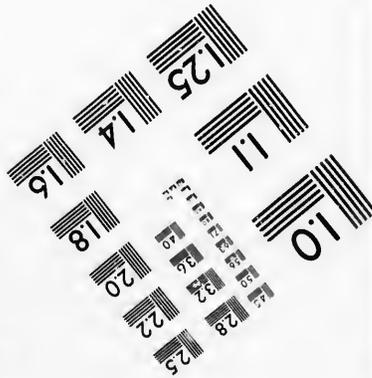
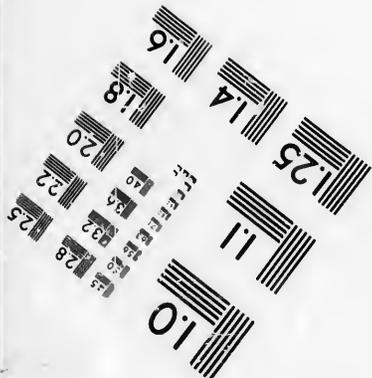
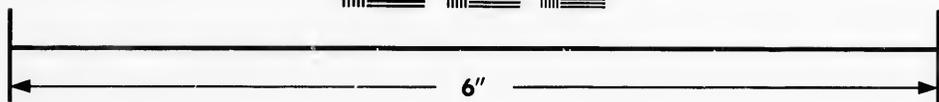
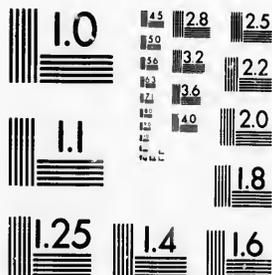


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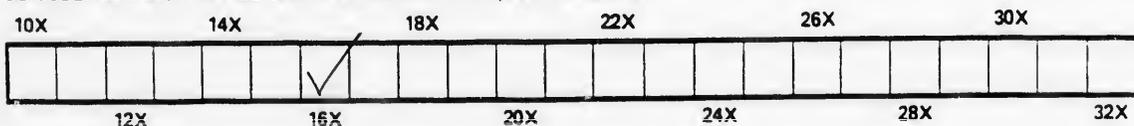
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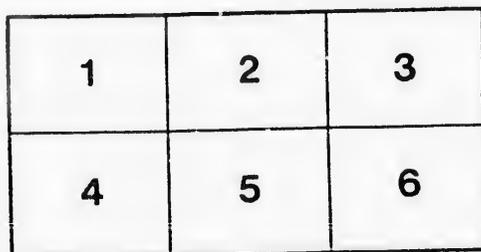
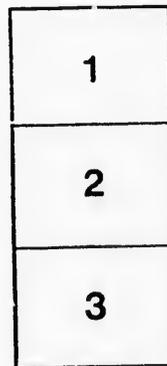
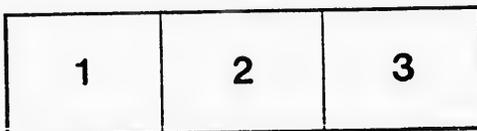
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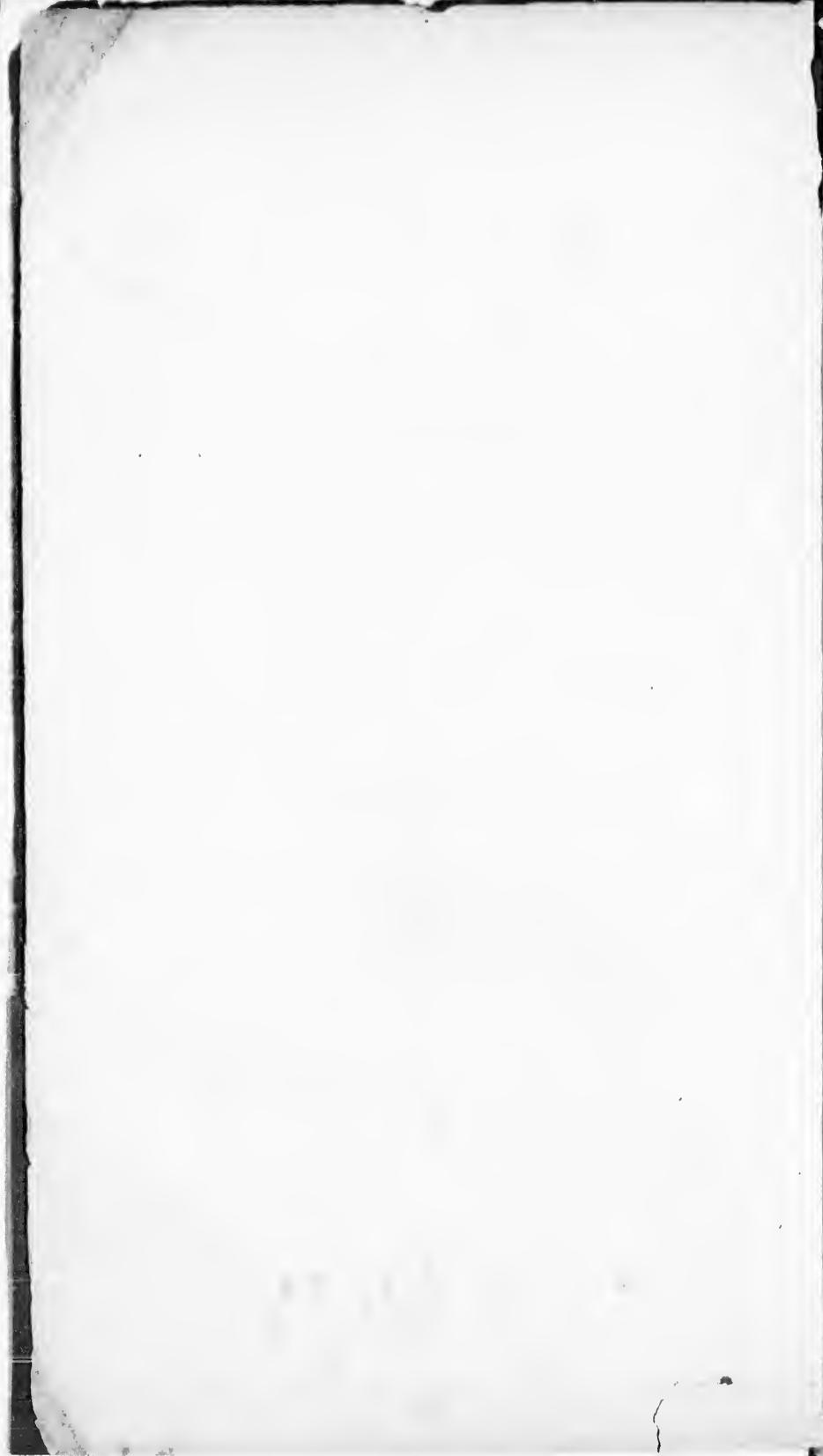
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THE
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A COMPENDIUM OF INFORMATION
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VISITING THE
CITY AND ITS ENVIRONS.



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1850.



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1850.

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TO THE BOSTONIANS,

WHO,

IN THE AUTUMN OF 1850,

Visited Quebec in Parties of Hundreds,

THIS PAMPHLET IS DEDICATED.

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THE HAND-BOOK OF QUEBEC.

To the stranger, Quebec possesses many and varied attractions; for its historical associations, its natural strength and towering position, and the beauty of its surrounding scenery. It is, moreover, the only fortified city in North America. In describing it, the following observations, from the pen of Professor Silliman,—once before quoted in “Hawkins’ Strangers’ Guide,”—may be aptly cited:—

“Quebec, at least for an American city, is certainly a very peculiar place. A military town—containing about twenty thousand inhabitants—most compactly and permanently built—stone its sole material—environed, as to its most important parts, by walls and gates—and defended by numerous heavy cannon—garrisoned by troops having the arms, the costume, the music, the discipline, of Europe—foreign in language, features and origin, from most of those whom they are sent to defend—founded upon a rock, and in its highest parts overlooking a great extent of country—between three and four hundred miles from the ocean—in the midst of a great continent and yet displaying fleets of foreign merchantmen in its fine capacious bay—and showing all the bustle of a crowded sea-port—its streets narrow—populous, and winding up and down almost mountainous declivities—situated in the latitude of the finest parts of Europe—exhibiting in its environs, the beauty of an European capital—and yet, in winter smarting with the cold of Siberia—governed by a people of different language and habits from the mass of the population—opposed in religion, and yet leaving that population without taxes, and in the full enjoyment of every privilege, civil and religious. Such are the prominent features which strike a stranger in the city of Quebec!”

The city is situated on the N.W. bank of the St. Lawrence, in lat. 46 deg. 48 min. 30 sec., and lon. 71 deg. 17 min. It consists of an Upper and a Lower Town, and has three Suburbs,—St. John's, St. Louis, and St. Roch's. Extending westerly from the Lower Town to the Coves (the lumber Depôt), a distance of seven miles, there is also a populous quarter, not distinguished by any suburban appellation. The Lower Town is the mart of the city, the place in which

“ Merchants most do congregate,”

and where the general trade, not only of Quebec, but of its tributaries in Western Canada, is transacted. Like many other business locales in larger cities, it is comprised within a limited space.

The Upper Town is inclosed by walls or fortifications, whose extent is nearly three miles. Within this area are contained the residences of most of the wholesale merchants, the public offices, barracks, &c., and the principal retail stores. Five gates allow of access within the walls, and are severally styled, Prescott, St. John's, Hope, Palace, and St. Lewis Gates. The first is on Mountain Hill, and through it the traveller is almost invariably conducted into the Upper Town to his hotel. Through St. John, and St. Lewis, are the approaches to and from the Suburbs so designated :—Hope and Palace Gates are at the head of approaches from the Lower Town, on the St. Charles' river. At each of these entrances is stationed a guard of soldiers. These guards also furnish sentinels for the line of batteries, whose duty it is to protect from interference the guns (mostly 32-pounders), which bristle throughout the entire line of fortifications. These guns are also examined at intervals throughout the day, by an artilleryman attached to each guard. The height of the rock upon which the walls are erected is, on average, about 300 feet.

As we have already stated, the traveller is usually conducted to the Upper Town from the steamboat, through the tortuous windings of Mountain Street and Prescott Gate, to the Upper Town. Entering this gate, the first building of note that attracts attention, is

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The Parliament Buildings,

Or House of Assembly, which stands at the right. It has a centre and one wing. The wing wanting to complete this edifice will shortly be commenced; workmen being at present employed in demolishing the old building with which this the more modern structure was connected, and which, in olden time, was the Palace of the Roman Catholic Bishop. The building at present under notice is a handsome edifice of grey stone, and when completed will form one of the chief architectural ornaments of the city. The first legislative session held in it was in the month of January, 1834, and for its destined purposes it was last used in August, 1837. As Parliament will, within a few months, again be summoned at Quebec, its hall will once more echo the senatorial eloquence of our provincial statesmen. The hall in which the Debates of the Assembly took place is spacious, and admirably adapted to its intent. It is 79 feet long, by 46 in width. It has a capacious gallery for the accommodation of an audience, with separated spaces for the use of reporters. Adjoining it is the Wardrobe, at present used for the meetings of the City Council. Communicating with this apartment is the Speaker's Room. Immediately above the Wardrobe is the room formerly known as the Library, and now temporarily occupied by the LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. Smaller apartments, intended for the use of the officers of the Assembly fill the remaining portion of the building. The Parliament House has served many purposes since its erection. In 1837 its hall resounded with the fiery harangues of the great Canadian agitator, PAPINEAU, and his revolutionary followers. It has subsequently served as a residence for several Governors General,—as a rendezvous for the loyal volunteers of 1837 and '8,—as a Theatre,—a place for lectures, public meetings, &c., &c. From the Cupola, a magnificent and most extensive view of the city, and country for miles around, can be obtained.

Separated from it but by a narrow thoroughfare is,

The Archbishop's Palace,

Which, also, is a structure of elegance, from a design by a

Canadian architect. Unfortunately (from circumstances unavoidable) it is so situated as ill calculated to arrest the attention of an observer. It was finished but last year. Here the Prelate at the head of the Roman Catholic Church resides. In the rear is

The Seminary Garden,

A spacious area, filled with trees of ancient growth, and intersected by many walks, in which the priests and others attached to the church take exercise.

Arrived at the **ST. GEORGE'S HOTEL**,—the leading establishment of that kind in the city,—kept by Mr. Willis Russell, for years past favorably known to the travelling community, the stranger will find himself in

The Place D'Armes,

As the Square, with its circular grass plot, fronting the hotel, is termed. On the west side of this square stands the Episcopal Cathedral, which was built in 1804. Its exterior length is 135, breadth 73. The height of the spire from the earth is 162 feet. It has a peal of 8 bells, of which the tenor weighs about 16 cwt. Within the church is a monument to the memory of the late Duke of Richmond, who died in 1819, by hydrophobia, from the bite of a fox. His remains were interred between the pulpit and the altar. The neat stone building within the area enclosed, is the Rectory, the present residence of His Lordship the Bishop of Quebec. Adjoining it is the Rectory Chapel. The space occupied by these edifices was formerly the site of the church, convent and garden of the Recollet Fathers. Their buildings having been destroyed by fire in 1796, the land was appropriated to its present purpose.

On the east side of the Place D'Armes will be seen a grassy slope, leading to Durham Terrace. Here stood the late

Theatre St. Lewis,

Formerly a Riding-School, which was destroyed by fire, in 1846, by the falling of a camphine lamp, during an exhibition of some Dissolving Views. But few of the

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spectators present at the time escaped the flames. A general rush was made down the stair to the door. A woman fell—others fell over her, and the staircase became irremediably blocked. The fatal result was, that 45 persons were burnt to death. Ascending this slope, we reach

Durham Terrace,

A platform of wood, on the site of the former Castle of St. Louis, which latter was destroyed by fire, in 1834. The platform was named after the late Earl of Durham, and is the favorite promenade for our citizens. From it a bird's-eye view of a portion of the Lower Town can be obtained. The entire panorama presenting itself is one of rare and exquisite picturesqueness. The mighty St. Lawrence (at this point nearly one mile in width,) the verdant heights of Point Levi opposite; the distant Island of Orleans—the pretty villages of Beauport, Charlesbourg, Chateau Richer—the Falls of Montmorenci—in clear weather, the distant village of Ste. Anne (30 miles from Quebec), and the still more distant heights of Cap Tourment, which finds a place in the category of the highest mountains in the world. The large quaint-looking building, adjacent to the Terrace, is

The Old Chateau St. Louis.

While Quebec was the Seat of Government, its spacious apartments were used by the Governor General for levees, drawing-rooms, &c. Its large saloon is now occupied as a Lodge-Room by the I.O.O.F.—the Mercantile and Albion Lodges. Extending from the Chateau, to the S.W., is the

Government Garden,

Which is 540 feet long, and 210 broad. Within it is a small battery, called "Wolfe's Battery." A portion of the rampart was carried away in 1841, by a land slide,—the face of the cliff having given way, and descended into Champlain street below, crushing several houses, and causing great loss of life. About 30 persons perished beneath the ponderous mass of rock.

Facing the Government Garden, is the PUBLIC GARDEN, open to the citizens, and where the military bands play, on stated days, throughout the summer. In it stands what is termed,

Wolfe's Monument,

although it was erected to commemorate the joint memories of the illustrious leaders who fell at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. It was erected in 1828, and the cost defrayed by private subscription. The plan was from the pencil of Capt. Young, of the 79th Highlanders. The height from the ground to the apex is 65 feet, the column itself being 42 feet 8 inches. On the river side the monument bears inscribed the word "Wolfe," on the opposite side the name of "Montcalm" appears. The following inscription will also be read:—

Mortem. Virtus. Commvnm
Famam. Historia:
Monvmentum. Posteritas
Dedit.

The French Cathedral.

In the rear of the St. George's Hotel, and forming one side of the Upper Town Market Square, stands the edifice above-named. It is a Roman Catholic Church, and was erected in 1666. It suffered considerably in 1759, from shot and shells thrown from Pointe Levi. The old front has been replaced by a neat façade, which however, remains incomplete; owing it is said to the want of the necessary funds. The lofty tower forms part of the ancient edifice. Its interior, which is handsomely decorated, can be visited at any hour of the day. Many valuable paintings adorn its walls; among them the following:—

1. The Altar Piece portrays the *Conception*, in the style of Lebrun.
2. On the north, the *Apostle Paul*, in his extatic Vision. 2 Cor.—By *Carlo Maratte*.
3. On the opposite wall is a design, The Saviour ministered unto by Angels.—*Restout*.

the PUBLIC GARDEN,
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4. (Copy.) Above the Altar in the South Nave. The Flight of Joseph and Mary with the young Child into Egypt.—Matt. ii. 19, 21.

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5. On the Pillar above the Pulpit, A delineation of the Redeemer on the Cross.—By *Vandyke*.

I also be read:—
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6. On the opposite Pillar, The Nativity of Christ, (Copy). After *Annibal Carracchi*.

as

7. The Saviour under the contumelious outrages of the Soldiers. Matt. xvii, 27, 31.—*Fluret*.

1.

8. The Day of Pentecost.—By *Vignon*.

el, and forming

9. The Holy Family.—By *Blanchard*. Also, a Portrait of St. Anne and the Holy Family. Both Copies.

quare, stands the

On the opposite side of the Market Square is the Jesuits' Barrack, so called because it was formerly the College of those Reverend Fathers, whose early efforts in the cause of education in Canada are well remembered. It has not been changed in outward appearance since first constructed. At the decease of the last of their Order, Father Casot, who died in 1800, the whole of their estates became Government property, and has since been occupied as a barrack. In appearance it is somewhat unsightly, though of great dimensions, and three stories in height. It forms a quadrangle of 200 feet by 224. The garden of the College formerly occupied the ground upon which it stands. Their barrack at present occupied by the 19th Regiment, under the Command of Lieut. Colonel Hay. The Garrison Library is in one corner of the building, to the south of the main-entrance, which fronts the Market-Place. There is a second entrance, from St. Anne Street. The remaining sides of the Square, are filled (partially, it is true), by shops which would reflect credit upon a larger city, and whose style of architecture manifests the progress of improvement in Quebec. We particularly refer to the Stores of W. S. Henderson & Co., Hatters, and Fur Dealers,—and of Mr. H. S. Scott, Hardware Merchant.

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The Citadel.

To our visitors from the United States, the CITADEL with its noble fortifications, is a common point of attraction; indeed we believe that of the many strangers who visit Quebec from year to year, by far the greater number throng to the Citadel, in preference to other points or places of interest. This is, perhaps, but natural. As we have already stated, ours is the only fortified city in North America,—but the whole continent abounds with magnificent scenery.

The height of the Citadel, from the Lower Town exceeds three hundred feet, and the excellence of art in the adaptation of fortifications to strengthen a natural position, most strong in itself, will be observable to the stranger. A steep and winding ascent leads to the entrance gate, called Dalhousie Gate, after the Earl of Dalhousie, once a Governor General of the two Provinces—Lower and Upper Canada, prior to their re-union. A Bastion has also been named after the same distinguished nobleman. In the face of this Bastion (we quote from the "Stranger's Guide")—"are loopholes for the fire of musquetry from within: on the top are the embrasures for the cannon. The loopholes serve also for the admission of air and light into the casemated barracks within, for the troops composing the garrison. They are commodious and well adapted both for comfort and safety, being well ventilated, and proof against fire and missiles of every description. These barracks are at present occupied by the 79th Highlanders, Cameronians commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Maule. On the top of DALHOUSIE BASTION is an extensive covered way, or broad gravel walk, with embrasures for mounting cannon, commanding every part of the ditch and glacis, and every avenue of approach to the Citadel. From this elevated spot is obtained a delightful view of the surrounding scenery and the harbour. Within the arch gate are the Main-Guard rooms, for a detachment and an officer, who are relieved every day, (the only officer's guard now maintained in Quebec); and in front of it is a spacious area—

used as a parade ground—or rather an enlargement of the ditch-formed by the retiring angles and face of the bastion. This is a splendid work, presenting a most august appearance, and combining strength and symmetry with all the modern improvements in the art of fortification.”

Visitors can obtain access to the Citadel upon application at the office of the Town Major, and every civility and attention will be shown them. Except upon special application, the Armoury, which contains a vast amount of equipments for troops, is not thrown open to strangers; but on the recent visit of our neighbours from Boston, the present Ordnance Storekeeper, W. A. Holwell, Esq., was in attendance to shew its interior, and the excellent arrangements of the arms contained within it.

Continuing our walk in search of the Barracks, we find the

Artillery Barracks,

Adjoining Palace Gate. It was erected by the French, prior to 1750. It is necessarily old-fashioned, but commodious. Without the walls is the Ordnance Office.

Powder magazines are distributed throughout the works.

The Ursuline Convent

Has an origin of years far back. The efforts of an early pilgrim in the cause of education or charity,—Madame de la Peltrie,—caused the establishment of this institution, which is now the leading scholastic establishment in the city, for females. The building itself, we are fain to say, is unsightly, and the old convent of the Ursulines (excluded from view) is as antique in appearance as might be supposed from the wants it was destined to supply when first constructed. In the Chapel attached to the Convent—called the Church of Ste. Ursule,—the ceremony of admitting Nuns is performed; and therein may also be seen a tablet erected to the memory of Montcalm. Admission to the Convent is not easily attainable.

There are other Roman Catholic institutions in Quebec, conducted upon the most philanthropic principles, such as the HOTEL DIEU, in Palace Street, and the General Hospital, on the bank of the River St. Charles. It must not, however, be understood, from this brief summary, that "Protestant activity" has been wanting in its discharge of charitable demands and duties. We disclaim any desire to establish an invidious distinction between religious sects, when we state, that, from comparatively private means, the Protestants have accomplished as much towards the relief of the poor and the endowment of charitable and benevolent institutions, as the Roman Catholics with their vast territorial revenues. Both Churches, however, strive in honorable emulation, and honor be to each. The many charitable institutions, of every description, established and conducted by the various religious communities (the enumeration of which we are unable to give within the limits of the present publication) fully corroborate our assertion.

There are but few scholastic institutions in Quebec, of note,—nay, but two ;—the High School, and the Quebec Seminary. There are, however, others of excellence—especially for female education, in which the Ursuline Convent may be said to have the first rank. The ladies (Nuns) of the Convent are skilled teachers in every branch of female education, and their classes are most numerously attended by children professing opposite creeds.

The QUEBEC SEMINARY is a noble institution, conducted under the auspices of the priests. Boarders are accepted. The charge for out-door pupils, who receive an excellent education, is but nominal. It was founded in 1663—by M. François de Laval, the first Bishop of Quebec. It has twice suffered by the ravages of fire—an element fertile in Quebec—namely in 1701 and 1705. Attached to it is a Chapel, approachable from the Market-Place of the Upper Town, which is adorned with many paintings of high merit.

At the GENERAL HOSPITAL, in St. Roch's Suburb,

on the bank of the St. Charles, there is also an institution for female education ; and the same building is an asylum for aged and infirm persons.

The Spot where General Montgomery Fell,

has been recorded, by a tablet erected upon the rock, at *Près-de-Ville*, by A. HAWKINS, Esq., to whose exertions in publishing the traditionary glories of Quebec its inhabitants owe a debt of gratitude. In a *brochure* of this description it is to us incompetent to detail the incidents which lead to the defeat of the General. The remains of that gallant officer have since been transferred to New York, where they now repose, in St. Paul's Church.

The following facts relating to the interment, and disinterment of the body of General MONTGOMERY, we have borrowed from Hawkins' *Picture of Quebec*—“ In the year 1818, a request having been made to the Governor-in-Chief, Sir John Sherbrooke, for leave to disinter the remains of General MONTGOMERY, in order that they might be conveyed to New York, and there re-interred, His Excellency acceded to the request, which came to him on the part of Mrs. Montgomery, the widow of the General. Mr. Thompson gave the following affidavit of the facts in order to satisfy the surviving relations and friends of General MONTGOMERY, that the remains which had been so disinterred after the lapse of forty-two years by the same hand that had interred them, were really those of the late General. Mr. Thompson belonged to the army of WOLFE, in 1759.

“ I, JAMES THOMPSON, of the city of Quebec, in the Province of Lower Canada, do testify and declare—that I served in the capacity of an Assistant Engineer during the siege of this city, invested during the years 1775 and 1776 by the American forces under the command of the late Major General RICHARD MONTGOMERY. That in an attack made by the American troops under the immediate command of General MONTGOMERY, in the night of the 31st December, 1775, on a British post at the southernmost extremity of the city, near *Près-de-Ville*,

the General received a mortal wound, and with him were killed his two Aides-de-Camp, McPherson and Cheeseman, who were found in the morning of the 1st January, 1776, almost covered with snow. That Mrs. Prentice who kept an hotel, at Quebec, and with whom General Montgomery had previously boarded, was brought to view the body, after it was placed in the Guard-room, and which she recognised by a particular mark which he had on the side of his head, to be the General's. That the body was then conveyed to a house, (Gobert's,*) by order of Mr. Cramahé, who pro-

* Gobert's house was at the corner of St. Lewis and St. Ursule streets, opposite the City Hall, St. Lewis street. I provided a genteel coffin for the General's body, which was lined inside with flannel, and outside of it with black cloth. That in the night of the 4th January, it was conveyed by me from Gobert's house, and was interred six feet in front of the gate, within a wall that surrounded a powder magazine near the ramparts bounding on St. Lewis Gate. That the funeral service was performed at the grave by the Reverend Mr. de Montmolin, then Chaplain of the garrison. That his two Aides-de-Camp were buried in their clothes, without any coffins, and that no person was buried within twenty-five yards of the General. That I am positive and can testify and declare, that the coffin of the late General Montgomery, taken up on the morning of the 16th of the present month of June, 1818, is the identical coffin deposited by me on the day of his burial, and that the present coffin contains the remains of the late General. I do further testify and declare, that subsequent to the finding of General Montgomery's body, I wore his sword, being lighter than my own, and on going to the Seminary, where the American officers were lodged, they recognized the sword, which affected them so much, that numbers of them wept, in consequence of which I have never worn the sword since.

" Given under my hand, at the city of Quebec, Province of Lower Canada, 19th June, 1818."

" JAMES THOMPSON."

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The Plains of Abraham,

the battle-field which extinguished the power of France in this colony is well worthy of a visit from the stranger ; not only on account of the memorable events which followed the combat upon it, but as at present affording a view scarcely to be surpassed from any point either within or without the city. It was there WOLFE and MONTCALM fell, and the decision of that battle established England's supremacy in her colony. Our limits will not admit of the details of this engagement which must be familiar to every man conversant with the history of this glorious continent. "Hawkins' Picture of Quebec" supplies the amplest information upon this subject, An obelisk has been erected upon the spot where "WOLFE died victorious." MONTCALM, the vanquished General, was buried within the precincts of the Ursuline Convent. A tablet to his memory was placed in the Chapel of the Convent, by Lord Aylmer, which bears the following inscription :—

Honneur
à
MONTCALM!
Le destin en lui dérobant
La victoire,
L'a recompensé par
Une mort glorieuse.

In English :—

Honour to MONTCALM!
Fate, in depriving him of victory,
Recompenséd him
By a glorious death.

There are many places of extreme scenic beauty beyond the walls, but as the present publication is not intended as a general guide, we shall refer but to two;—namely, the FALLS OF MONTMORENCI, and the INDIAN VILLAGE OF LORETTE:—the two chiefest places of attraction to strangers who may make a flying visit to Quebec.

The Montmorenci Falls,

are distant from Quebec about nine miles. The route is one extremely diversified by change of scenery, and from more than one point affords a view of the city and St. Roch's Suburb. The height of the Fall is about 240 feet—though it is not so broad as that of Niagara. From the heights it is best viewed on the opposite side of the stream; but, visitors who may disregard the trouble of a descent to the basin into which the cataract pours itself, and a subsequent toiling ascent, will be well repaid for their pains.

The Natural Steps,

about a mile above the Falls, are well deserving of a visit. In winter the spray from the cataract forms a cone (or sugar-loaf as it is termed), rising to about one-third of its height, which forms a great source of attraction to our *beaux* and *belles*, who repair thither in sliding-parties, to scale its height, and descend in small sleighs.

The Indian Village of Lorette,

is about nine miles distant from the city. It is not a collection of wigwams, although the tribe claim descent from the once-powerful Hurons. Civilization has done for them what its achievements elsewhere have been. The Village is beautifully situated above a Fall, which although of limited extent is of picturesque grandeur: and the drive thither is through a beautiful country, and commands some of the finest views of the city (in the distance) and surrounding country.

Comparative Value of Coins, at Quebec:

An Eagle.....	\$10.
Sovereigns.....	4.90
Half-Sovereign.....	2.45
English Half-Crown.....	62½ cts.
“ Shilling.....	25 “
“ Sixpence.....	12½ “

All American Coins, same as in the United States.—Current Bills of Boston and New York pass at their respective value here:—that is as taken at the ST. GEORGE'S HOTEL.

T. GE



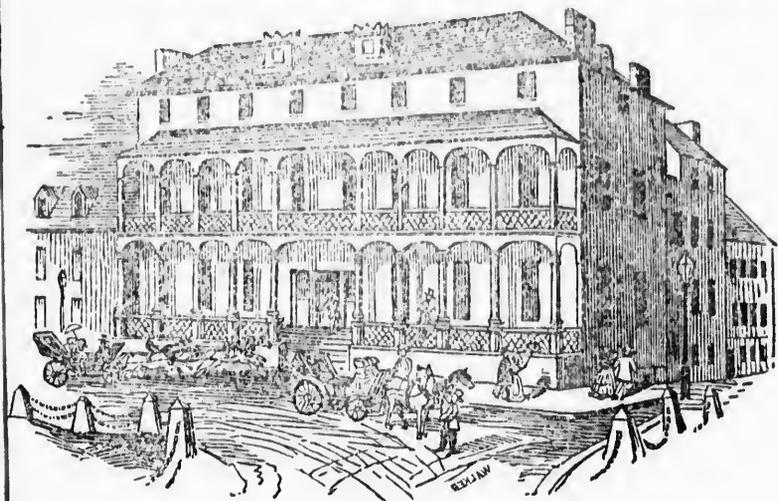
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TO THE STRANGER,

RENDERS IT AN ELIGIBLE RESIDENCE.

WILLIS RUSSELL.

QUEBEC, 9th October, 1850.

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