sergeant in the 21st Regiment and late a lieutenant in the Second Battalion of the Royal Regiment of New York; afterwards naval officer at the port of Kingston.

¹⁶For many years a leading merchant in Kingston.

¹⁷Formerly a lieutenant in the 7th Regiment, late a lieutenant in the Royal Highland Emigrants; then a member of the land board of the district of Mecklenburg and a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas.

¹⁸Reverend John Stuart, formerly missionary for the Mohawk Indians at Fort Hunter in New York; late chaplain of the Second Battalion of the Royal Regiment of New York; then and until his death in 1814, rector of the Anglican church at Kingston.

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