

NOTES, &c.

THE communication with the Upper Provinces being now open, I prepared to leave Montreal, upon Thursday, April 28.*

Coach hours are early in the States and in Canada. We started before 5 A. M., along a very tolerable road, for La Chine, distant nine miles. A canal, of considerable importance to commerce, by avoiding some troublesome rapids, has been formed for the like distance. The surface of the country is flat; the soil, though light, is apparently fertile; and the husbandry superior to what usually presents itself in this part of the world; a circumstance which the vicinity of Montreal may in some measure explain. Our coach party proved a pleasant one. We had with us a sort of *public* character, in a journalist of the Upper Province, distinguished for principles, by some called liberal, and by others denounced as breathing sedition itself. Mr M—— was now on his return from Quebec, where he had been catering for the columns of “*The Colonial Advocate*,” and, among other items, had received the parliamentary papers upon the Rideau Canal, a precious *morceau* for critique and exposition.

At La Chine we embarked in a steam-boat upon an expedition of the St Lawrence, called Lake St Louis. A capital breakfast was waiting us on board, and we had a very pleasant run of twenty-three miles to the Cascades, where, on account of rapids in the river, we resumed our land travelling. From the state of the road we were obliged to use waggons, and had a somewhat rough ride of sixteen miles to Coteau de Lac. The

* However crude the travelling accommodations may yet be in Canada or the States, it is certain that matters are mending. In 1796, Weld could only find *two* vehicles in Albany, which were in use to be hired to travellers, and these only to be had at a most extravagant rate; while, in order to reach the Upper Province, he says, “On arriving here (Montreal) our first concern was to provide a large travelling tent-camp-equipage, buffalo skins, dried provisions, &c. and, in short, to make every *usual and necessary* preparation for ascending the St Lawrence by a *batteaux* to Kingston.” At present, I had only to step into the stage-office and pay for my place.

country was settled, and well cultivated. The houses, barns, &c. were commodious; and we passed several handsome churches. The population I understood to be chiefly Roman Catholic. At Coteau we again took possession of a steamer, and started for Cornwall, distant thirty-six miles. The road during our last stage was for the most part along the river side, and the noble stream, clear as crystal, with foaming rapids, and romantic islands, clothed in dark pines and other varieties of wood, formed a constant source of delight, not forgetting the brilliant plumage of the crested kingfisher, everywhere abundant on its banks. We were now upon Lake St Francis, another large expanse of the St Lawrence. It seems to me that there is a pleasant variety in this amphibious mode of travelling, and it is so arranged, by suiting our meals to the time spent upon the water, that the utmost comfort and leisure is secured to the traveller. The plan for to-day was to dine on board, and reach Cornwall in the evening, there to remain all night. An old adage has pronounced, however, that there is much between the cup and the lip. We left Coteau with every prospect of a comfortable voyage, but ere we had proceeded many miles we were caught by one of those squalls which occasionally arise in a moment upon the lakes. Preparations were making in the cabin for dinner, and I was engaged in writing, when my attention was drawn to a confused noise upon deck, while, at the same moment, the vessel gave a heavy lurch, with the sensation of a sudden stop. I was immediately called up by a fellow passenger, and, as I ascended, the engineer rushed past me, pale as death, exclaiming, "*We are lost!*" I did not at the moment comprehend the full extent of our danger, as the alarm arose, not from the squall alone, but from the machinery having become disordered, the pumps choked, and an explosion immediately expected. All was in confusion upon deck, the captain and mate alone seeming to retain any self-possession. A poor Canadian voyageur, who had charge of the helm, deserted his post, calling in despair upon *Sainte Marie* for aid. Fortunately, a steady fellow, with better nerves and less faith in saints, had been placed beside him, and succeeded in keeping the vessel's head to the wind. At one heavy roll, a general movement took place in the steward's pantry, and nearly a score of bottles

of Madeira, brandy, &c. with lots of crockery and crystal were demolished with an astounding crash. Bad as this was, too, it was by no means all, for one of those extensive rafts, constructed in winter and moved down in spring to Montreal or Quebec, had gone to pieces just ahead. The logs, now cast loose, were rushing past us in numbers on each side, with a violence which must have inevitably staved the vessel if she had been struck. Neither could we contemplate without dismay eleven poor fellows cast away by the raft. Two or three of them, distinctly observed at a very short distance, seemed to be in the last struggle; and great was our relief by learning (though not until some days afterwards, at Kingston) that they had all, in a most providential manner, by clinging to spars, been carried for several miles in safety to the American side. For ourselves, by some happy change below, the pumps suddenly cleared, steam resumed its office, and, ere we had time to ponder much upon the matter, we were scudding back for Coteau before the gale, which continued to blow for several hours, with unabated violence.

On the following morning, when I came upon deck, I found that we had taken our second departure from Coteau about 3 o'clock A. M. The storm was past, the lake tranquil, and the morning beautiful. St Francis had now begun to contract, and the St Lawrence to resume its form. We passed many romantic islands of various extent, some entirely covered with wood, others partially cleared. On our right, and close along the water edge, lay the Glengarry settlement. A mansion-house, bearing the same name, is finely placed upon a commanding point, but at present it is in ruin from the effects of fire. The settlement is extensive, and the local advantages are such, that, with ordinary attention and industry, the colonists must prosper. The wheat had a most luxuriant appearance, but the general aspect of the farms betokened rather indifferent management. It may be very fairly objected, however, that an agricultural survey from the deck of a steam-boat is little worthy of regard, though a stronger bias certainly prevails with our gallant Celts for the toils of the forest or the chase than for steady labour at the mattock or the plough. Several of the farms wear a different aspect, and bring their careless neighbours into more striking contrast. We breakfasted, as usual,

on board, and soon after reached Cornwall, where we were destined to pursue our course by land for Prescott, a distance of fifty miles, and which it was intended we should accomplish before night. I had travelled in coaches and in waggons, but here a vehicle was in waiting which might be termed a *cross-breed*. It partook both of the waggon and the coach, and was most incommodiously distinguished by the absence of a door, the window forming the only mode of effecting our "exits and our entrances." A short distance from Cornwall we were brought up, in some very heavy road, by the splinter bar giving way; an accident which, considering that we had to send back to the town for aid, was repaired with marvellous celerity. It soon became evident, however, from this delay, and the general aspect of the road, a heavy clay floated by rain, that we should not sleep at Prescott; and it was some consolation to learn that one of the best kept taverns in Canada awaited us about midway. The part of the country in which we now were appears to be a good agricultural district. The soil varies from a heavy clay to a lighter description, in some places inclining to sand, and would seem to be exceedingly well adapted for a sheep stock. In the States of New York, and in Canada, a fine stool of white clover is always ready to start up when the land is tolerably clean, and left to rest.

Our route for the most part lay near the river, and the same beautiful scenery (rapids and romantic islands) continued in succession to claim our notice and regard. Farms, pretty well cultivated, enclosed by "*worm*" fences of split rails, comfortable houses, and fine orchards, were everywhere frequent, and fancy could revel on many a spot where the eye of taste would find little difficulty in laying out a noble domain. Our road was now every mile getting worse, and the wooden bridges across brooks and ravines appeared to my unpractised eye to be almost impassable. My fellow-travellers, however, (an amiable young lady included) testified neither surprise nor alarm, and, of course, it did not become me to complain. The planks of the bridges were frequently so loose, so rotten, and so crazy, that I am yet at a loss to conjecture how our bulky machine and the four high-mettled steeds escaped without falling through. A sufficient supply of stone for repairs lay along the road side,

generally too in heaps, as gathered from the land, while timber for the bridges was certainly not far to seek. The period of annual repair had not, however, yet come round, and even then no metal would be applied, the road would merely receive a sort of levelling, often, as I was assured, *with the plough*, and the mud holes be in some temporary way filled up.

A great deal might be said upon Canadian roads, and it is a subject of regret that, from several causes, there is but little prospect of any immediate improvement. Road-making can only be substantially and satisfactorily executed, by men who have made it a profession. Canada is yet too poor and too thinly settled to afford funds by assessment or by turnpike, and the roads are, for the most part, consigned to the services of the farmers themselves, who turn out with their waggons and teams for a certain number of days in each year. The interest of each individual is thus palpably to consult his own ease, and the road is repaired to very little purpose. In fact it is done with considerable reluctance, because the farmer feels that he is labouring rather for the public than for himself. His sleigh in winter, and the advantages of water-carriage in almost every part of the province, render the good or bad condition of the highways to him a matter of comparative indifference. And thus it seems likely enough to continue until the country fills up, and more general intercourse shall be established. It may be asked, why does not the legislature interfere and complete a good road, the first of all improvements? In reply, I may only hazard a conjecture, that, in the event of a rupture with our neighbours, a good road along the frontier might be convertible into a serious annoyance, and that for military purposes the Rideau Canal *is expected* to form a communication between the Upper and Lower Province. Whether it will realize such hopes, or how we are to protect the locks at Kingston and other points of the lines from any serious attempt by the Americans to occupy or destroy them, must be settled by those who are more deeply versed in such matters than I am : but, bad as our road may be, I am wandering rather too far from it.

I have mentioned the awkward provision made in our vehicle for ingress and egress, a provision by the way, devised for the purpose of excluding water in passing through rivers and

brooks. Frequent were the requests of our coachman, "*Just to get out a bit,*" calls which, however prudent and reasonable in themselves, were attended with no slight inconvenience to me, as it proved no joke for a man of my caliber to be bolting out and scrambling in at the window every few miles. Besides this harlequinade, our ears were occasionally saluted in more critical circumstances, with a shrill cry of, "*Gentlemen, please a little to the right or to the left,*" as the case might require, when our own sensations readily seconding the call, there was an instantaneous and amusing scramble to restore the equilibrium. Broken heads on such occasions are by no means rare, though happily we suffered no material inconvenience beyond the slowness of our progress. In one very bad clayhole, with a steep bank, our machine fairly stuck fast, and was all but upset. In vain did our excellent horses strive to clear it. The coachman was obliged to repair to a neighbouring farm for a team of oxen, while some of the party provided themselves, *sans ceremonie*, with stakes from the adjoining fence, to be ready with their aid. In due time the oxen arrived, the body of the carriage was lifted off the frame, and the wheels extricated, the whole affair being transacted without any symptoms of bad humour, or, so far as I heard, a single angry malediction. The operation necessarily requiring some time, Mr F——, his sister and I, paid our respects to an honest Dutch farmer on the wayside. We found a clean tidy house, a busy household, a most civil welcome, and a hearty lunch of bread and butter, preserved peaches and milk, all superlatively good, nor could we manage to offer any compensation beyond thanks to the good dame, and gratifying her benevolence by a trifle of charity for a poor widow in the neighbourhood, in whom the family seemed to be much interested.

It was evening ere we reached our quarters in a snug comfortable country inn. The house was not very large, and the party was rather numerous, which for the first time in my American travels deprived me of a single room. This event, so fruitful a theme with some tourists, only occurred to me upon *one* other occasion, and then a handsome apology was spontaneously offered by the landlord at Buffalo, in a very crowded hotel, for putting a friend and myself into a double-bedded room. Higgledy-piggledy adventures, no doubt, occur in the

back woods, but we should scarce hold it fair, I guess, to produce a hedge alehouse or a Highland *clachan* as fair samples of what travellers are to expect in journeying through Britain. Many were the friendly admonitions, too, which I received before leaving home, anent certain little vampyres, the terror and the torment of weary travellers. Now, whatever may have been the lot of others, I am bound to state, that I only encountered this species of annoyance once, and that was in our own good city of Quebec. The scenery at Campbell's tavern is fine. Deer are frequently seen, and Mr C. described with some interest the capture of two very fine ones lately, in the act of swimming from an island in front of the house.—The following morning proved rainy until after breakfast, when it cleared, and we proceeded cheerily on our route. We were now in the Matilda district, which I consider a favourable situation for settlers, who are able and inclined to purchase farms already made. The soil appears in general of a light description, probably well suited for sheep. We had the river for the most part in view, with wooded islands of infinite beauty. In some places the clearing of the land has been effected by fire, and when a forest of tall blackened masts occasionally presented themselves in a bay or behind a headland, bearing a very tolerable resemblance to a crowded dock, the mind's eye was led to anticipate the period when such may be actually realized in the commerce of this noble stream. Nothing particular occurred in our day's ride. The lumbering article of yesterday was exchanged for two light waggons, the road was better, and we reached Prescott in good time for dinner. This is a town of some size, but does not at present appear to be in a very flourishing condition. Directly opposite in locality, and I suspect also in prosperity, is Ogdensburgh, in the State of New York, to which we resolved upon a trip after dinner, as the steam-boat which was to convey us to Kingston had not yet arrived. We found a convenient steam-boat at the ferry, which in a few minutes landed us in the States. Ogdensburgh was formerly called Oswegatchie, the name of a powerful stream falling into the St Lawrence, and from the capital and taste of Mr Parish, and other proprietors, is fast emerging from a village to become a bustling town. After inspecting some extensive saw-mills, we returned to Prescott,

and found the "Sir James Kempt" nearly ready to start for Kingston. A very large steamer, the property of John Hamilton, Esq. was lately launched here, and now lay in the river nearly equipped. Late as was the hour, Mr H. insisted upon our paying her a visit, and most kindly accompanied us. The affair was not altogether pleasant, as, before arrangements were made, it had become quite dark, and we required the aid of a ricketty boat to reach the vessel, which being accomplished, we had to scramble up and down her lofty side by the light of a lanthorn, and only a rope to trust to. Her accommodations were certainly very superb and convenient. We passed Morris-town on the American, and Brockville on the Canada, shore, during the night, and being aware of the fine scenery before us, our captain kindly engaged to call me before entering on the labyrinth of the Thousand Islands.

Sunday, May 1.—About four this morning I was summoned on deck, and found the vessel moored to a natural wharf, where we had been taking in a supply of fuel. A set of free-and-easy woodcutters find a livelihood here, by clearing Government land of its timber, without troubling the authorities to collect value or rents. It consists of pine, and is not, I believe, of much intrinsic value. A man may prepare two cords a-day, but it is severe work, and the price, which is one dollar per cord, will do little more than compensate maintenance and labour. Our vessel takes about 2000 cords per annum. The morning was worthy of May-day, and I watched the gradual approach of sunrise with much interest. The river, smooth as a mirror, reflected minutely on its surface every tree and every rock. We soon got involved among the islands, the river expanding to a lake, and deriving its name from their number. It is a scene quite unique. On every side you observe numberless channels and wooded islands of all sizes and forms. Some are of considerable extent, while others will scarce admit of footing to the woodman, who seeks to rob them of their solitary pine. Many a flock of water-fowl did our paddle scare from their quiet haunts, and occasionally a majestic eagle was to be seen soaring aloft. The helmsman recounted to me a sporting feat of some novelty, of which this spot was the scene. It occurred last *fall*, and ended in the capture of a fine buck, which was observed

swimming among the islands, and after many a double was fairly run down by the steamer, encumbered for a time by four heavy Durham boats towing at her stern. We stopped for a time at Guananoque, where a fine mill-stream pours into the St Lawrence, and has led to a thriving establishment of extensive flour-mills, a cooperage, &c., with a well cultivated farm, the property of Mr Macdonnell.

Kingston, the largest and most considerable town in Upper Canada, though not the seat of government, opens with a fine effect as you pass the Fort and enter the Bay. It is a rare and curious sight to look upon a fleet of large ships of war, laid up in ordinary in a fresh-water lake so remote from the ocean. It will be long, I trust, ere the Temple of Janus shall again be opened; but should Ontario and Erie be yet destined to bear the armed navy of Britain, it is to be hoped that her rulers may discover the waters to be fresh. To send out at an enormous expense from an English dock-yard the complete frame-work of a frigate was bad enough, but to add a regular set of *water casks*, which a bucket was ready to supersede, may well be termed the acmé of improvidence and waste.

The town of Kingston is well laid out, with some handsome churches, &c. and many excellent private mansions, substantially built of stone. Our quarters in Meyers' Hotel were extremely comfortable, and we reached town in time to attend service in the Episcopal Church. It was pleasing again to listen to the peal of the organ, and the solemn liturgy of our church, in a land yet but half emerged from a savage state, and we had a most excellent sermon from Mr C. the worthy and exemplary clergyman of the place. Kingston is a place of trade, for which it is well situated, and appears to be in a prosperous state. It is also a military and naval station. The population, I believe, is above three thousands souls. Having an opportunity at this place of visiting a portion of the Rideau Canal, by a ride of a few miles into the forest, I procured horses for a young fellow traveller and myself from our obliging host, and in a delightful afternoon, with a genuine American for a guide, we started on our excursion. We had a pleasant scamper through the woods, and in due time reached the canal. Some very fine locks have been constructed here, of solid masonry and

beautiful workmanship, but executed, I should think, with no very rigid considerations of economy or expense. An extensive embankment has been formed, to deepen a shallow lake, and the canal, from this point, will very soon be opened into Kingston Bay. The log-huts, &c. are government property, stamped with the broad arrow, and the inmates, I regretted to observe, stamped also with the sickly hue of an aguish district. We crossed the line of the canal, and returned to town by the south side of the bay. A little trait of American character, not perhaps unworthy of record, occurred as we jogged along. When passing a farm-yard, the ears of our guide were, for the first time in his life, saluted by the screech of a peacock. Listening with little patience to my description of the bird, he galloped off to find him, poking about in every description. The evening was fast closing in, and as we could not proceed without him, I sounded a loud note of recal. It was sounded, however, in vain; nothing would do, until he finally succeeded in finding the object of his search perched in full glory on a rail. Some high-minded folks will perhaps say, "Here was impertinence with a vengeance!" What? a fellow engaged for a time as your servant, absolutely presume to leave you in the lurch. Even so, and yet I must plead to be more amused than provoked by the resolute determination of Jonathan to satisfy a reasonable curiosity, though at the hazard of giving some offence to a temporary employer.

We recrossed the river by a wooden bridge, built by subscription, and the pontage upon which yields a good return; it is about one-third of a mile in extent. The fort, the navy-yard, &c. are situated upon a bold headland commanding the harbour. In a paddock adjoining the residence of the commodore, I observed a small herd of the native deer. They were in low condition, but appeared near akin to the red deer of Scotland. Willingly could I have lingered for some time in the neighbourhood of Kingston, but time was pressing, and only admitted of a steamboat excursion on Quente Bay. I started in the *Sir James Kempt* on the following morning, and passed several fine situations for villas in the vicinity of the town and upon the banks of the lake. Mr Haggerman, solicitor-general of Upper Canada, possesses one of great beauty, with the grounds sloping

down to the water edge. We had as usual a numerous cabin party, and I met with the utmost kindness and anxiety to afford me information. The Bay of Quente is a sound, running up for eighty or ninety miles to the mouth of the River Trent, and separated from Ontario by an extensive and fine peninsula, called Prince Edward's Island. Missourga Point is very beautiful, in many features resembling the park scenery of England. The object of our voyage, besides the conveyance of passengers, seemed mainly directed to the collection of flour at various villages and wharfs, and with which our deck became ultimately loaded to its utmost capacity of stowage. Sometimes these were received from stores, but frequently most comfortable looking personages attended our arrival with waggon loads from their farms, periods of call having been previously arranged. During a part of the first night we lay at the mouth of the Trent, and spent the following day cruising from place to place. It was amusing each morning at breakfast to observe the change of faces, which had occurred during the night. On Tuesday evening we were detained at Bath by a smart thunder-storm, with heavy rain; and, as if a disturbance in the elements was not enough, we were favoured with a glorious row between a loving couple on deck. Loud was the din of war, but the shrill pipe of the lady prevailed, and the discomfited hero resigned the field, protesting that he could no longer endure her temper, and now bade her adieu for ever. Little did he reckon upon having very nearly realized this doughty bravado. The night was dark, and a hasty stride immersed him in the lake, from whence he was dragged, sufficiently cooled, by the men engaged in loading the boat, and restored to his *cara sposa*, amidst the most appropriate exclamations of penitence on her part for having, as she supposed, driven him to the dreadful act. The country along the Bay of Quente is altogether pleasing, the land for the most part good, and the locality favourable for agricultural or mercantile settlers. Various small towns are here advancing to importance, and altogether it is a district which deserves the attention of emigrants who are not prepared to plant themselves altogether in the bush, and who have a moderate capital wherewith to make a purchase of land in some measure reclaimed.

Early on Wednesday morning, May 4th, we reached Kings-

ton, and, after breakfast, I re-embarked in the *Alciope*, a steamer which plies from hence to Queenston, on the Niagara river. Besides ordinary passengers, we had with us a detachment of the 79th Highlanders, with families and baggage, on route for Amherstburgh, a small fort at the west end of Lake Erie. They were a healthy, joyous set, indulging in many a rough practical joke with each other, but kind, affectionate, and gentle to the women and children. The officers were pleasant, gentlemanly men, and great was the surprise of Captain R——, who commanded the party, when he discovered my name upon my luggage, he being a native of Perth, although personally unknown to each other. His wife and children were with him, and I felt a pleasure in being thus enabled to carry good accounts of them to Scotland. Canada, I was told, is sadly subversive of discipline, and a run to the States is easily effected, when officers prove what the soldiers please to consider too strict. Two grenadiers from the 79th had disappeared that very morning. Deserters, however, frequently return, and Sir John Colborne has adopted, in ordinary cases, lenient measures, which seemed to be generally approved.

We were now fairly at sea, upon fresh water, with a head wind, a heavy swell, and many passengers discomposed. Our course lay about twenty miles from land on either side. Ontario is about 180 miles in length, and 100 fathoms in depth. The water is perfectly pellucid, while Erie is turbid. The latter, being comparatively shallow (about forty fathoms), probably occasions the difference. Our cabin table and our cabin party were sumptuous and agreeable, as I have always found them. On Thursday morning I rose early, and enjoyed from our upper deck a splendid sunrise. It united, as it were, all the magnificence of that sublime object, as witnessed both at sea and on shore. About twelve this forenoon, when perambulating the deck, a large column of smoke, rising in clouds, and far to the south-west, attracted my attention. It was Niagara, then distant above twenty-five miles, as the crow flies. The sky was of a fine clear, yellowish-red, well adapted to increase the effect; and I watched it with feelings of interest becoming hourly more intense as I approached the scene of so many wonders. We were off the mouth of the Niagara about three o'clock, and met

the steamboat for York coming out, to which several of our party transferred themselves. The river was full of shoal-ice, and our progress necessarily slow. Notwithstanding many precautions, we received some heavy thumps, and lost part of our paddle-sheathing. The river is here about a quarter of a mile in width, and forms the boundary with the States.

Upon the south or south-west bank stands the old French fort, garrisoned by the Americans; and exactly *vis à vis* is Fort George, occupied by British troops. Adjoining to it is the small town of Newark, frequently and most inconveniently called likewise Niagara. It is well placed for trade, but did not seem to be much alive. There are some morasses in the vicinity, said to render it at times rather unhealthy; but, as it stands upon an extensive platform, I should imagine this to be rare, or, at all events, by judicious drainage, not difficult to correct.

I should have mentioned that Mr H——, whose acquaintance I had made in Montreal, is owner of the Alciope, and was himself along with us. My letters of introduction for Newark and Queenston were thus rendered nugatory, as my hospitable friend would allow no door in Queenston to open for me but his own. There we arrived early in the evening, and there I had the unspeakable pleasure of finding a large packet from home, with accounts just as comfortable, in all respects, as I could desire. Queenston is a small town, overhanging the river, and close at the foot of that remarkable ridge which intersects the country, and is by many geologists conjectured to have, at some remote period, formed the margin of Lake Ontario. Directly opposite to Queenston is Lewiston, a thriving town in the state of New York.

The whole frontier line from Ontario to Erie formed the scene of bloody strife during the last war. A severe action was fought on Queenston heights on the 13th of October 1812, and a tree in a small field, on the west side of the village, marks the spot where General Brock fell when gallantly leading on the British troops to a charge. He was greatly respected by both armies, and deeply lamented by his own. A stately column has been erected to his memory, with a spiral staircase of 120 steps, recompensing the labour of ascent with an extensive and most

beautiful prospect. The battle of Queenston was a day of varied success, but finally terminated in the repulse of the Americans. The animated and bloody contest transacting on the Canada shore was alleged to have operated somewhat unfavourably on the nerves of the American reserve, who, at all events, by refusing in the afternoon to cross the river, consummated the discomfiture of their gallant friends. The banks of the river are precipitous, and probably 300 feet in height, thickly wooded ; and here terminates the wild ravine, which commences seven miles above it, at the Falls. If certain geological theories are right, this was once actually the spot where Niagara thundered ; and the Falls are supposed to have been for ages gradually receding. The nature of the substrata and some well ascertained facts bear curiously upon this speculation. The constant friction of such a mass of water, as displayed in the foaming rapids above the cataract, with the effective agency of winter frosts, certainly conveyed to my mind a strong impression that the theory might be sound. The river runs here with a powerful current, and is about half a mile in width. It is hardy possible to imagine a more appalling spectacle than the American troops must have presented when driven in wild confusion down these banks. My friend H——, from a knowledge of their language, was attached to the Indian brigade. He placed me, with a giddy head, upon the spot where his unerring riflemen maintained a deadly fire upon the hapless foe scrambling through the thicket of cedars, or attempting to swim the river, in which many a poor fellow perished.

Innumerable are the anecdotes, tragic and comic, which were detailed regarding this frontier war. The employment of our red allies was a subject of much vituperation against the British. The history of Colonel D——, a Canadian, who commanded the Indians, was fruitful in adventure and anecdote. He was perfectly master of the Indian language and customs, had lived much among them, and, to sum up all perfection, had chosen a Squaw for his wife. In every sport and in every danger he was one of themselves ; and, where they place their confidence and affection, both are alike unbounded. It happened to him once, in the western country, when engaged in the fur trade, that his party, exhausted with fatigue, resisted all his persuasions to pro-

ceed, and insisted upon erecting a wigwam for the night at a certain pass, known to be a haunt of the Indians when in wait to plunder the traders. The men were soon asleep, but D——, with an anxious eye, lay watching the dying embers; and, while there yet remained sufficient light to distinguish objects, he perceived the dreaded visitors crawling like huge snakes into the hut. It was vain to think of resistance; he feigned to be asleep, almost afraid to breathe, and only hoping that the removal of their booty might satisfy the Indians, if no interruption should occur. At this anxious moment his ears were greeted by a welcome whisper from the foremost, addressed to those behind, “It is Redhead,” the name by which D—— was known in the woods. The simple announcement acted like a charm, and the work of blood was arrested; but to show perhaps (like David of old) how entirely they had the party in their power, the leader moved quietly round, and passed his hand along each man’s throat, before making his exit. At another time, when under the most distressing privations from want of food, D—— encountered a party of Indians, in nearly as bad a plight as himself. Famine stared him in the face, and he could scarcely look for aid from those who had but a scanty morsel for themselves. Relying, however, upon his knowledge of Indian feelings, he thus, in simple language, addressed the chief: “*Father, I am hungry:*” “*Son* (says the old man, offering at once their little stock), *take, eat.*” And these are men whom we term *savage*! May God grant that they suffer no abasement in the boasted refinements of civilized life!

Friday, May 6.—After breakfast I took leave of my friend, and walked on for the Falls, leaving the stage, in which I had secured a place, to follow. The day was delightful, and as I ascended the steep hill from Queenston, I overtook a soldier of the 79th in charge of the baggage waggons, leaning on his musket, and wrapt in admiration of the surrounding scenery, “*It’s mair like Scotland, Sir, than ony thing I’ve seen sin’ I left it,*” was the poor fellow’s remark, and truly it was far from misapplied, making due allowance for difference of scale. The country from Queenston to the Falls is well settled, and finely diversified by farms, orchards and open forest. The soil is perhaps light, but in some places of a stronger description, and all ap-

parently fertile desirable land. A very beautiful property, originally laid out by the ill-fated Duke of Richmond, and subsequently possessed by Sir Peregrine Maitland, adjoins the road. The house, which is in the cottage style, of wood, seems large and commodious. This estate is in a very favourable situation, and has been lately sold for L. 2000 ; it contains about 450 acres of good useful land. The distance from Queenston to Niagara is about seven miles, and I sauntered on the whole way, the coach not overtaking me. About four miles from the Falls, the sound came upon my ear like the murmur of Old Ocean on a rugged strand. In certain states of the atmosphere and wind this is heard at a much greater distance. The noise gradually increased, and by-and-by the spray was seen rising in columns above the trees. A splendid and extensive establishment was soon after recognised as Forsyth's hotel, and, under feelings far more intense than common curiosity, I hurried forward to a point, where Niagara in all its glory came in view. From the increasing facility of migrating now-a-days even from one end of the world to another, Niagara has lost somewhat of that mysterious halo with which it was wont to be enveloped ; but still it must ever be Niagara. The most eloquent descriptions, I should think, must prove inadequate to convey a just conception of the scene. Nor can the pencil, I imagine, ever do it justice. A cataract may be said, as regards the painter's art, to differ from all other objects in nature. The human face and figure, the rich and varied landscape, the animal and vegetable world, may with sufficient propriety be delineated *at rest*, but quiescence forms no feature here. The ceaseless roar, the spray mounting like clouds of smoke from the giant limekiln, and the enormous sheet of water which rolls into the abyss, can only be felt and understood by repeated visits to the scene. My attention was for a time distracted by the rapids which are extremely interesting, and with any other neighbour than the Falls would excite the highest admiration and wonder. After some time spent in contemplation, I proceeded to my friends, where a kind and comfortable home awaited me. Mr C. possesses a residence, which is certainly one of the most romantic domiciles in the world. The house stands on a small lawn upon a point overhanging the rapids, and about half a mile

above the Horse-Shoe Fall. The garden is behind, washed by a fine branch of the river, which encircles a wild and thickly wooded island, and on every side new and interesting prospects appear. The river is a mile across, and of great depth, and, for the same distance above the Falls, is one sheet of foam. We sauntered down in the evening to the river side, and the rapids lost nothing by a closer inspection. My bedroom looked directly upon them ; I could watch the smoke of the Fall, as I lay on my pillow ; and with the wild roar of the cataract sounding in my ears, I closed my first day at Niagara. The following morning proved fine, and we devoted the forenoon, of course, to the Falls. Lake Erie had just broken up, and the icebergs came crushing down the rapids, in a way highly interesting. My friends being quite at home in all the mazes of the river side, conducted me by a wild and rugged route to the edge of the Table-rock, when, upon emerging from a tangled brake, I beheld the Horse-shoe or great British Fall, pouring down its volume of ice and water, at the distance of a few feet from where we stood. The rock felt to me as though it vibrated, and a large mass did in fact lately give way, soon after a party had retired from the precarious stance. It is limestone, full of ugly fissures and rents. A narrow wooden stair conducts adventurous travellers to the bottom of the Fall, where a sort of entrance is generally effected to a short distance under the sheet, and for which performance a certificate in due form is served out. The stair was at this time under repair, and the accumulation of ice below perfectly reconciled me to waive pretensions to such slippery honours. At some distance below the Fall, and opposite to the American staircase, there is a ferry, to which a safe and most romantic carriage-road has been lately formed, out of the solid rock, at no small labour and expense. When a similar accommodation shall have been provided upon the American side, it is expected to prove a lucrative concern, but at the present foot-passengers only can be landed in the States. The little skiff had just put off, with a party from the Canada shores, and got involved in streams of ice, in a way somewhat hazardous, and which rendered it impossible for the boatman to return. The scene from the Ferry is indeed magnificent, the Horse-shoe, the American Fall, and Goat Island being all in

view, with the great pool or basin eddying in fearful and endless turmoil. In the evening I walked up the river side towards the village of Chippeway, to visit a natural curiosity upon Mr C.'s estate. A spring surcharged with sulphuretted hydrogen gas rises within a few paces of the river. A small building is erected over it, and when a candle is applied to a tube in a barrel, which encloses the spring, a brilliant and powerful light is evolved. Close adjoining are the remains of extensive mills burnt by the Americans during last war. The water privilege is great, and machinery to any extent might be kept in play.

Canada, however, for many a year to come, should have nothing to do with manufacturing establishments. Her resources, if duly fostered, should be employed in the production of food for the artisans of Britain, and enabling them to maintain their ground in the foreign market. Neither should our agriculturists at home be startled at such a prospect, as, happen what may, our landed interest can never prosper while our manufacturing interests decay. Should some thousand spinning-jennies, however, at a future day commence operations, behold a gasometer both economical and effective here provided. Springs of this description are by no means rare in the Canadas and States. Some have been discovered near Canandaigua of great power, and the proprietor of the farm, annoyed by hosts of visitors, and in a prudent spirit of turning all to account, has opened his house as a tavern for the mutual benefit of the public and himself.

The suction occasioned by the rapidity and depth of the stream extends far above the Falls, and renders it necessary to use the utmost caution in navigating canoes or boats. A servant of Mr C. was lost some time ago, in a nocturnal expedition across the river, and Mr C. detailed to me an adventure of his own, which, though somewhat ludicrous, was certainly attended with hazard. He had gone out a fishing with a young man in his employment, lately arrived in the country, and finding the boat rather more in the vortex than was pleasant, he pulled for shore, in doing which his companion, by some awkwardness, let slip his oar, and in making an effort under considerable mental agitation to recover it, the pale and bloated visage of a drowned man presented itself close to the boat, dissipating

what little self-possession the poor lad retained. Mr C., however, by an effort, soon got the boat out of the fatal current, and put all to rights.

Upon Monday, May 9, I left my kind friends for the purpose of visiting York, and the country to the west of it. The morning was cold, and the wind a sharp north-wester, accompanied by showers of snow. As it was not a stage-day for Newark, I ordered an *extra*, which is the same thing with taking a post-chaise. It happened that old Forsyth, the landlord of the Pavilion, had occasion to go down also, and when I entered my *extra*, I found him very snugly ensconced in a corner. To a man from the *old country*, this was certainly something new; but the old gentleman, while he offered an apology, did not seem to be much discomposed, and I rather think that the matter was not considered of much moment. Within a week I was myself led to do the same thing, through the prevailing practice of using the same coaches for public and private travellers, and upon that occasion the party received both myself and my explanation with the utmost good humour, frankness, and ease. My travelling companion is proprietor of the large hotel at the Falls, mentioned by every tourist, and is a personage sufficiently shrewd and well informed. He told me that his father had been one of the original settlers in the district, and had migrated from the Genesee country. The change within a few years seems to be nearly marvellous. Often, he said, has he been racoon-hunting where are now to be seen the busy town of Rochester, with farms and villages innumerable, when he was well aware that no human being could be within a hundred miles of him, save perhaps some wandering Indian. Mr F. may be said to have satisfactorily fulfilled one duty of a colonist by no means unimportant. When I inquired of him, whether his family was numerous, "Why," says he, "Sir, I don't know what you call numerous, *I've raised* nineteen, ten by my first wife, and nine by my second." We passed many excellent farms and beautiful orchards in this stage of sixteen miles. The day continued stormy, and ultimately the gale became so violent, that the steamer for York could not venture out. A lull was looked for towards evening, and I had nothing for it but to saunter about the neighbourhood until the

dinner hour at Kreysler's hotel. In connection with the American Fort, Newark became some years ago the scene of a tragical mystery, which has kindled an extraordinary flame in every State of the Union. We are accustomed in Britain to consider Free Masonry as a mere excuse for convivial relaxation; but it has of late assumed a very different aspect here, and although no doubt the approaching period of electing the chief magistrate tends to give it peculiar vigour, still it must be reckoned the pivot on which all questions of a public nature at present turn. The public journals sufficiently evince the excitement of the public mind, and that baneful consequences have followed no man can deny, who is made acquainted with the fate of Captain Morgan. This unhappy man having become obnoxious to the brethren, because he either had or was believed to have promulgated the secrets of the craft, a plan was concocted to punish his treason, and make him a signal example. Whether the scheme originally contemplated his death, or only his removal from America, does not exactly appear, but it is beyond a doubt, that he was inveigled under various pretexts to Niagara, that he has never been seen nor heard of since September 1826, and that, in fact, there is every reason to believe when Ontario shall give up its dead, that poor Morgan will rise from its depths, in judgment against his murderers. It is a melancholy tale, and fraught with matters of vital importance to the Americans. At this hour it stands on record, that after sundry attempts to bring the culprits to justice, the arm of the law has been palsied, and no jury has been found to convict, upon evidence too, which might have been deemed reasonably conclusive, while one most eminent lawyer in the State of New York, has denounced the jurors for "utterly disregarding their duty and their oath," adding that the "very foundation of justice is polluted." Let the nation look to it ere the hour goes by when a remedy may be safely applied to so frightful an evil.

Among other good things upon our dinner-table, we were regaled with the celebrated white fish, a delicacy which, as Charlevoix has long since remarked, "nothing of the fish kind can excel." It is peculiar, I believe, to the North American lakes and rivers, and, so far as I know, has not been described by ichthyological writers. Some naturalists consider it to be a

nondescript species of *Salmo*. The flesh is white, and resembles the most gelatinous part of the turbot, but considerably richer. The fish is taken with hook and line, frequently at a hole in the ice, being then in highest perfection, and runs from three to eight pounds weight. There is a coating of fat along the back, little inferior in flavour to the richest butter.

About nine o'clock I was summoned on board, and soon after took possession of a sofa for the night. We took our departure about twelve, and at sunrise next morning were just approaching the northern shore. York is the seat of government in the upper province, and a large peninsula forms a spacious and safe harbour, the barracks, public buildings, &c. making a very respectable appearance as you enter the bay. After breakfast at the hotel, where an Irish gentleman and I got a comfortable sitting-room, with our bed-rooms adjoining, I proceeded to deliver letters, and waited upon Sir John Colborne, governor of the upper province. I found the government-house, *selon le r  gle*, at the west end of the capital. It is a commodious irregular mansion, of wood, with garden, shrubberies, &c. The public apartments are sufficiently spacious and handsome, and nothing could exceed the affable and easy demeanour of Sir John. It is not for a bird of passage like myself to offer an opinion upon matters of state, but I am greatly deceived if Sir John is not fraught with the utmost zeal to promote the prosperity of the province, and possessed of sound and clear views, as regards its resources and wants. He favoured me with a pretty long interview, and then gave me a note to Mr Robinson, who is at the head of the government land-office, and from whom I readily received every attention and information in his power.

My next visit was to the office of the Canada Company, where I found the commissioners communicative and truly obliging. Dr D——, who acts as warden of the forests, has spent much time in their depths, and gives the *seria mixta joci* in the happiest style, when recounting the progress and adventures of settlers in the back woods. The Canada Company, I should think, is calculated to forward the general interests of the colony, although there are certainly those who think otherwise, and if it shall continue to be prudently administered, will in time yield handsome returns. The exertions made to facilitate the

transport and settlement of emigrants, and the liberal terms held out, will certainly secure the confidence and good will of intending settlers.

I dined in the evening at the government-house. The party was rather numerous, and quite as agreeable as such affairs commonly prove. Sir John introduced me to Dr B——, as a gentleman particularly able to give me information upon the state of the province; a character which he fully redeemed, both then, and during a long visit with which he honoured me on the following morning. I may mention by the way, regarding this gentleman (and I certainly do so from no disrespect to him, but as illustrating good sense and liberal feelings in the governor), that, while he was marked by no exclusion from the hospitality and private esteem of Sir John, he was yet remarked as frequently opposed to government measures; and I consider it a trait of temper and tact upon the one hand, and of discretion and independence upon the other, well deserving of regard. Were such instances more frequent, fewer changes in governments would be required, and the public service would probably be essentially promoted. The government of Upper Canada is administered by a lieutenant-governor, a legislative council, of not less than seven members, appointed by mandamus from the king, and holding their situation for life; of an executive council, of not fewer than six; and of a House of Assembly, being twenty-five members returned by the respective counties. The demon of discord is no stranger here, and *his Majesty's opposition* claim notice in the assembly of York, no less than in the hall of St Stephen's. At present I understood government measures to be gaining popularity; but as politics came very little within the sphere of my inquiries, I cannot vouch for the accuracy of my information. That discontent and faction exist in the province, is to say no more than that Canada resembles all other human institutions, but that any tangible grievance is perversely maintained, must, I should think, be more than doubtful. The inhabitants possess the means of enjoying probably as much solid happiness as any nation on earth. Mr H——, the solicitor-general, assured me, that however turbulent or discontented individuals may have been prior to their arrival in the province, comfort and plenty soon work wonders on those who

are of industrious habits, and loyalty and good humour speedily follow.

I left York upon Wednesday the 11th, about mid-day, in the Hamilton stage, for Sumner's Tavern, thirty-five miles distant, where I intended to stop for the night. After a frosty morning, the day became sultry, and an early breed of mosquitoes was on wing. We travelled in a waggon, the roads not being yet in trim for the season. Upon leaving town to the west, we passed through some well improved farms, and soon after entered upon a tract of uncleared forest, apparently not very valuable land. The road runs through the Toronto, Trafalgar, and Nelson townships. It is for the most part a fine tract of country, intersected by powerful streams, falling into Ontario. Some of these are named by the number of miles distance from York, and are said to abound with salmon and other fish. They also afford fine situations for millseats. The road is one of the great highways of the province, but is certainly as yet sufficiently rude, and in some places not unattended with hazard. The lofty banks of the creeks present obstacles which have required more than ordinary exertions, and public money has been applied to surmount them. I am afraid something has been amiss, either in regard to a scientific survey, or prudent expenditure, for certainly the attempt at amendment has signally failed. The country along the whole line is rapidly filling up, and many farms have attained a well-cultivated appearance. Comfort and cheerful industry seemed everywhere to reign, whether the settlers were yet engaged with the axe in commencing operations, or occupied in conducting the details of more advanced husbandry. It was interesting and not unfrequent to observe the humble shanty, the original *nest* of the family, left to maintain its station beside the new and more extended mansion. Whether this arose from accident or design, I know not; but it struck me as being in good taste, and calculated to form a useful memorial of the slender rill from whence ease and affluence were destined to flow. The house doors and windows being generally open, we caught a glimpse of each interior as we passed, and, without an exception, cleanliness and comfort seemed to prevail within. The women and children were especially tidy and neat. One small possession was laid out in nursery, for

grafted peaches and other fruit-trees, and the house and grounds were dressed in a style easily attainable, but still extremely rare in Canada.

About four o'clock we reached the end of our first stage, a distance, I think, of twenty miles, and which a pair of compact little entire horses had performed remarkably well. We had taken, to be sure, four hours to it, which our English Jehus may be ready to sneer at; but, had they encountered our steep banks of tough clay, with four or five passengers, luggage, &c., I suspect some would have either stuck fast, or considerably exceeded this allowance. We were welcomed to "the Farmers' Inn—Live and let live"—(a motto not particularly applicable, by-the-by, to Canada) by a bevy of smiling damsels, who had every thing about the house particularly neat and clean. Having breakfasted at eight, and supper depending upon the issue of a fifteen mile stage yet to come, I expressed a wish to have some lunch, to which delay both coachman and company most readily assented, a great spirit of accommodation generally prevailing in this respect. In a short time I was ushered into a comfortable parlour, where a smart tea equipage was set out, not without some regard to display; cakes of various kinds, a capital cold apple-pie, and many a nice *et cætera* besides, with one of the fair daughters to do the honours of the board,—an office which she performed with singular propriety and ease. The family appeared altogether highly respectable. Many books lay in the room, consisting of history, biography, &c., and one very splendid octavo bore to be the prayer book of "Lætitia Boure—

Industry her occupation,
Christ her only salvation."

I do not know if it was Miss Lætitia, but one of the girls was the tallest woman I recollect of having ever met with; she was certainly not under six feet, and uncommonly erect. Every thing betokened ease and plenty about the rural inn; and before remounting, I examined the carcass of a large and very fat ox, hanging in the barn,—no bad prospect for succeeding travellers.

Sumner's Tavern is in Nelson township. The host stands high in favour with Dr D——, and a few lines from him secured me an extra welcome. I parted here with my fellow-tra-

vellers, who were to proceed all night for Hamilton. My first care was to secure a guide and horses to convey me to Guelph, an infant city, founded by the Canada Company, in the wilderness of Gore. This affair being satisfactorily adjusted with the blacksmith of the place, and having appointed his son and pair of steeds to be in readiness on the following morning, I had some supper, and retired to a most comfortable bed.

Thursday 13th.—The morning proved fine, and having got all our arrangements completed about seven, I took possession of mine host's *own* saddle, placed upon the blacksmith's best horse, and trotted away, with his son, a fine smart lad, acting as pilot, on the other. We soon turned off to the right, and ere long got immersed in the forest, losing all signs of cultivation. There are more roads than one to Guelph, and assuredly the one I travelled has no claims to pre-eminence; indeed, when I afterwards attacked my friend the Warden for sending me such a route, he candidly admitted that he had selected it as a sample of "*a real forest ride*." For some time all was delightful. The road was dry, the day pleasant, and every mile became more interesting, as the magnificence of the forest scenery increased. Pines and cedars (the *lignum vitæ*) of splendid growth, maples of several kinds, beech, walnut, and hickory, elm, cherry, &c. stretched out their towering heads or rugged arms, while the ground was enamelled with lovely flowers of every hue, chiefly, I thought, of the *Campanula* family. The only living sound which broke the stillness of the forest (our own insignificant voices excepted), was the song of the thrush, the screech of the catbird, the whine of whip-poor-will, and some other more varied notes of the feathered tribe, with the constant din of what my guide termed "*them red-headed chaps*," the lovely woodpeckers (*Picus erythrocephalus*), whose hammering reverberated to a degree somewhat difficult to believe the cause could produce. The gaudy crest of this bird is said to prove an irresistible bait to the muskolonge, a much esteemed fish of the pike species. When at Kingston, my landlord called me one morning to the yard, to examine a very fine one, just brought in by an Indian. It weighed about 25 lb., and had been speared in 5 feet of water. It is a voracious fish, and the captor had a severe bite on his hand, received in securing his

prize. But to return.—The surface of the country was often finely undulated, with copious springs, numerous rivulets, and romantic dells; and the limestone rock, under the most fantastic forms, was covered with the rock-fern, lichens, and an endless variety of luxuriant vegetation. The undergrowth, or shrubbery, consists of sassafras, with a bud in taste resembling a custard, the dogwood, hazle, blackberry, strawberry, and many others, both elegant and useful.

Occasionally the squirrel would shoot across our path, and perched upon some lofty branch, would peer down at the intruders. The black variety was new to me; it is a beautiful creature, and of considerable size. This agreeable state of matters, however, was not destined to continue. A long, straight and dreary looking avenue presented itself in perspective, which proved to be a *corduroy* passage across an extensive swamp. Without a moment's hesitation, my gallant steed stepped upon the round loose logs, and as he seemed to eye his difficulties with much good sense and caution, I left him to pick his way as to himself seemed best. Ere long, however, it became too much for my faith, great as it was. The logs were in many places rotten, and what Charley designated "*only a mud-hole, sir,*" recurred so often, that in prudence I placed the boy in front. I gained nothing by this arrangement, as, however startling it was, to feel myself getting engulfed—the flounders of my leader dashing on perfectly unconcerned, through thick and thin, were even worse to witness. I essayed to walk, but that would not do. The logs were slippery, and in his bounds my nag went so near to upset me, that I was fain to remount. At length terra firma was regained, and my confidence mightily strengthened in the good beast that bore me. At one awkward moment, the raft, as I may term it, gave way, and down we went, stern foremost, but one leg fortunately embracing the log in front, the poor fellow clung to it, and fairly managed to emerge, ere I could make up my mind on the best chance to escape. About noon we came to an Irishman's cabin, which stood for the half-way house to Guelph. My first inquiry was, "Have you any corn?"—"No, Sir," to my dismay, was the reply; "but we have plenty of *oats*;" corn in this country being always understood to designate maize. Our horses were

forthwith put under cover, and Charley proceeded to make them comfortable, while I entered the shanty, and had a chat with the dame. Her husband had lately settled here; she said he was industrious, and getting on very well; they had some fine healthy children, and, though still poor, every thing was clean, and without any symptoms of poverty or distress. I sauntered about the forest, amused with storing specimens of the many flowers which here, in native beauty, have been indeed

—"born to blush unseen,

And waste their fragrance on the desert air"—

until our cavalry had refreshed, when we resumed our progress. Several clearings have been effected in this quarter, and a good many settlers established. I was struck with the conspicuous activity and industry of a Negro family. Numbers of these poor creatures, as opportunity favours, are ever watching to escape from bondage in the Slave States of the Union, and are to be met with in various parts of Canada. It has been alleged that the Negro will prove too indolent for labour, in a state of freedom;—a remark which, without stopping to prove unphilosophical, and at variance with every principle of human nature, was here most signally contradicted. The same remark applies to several other farms noticed even in my limited excursion; and the one in question exhibited a set of as busy and happy dingy faces as a philanthropist could wish to look on, while the appearance of the farm spoke to the steady labour which had been employed; and the barn (the test of a thriving colonist) was decidedly the handsomest and largest that I passed. The crops of wheat and clover promised the utmost luxuriance, and afforded the most satisfactory earnest of what the forest will yield when brought into cultivation. It went to my heart to see the noble trees blazing away as worthless weeds, but it must for the present continue to be the principal mode of disposing of them, when at any considerable distance from a river or a lake. We passed a party of three men, having a small cart and a team of not less than six oxen, returning from Nelson. The trip had occupied them three days, and the state of the road may be pretty well estimated, from such an expenditure of time and living labour upon a journey of twenty or thirty miles.—

Our own progress was tardy, and from time to time we encountered more of the vile swamps, but still we managed to get through without mishap. At one gap in the forest, I witnessed, with feelings of surprize, not unmingled with awe, the effects of what is here called "*a windfall*," or a hurricane in the woods. Trees of enormous bulk lay smashed like reeds, and a portion of the forest was laid bare, as though a thousand hatchets had been at work. I reckoned it to have been of recent occurrence, as the road was in some places much encumbered by fallen trees, and, in addition to the bog-holes below, it required some good steering to escape being *sus. per coll.* above. The day, which had hitherto been extremely pleasant, began to overcast, and was followed by a drizzling rain. Having full confidence, however, in soon reaching Guelph, this gave me little uneasiness—nor was I particularly concerned upon coming to the alternative of two roads. When Charley, however, to whom I applied for counsel, coolly admitted that he had never been beyond the half-way hut, the matter assumed a more serious aspect. Neither farm nor farmer was to be seen—and after the usual quantum of discussion, we hit upon the usual happy selection of the wrong track. Where our travels might have ended I know not, but fortunately after making some progress in our dubious course, a house was descried, where we received the satisfactory assurance that we were leaving Guelph as fast as we could. There remained nothing for it, but to retrace our steps, thankful at so early a correction of our mistake—and after a wet, perplexing and hap-hazard ride, finally got sight of the *city* about three o'clock.

It was necessary to cross the river Speed before getting into our quarters, and as there appeared to be only the skeleton of a new bridge, without any symptoms of a ford, we were somewhat at fault, when a party emerged from the forest: one of whom proved to be Mr P——, an agent of the Canada Company. By his direction, we made a detour to the old bridge, as rickety and crazy an article as can be well imagined. Our circumstances, however, admitting of no delay, we led the horses across, not without hazard to their limbs and our own, and soon got safely housed in Mr Oliver's tavern. Our landlord proved to be a sensible civil personage, and although his

accommodations were somewhat homely, the essentials were good, and cleanliness and civility compensated for what else might be amiss. Mr P—— received me in his parlour, and we were speedily provided with a snug dinner, which contained, to my delight, a fry of delicate pink-fleshed trouts, similar to the produce of some of our Highland lakes, and which the Speed supplies in great abundance, affording excellent sport to the angler. In the afternoon I walked out with my host, whom I found possessed of a spice of humour. He conducted me through a capital grist-mill, erected by the Company; the dues exacted at which, for grain manufactured, amount to one-twelfth of the produce in flour. The town appeared at this time rather stagnant. “There stands the bank (says Oliver) which never stopped, seeing that it never started; and that fine affair of a market-place will be six months together without a joint.”—The situation and soil of Guelph are healthy and good, standing upon a fine platform, with the river sweeping round it, and enjoying the *sine qua non* of an abundant supply of copious springs. There is a very commodious log mansion-house, named the Priory, at present empty. It contains good family accommodation, with some handsome apartments; and, being sweetly placed upon the banks of the river, is capable of being made a pleasing abode. Upon a sloping bank exactly opposite, a good farm has been improved, and adds comfort to the landscape—while the forest in wild magnificence skirts the rising grounds which environ the settlement.

I left Guelph the following forenoon in my landlord's light waggon, he himself undertaking to convey me to Galt, the residence of Mr D——, who I knew was expecting me about this time. The distance was about twenty miles, for which I paid two dollars, or 10s. English. My host proved a most intelligent and amusing companion. We found the road upon the whole very tolerable; that is to say, I never was required to dismount, for we were certainly not altogether exempt from a little *corduroy*, or floundering in a mud-hole. We passed through several good-looking farms, in various stages of progress, all of which were evidently labouring under a deficiency of capital to stock and improve them. Another industrious and prosperous Negro was located on the wayside. He had in-

vented a useful implement, which Oliver denominated a Hoe-plough. I did not see it, but presume it to have belonged to the numerous family of Grubbers.—Chopping or clearing land of the timber is readily contracted for here at 12 dollars, or L. 3 Sterling, per acre. It is then in a condition to be sown, which is generally done at the rate of one bushel, or a little more, of wheat per acre; and the return which may be looked for is from fifteen to twenty-five. Limestone abounds everywhere, but has been hitherto little employed as a manure, though its effects upon a soil so rich in vegetable matter may be readily estimated.

The morning had been wet and dull, but the sun broke forth as we entered the Waterloo district. The soil appeared here to be a dry friable loam, the timber heavy, and of approved varieties, such as elm, oak, maple, &c. Springs and brooks were to be seen in abundance, and, in many farms, leisure had been found to grub out the black stumps, so offensive to the eye of an old country farmer. The live-stock, too, evinted by their size and condition superior management and food. The dwelling-houses, barns, stables, and orchards, I may add, were all in character. Oliver valued the improved farms at twenty-five dollars, or six guineas per acre. The farmers are for the most part Dutch, a truly primitive, frugal race. Never shall I forget the venerable patriarchal aspect of an old man whom we met in the forest, with a beard of driven snow flowing to his girdle, and driving a team of superb bays in his waggon. This district has been settled about twenty years, and the farmers reaped some glorious harvests, when Guelph was forcing forward, by contracting for provisions, carriages, &c. After a very pleasant ride, we came rather suddenly, at an opening in the forest, upon the Ouse or Grand River, where it made a beautiful sweep, and a fine appearance. A little farther down, some straggling houses and extensive mills announced our arrival at Galt. A wooden bridge led us to a commodious stone-building, in the cottage style, the residence of Mr D—, delightfully placed upon a rising ground, and commanding fine views of the river. I found with Mr D— a most kind and cordial welcome, and enjoyed the comforts of such a family not a little, after the somewhat rough work of the last two days. Mr D—

is a very extensive landowner, having purchased a large township, which he named Dumfries, and, in the present full tide of emigration, I doubt not that it will rapidly fill up. The system of dealing with settlers here, is particularly favourable for those who are compelled to rely chiefly upon their personal labour. Mr D—— opens an account with each individual, receiving instalments in money or produce, and frequently, where character warrants such confidence, even supplying the means of purchasing oxen, implements, or seed. At an early period of the settlement he formed a connexion with Mr S——, an intelligent, enterprising American, who devotes his attention principally to the mills, where he carries forward an extensive concern in the various departments of flour and saw mills, with a cooperage similar to the one at Guananoque, and from which he turns out uncommonly neat and reasonable articles. A son of Mr D—— resides with him, giving his aid in the general management, and was at this time just returned from an experimental voyage, in company with Mr S——, by which the important fact was ascertained, that the Ouse affords a safe communication with the Welland Canal, a distance by water of 100 miles. A barrel of flour, which now costs 3s. to reach Ontario, will thus be conveyed for 1s., and all other produce, of course, in like proportion,—a difference of incalculable value to the district.

Mr D—— has a very neat garden tastefully laid out behind his mansion, and adjoining to it a large extent of improved land. The rocks at the river side are of limestone, which in fact forms the substratum of the whole, or most part, of Upper Canada.

As my time would not admit of a long sojourn, where I should otherwise have enjoyed myself so much, Mr D—— kindly offered me his horses; and his son, though still an invalid from cold caught in his aquatic excursion, insisted upon accompanying me to Hamilton, where I would again rejoin the high road to Niagara.

Saturday, May 15.—We had a white frost this morning, which was followed by a beautiful day. Breakfast being over, we started for Brandtford, a village about twenty miles off, chiefly belonging to the Indians. I was mounted upon a capital steady mare, Mr D.'s own pad, his son rode an uncommonly

clever, active hackney ; and our baggage and sumpter-steed was bestrode by Simon Mackenzie, a *Yankee Celt*, a very civil fellow, but of a species (I was told) generally the most untoward of all domestic animals. Our ride along the river side was delightful, and the scenery fine, farms and forest in alternate succession. A few miles below Galt, we turned off to examine two properties then on sale: they were contiguous to each other, and appeared to consist of good useful land, well-watered by copious springs, on a limestone bottom. The situation was extremely pleasant, extending in front down to the river, and intersected by the public road. Each farm contained about 200 acres, of which nearly one-half was improved and fenced, with tolerable houses, and the remainder in useful timber of various kinds. The price demanded was 40s. per acre.

Returning to our route, we entered upon an extensive range of open, grove-like woodland, principally oak, and the trees so dispersed as not to interfere materially with the operations of the plough. It had much of the appearance of some of the wildest parts of English park-scenery. An old Indian path conducted us to a commanding point overhanging the river, where we found a cool spring gushing from the bank, amidst shrubbery and undergrowth. A small and verdant knoll marked the spot where grand councils were wont to be held in olden times, and where the calumet of peace has been often smoked, or the tomahawks sharpened for war. It was a lovely landscape, with a far greater range open to the eye than usually occurs in the interior of Canada. Here we seated ourselves, enjoying the contents of Simon's wallet and the spring, *with due qualification*, while our horses had a little rest in the heat of the day. Adjoining to this spot lived a young Scotch settler, who had recently purchased a lot of 100 acres from Mr D. He had already got a very snug shanty erected, and was labouring away with his oxen, blithe and cheerful, at a good hazle-coloured sandy loam. Recognising at once, by his dialect, from what part of Scotland he had come, I inquired if he knew a particular friend of my own on the Borders, and the poor fellow's ecstacy was most amusing when he exclaimed that his own father was a tenant upon my friend's estate. "*I'm sure,*" says he, "*he'll no hae forgot Walter Smith ; but tell him you met the poacher, and*

he'll be sure to mind me." I of course hinted my suspicion that some mishap attending that lawless character had accelerated his movements across the Atlantic, which, however, proved not to be the case. "At all events," I remarked, "you neither need certificate nor qualification here; what do you principally shoot?" "Indeed," says he, "if you'll believe me, Sir, I scarce ever think about it, *for there's nobody here seeks to hinder us;*" a remarkable answer, and not without its use in forming a clew to the fascinations and excitement of a smuggler's or a poacher's life. A herd of deer, only two days before, had wandered past him, yet Walter felt no inclination to leave the plough, although his rifle stood loaded in the shanty. He will have thirty acres ready for wheat to sow in autumn, which, if he continues steady and industrious, will make his way to independence clear enough, as he paid down at entry the full price of his land. "You want only a wife now," I observed, "to make you complete." "Yes, Sir; but I'll have her from Auld Scotland, *for these Yankee lasses are good for nought; they'll blow the horn and tak a man frae the plough to fetch them a skeel o' water.*" Ungallant as this speech may appear, it is nevertheless true that American females almost exclusively confine their attention to duties within doors. Nothing can be more clean, tidy, and comfortable than their domestic arrangements, but they are seldom indeed expected to extend their services; and the surprise and incredulity of many a farmer in the States was unspeakable, when I told them of women in the *old country*, of all ages, being regularly seen at work in a turnip field, or engaged in filling a dung-cart.

There is a lovely sheet of water here, called the Blue Lake, indented by finely wooded headlands; and, as I sat admiring it, I could not but set it down as a splendid feature in park or lawn scenery, when some demesne or villa shall be here laid out by the hand and the eye of taste. A little further down the river side, we passed a valuable gypsum quarry, probably formed by vitriolic springs acting upon the calcareous subsoil. It is extensively used, and the deep verdure of the waggon-track, from what had been scattered, spoke distinctly its value as a top-dressing. At a new settlement, named Paris, the property of Mr Capron, we crossed the river by an excellent bridge.

The situation of Paris, I think, promises success; and Mr C. appears to avail himself of its natural advantages. Extensive grist-mills are at work, and also one for preparing gypsum, all upon a good mill-stream, which here joins the Ouse. Several new buildings were in progress, and a post-office is expected to be also obtained. Upon the same side of the river as Paris, I had observed, as we rode along, many situations and farms apparently very desirable.

Since my visit, Mr B., from Scotland, has purchased one of these from Mr D.; it contained 200 acres, one-half of which has been lately cleared, and the remainder is in heavy timber. There was a capital house and a large barn upon the property. The price of the whole was L. 500. It is a beautiful situation about two miles above Paris; and a friend of mine, who saw Mr B. in September, was assured by him that it had answered all his expectations, and that he would not take L. 700 then for the purchase.

From Paris, where the river makes some beautiful sweeps, we continued our ride through what is called an Indian reserve. A large tract of land here and around Brandtford belongs to the Mohawks, and is managed by government in concert with their own chiefs, for behoof of the tribe. The village is named after John Brandt, a celebrated chief. We found it, on our arrival, swarming with Indians, as a sale of village lots had taken place that morning, and high prices having been obtained (even at the rate of L. 100 per acre), merrymaking and rejoicing concluded the day. We spent the evening quietly and pleasantly in a private family, but found our quarters in the tavern somewhat noisy. My bed-room was snug and clean, but a joyous ball in the apartment below, with a noble frog-concert outside, afforded me but little benefit from its comforts.

Brandtford appeared to me a pleasant situation. The river winds finely past the platform on which it stands, and, upon the opposite side, are extensive holms not unlike the banks of the Earn in Scotland, or of the Eden at Carlisle. Of these, a great part belongs to the Indians, and will, probably for a long time, remain unimproved. Occasionally there are farms to be had, and I should consider a purchase made here as likely to prove a good investment. I have received the particulars of one which

was for sale last summer, from a friend who looked at it. It is upon the west side of the Ouse, exactly opposite to Brandtford, and contains 600 acres, eighty of which are alluvial bottom-land. It enjoys a valuable water-power, capable of being turned to account in various ways: the price asked was 3500 dollars, or L. 875. An American gentleman, who was inquiring after it, expected to buy it for L. 750. About two miles from Brandtford, an Indian village has been established under the charge of Mr L., a clergyman of the Church of England, sent out by the Society for Propagating the Gospel. Next day being Sunday, we resolved to make a small detour, and attend worship in their church. The institution embraces both spiritual and secular objects. They have a Mechanics' School, where instruction is given in handicraft trades, and many, by steady progress in acquiring knowledge, and in managing their farms, afford sufficient evidence of their capacity to be weaned from the dissolute habits of the most dissolute of all human beings, a half-reclaimed savage. Too many, however, of these poor creatures still roam about, ignorant and idle, seldom indeed injuring others, save in a moment of phrenzied intoxication, but utterly useless and unprofitable to the community and to themselves.

We were favoured with another lovely day, and had a sweet ride to the Mohawk village. Mr R., who is settled in Brandtford, rode along with us, mounted upon a clever little Indian horse, of a breed which they have kept always pure and distinct. In shape, size, and action, he reminded me strongly of the Cossack. Mr R. had paid about L. 12 for him, then four years old. He also spoke much of a pony which he had lately purchased from the Indians, of a breed also retained separate, and for which he had given seven guineas. We found, upon our arrival, the Sunday school at work, and it appeared to be conducted in an orderly and becoming manner. Ignorance of the language precluded any further remarks. The church is a neat, small building, in which the male and female portions of the congregation occupy respective divisions. The clergyman required the aid of an interpreter in the reading-desk and pulpit. No hearers could be more attentive and devout than these children of the forest. The old men, with their milk-white heads and placid dignified copper countenances, would have made ad-

mirable portraits, and all appeared to join earnestly in the liturgy, and to listen with deep attention to a plain, suitable discourse, upon the faith of Abraham in offering his son, and the assurance which all Christians may entertain, that in His all-wise and all-righteous way, the Lord will provide for his people in every emergency, whether of a spiritual or temporal nature.

Many of the women had remarkably amiable expressions; and the little ones, neatly swaddled up into the shape of a Bologna sausage, were the funniest, comical-looking *bodies* imaginable. It is common to have a flat board, to which the little animal is strapped, and by which it can, at any time, be safely hung up and put out of the way. After service, I was introduced to two of the chief men, who gave me their hands in a stately and somewhat condescending manner, saying at the same time, "Welcome, Scotsman." They were all well clothed, though with some the fashions were rather grotesque. It is impossible not to feel a deep interest in the Aborigines of this vast continent. As yet, comparatively speaking, nothing has been done, nor any equivalent return made, for what we have acquired from them. Probably this is not just the criterion to assume, but, unquestionably, we are called upon to make strenuous efforts towards instructing and ameliorating the condition of this race. Many a noble quality do they possess, and too many of their vices, I am afraid, must, in candour, be placed to our account. Self-possession, that useful ingredient of character, shines conspicuous in their demeanour. Place him where you will, the *red man* is never put out. A friend related to me having once met an Indian chief at a European party, where, to his certain knowledge, every article and every arrangement were absolutely new. To their amusement and astonishment, not the slightest indication of ignorance or of awkwardness appeared. Every movement seemed to come natural and easy. The eye, to be sure, was unceasingly at work, taking sharp cognizance of all that passed, but he drank wine, handled his knife and fork, and performed the various courtesies of a dinner table, without either bashfulness or blunder. The Mohawk village stands upon a fine point, round which the river flows. Several of the people are beginning to settle upon farms, and, in some of these, the husbandry is tolerably respectable, but many are yet content to

draw a precarious subsistence from the river or the rifle. The Mohawks are the most advanced Indians in this quarter ; the Cayugas, of whom we passed several groups to-day, are evidently in a far more degraded condition.

We now prosecuted our journey through much wild forest land, with well-improved tracts occasionally intervening. I was greatly pleased with the neighbourhood of Ancaster, a straggling village, without any mill-stream, but placed on high ground, in a healthy, open delightful situation, having a well improved country around, many pleasant farms and orchards, with abundance of fine water for domestic use. When looking at a house near the road, I recognised the faces of some of the Somersetshire paupers, who had been my fellow-passengers from Quebec, and who were to be left to themselves at Montreal. Our time admitted of little colloquy, but I soon learned that the party was dispersed, with little prospect of friends meeting again. Some had found engagements, while others, like this detachment, were wandering about in search of it. The poor fellows were still so contented and cheerful, that they excited our pity, and renewed my regret that no previous arrangements had been made for their employment or location. A few miles below Ancaster, we came to the brow of a bold and rocky hill, covered with wood, from which there is one of the finest prospects which Canada affords. This hill forms part of the remarkable ridge already mentioned, as connecting the state of New York with Canada ; and we were now to descend from it to the town of Hamilton, situated upon a rich and extensive plain, in all probability once covered by the waters of Ontario. The lake stretched out its wide expanse, and the varying tints of a lovely evening gave infinite beauty to the landscape before us. Hamilton is a new town regularly laid out, with a handsome court-house erected for the district. This is a stage upon the high road, round Burlington Bay, and connecting York with Queenston. It possesses no particular advantages for trade, but seems likely enough to increase as a market town, in a rich and improving part of the country. Upon reaching the tavern, we found the coach by which I was to proceed nearly ready to start, and to travel all night. This was not exactly the arrangement which I could have desired, feeling

more disposed for a good bed than for such repose as I was to look for in the stage, besides having to pass through a fine country in the dark. Having mentioned my disappointment to the stage-owner, and to the passengers, they agreed, in the most obliging manner, to defer the journey until an early hour of the following morning ; and, having got tea, accompanied by an excellent beef-steak, we retired to rest. I should mention that my luggage, of which the bulk had been sent forward from Sumner's tavern, addressed to the postmaster of Hamilton, was now safely handed over to me, without a shilling being charged for its conveyance.

Monday 16th.—I sauntered this morning to the skirts of the village, while the coach was preparing, and witnessed a brilliant sunrise. Ontario fully sustained a comparison with the ocean, in giving effect to a sight so magnificent and yet so little regarded. We have it always at our command ; but who that occasionally witnesses it, does not marvel at his own sloth, in so rarely partaking of the enjoyment ? The romantic limestone ridge, covered with fine wood, added a noble feature, and the thrush, straining his throat from the peach and apple trees loaded with blossom, with the tinkling bells of the village cows, as they went forth to pasture, formed altogether a refreshing commencement of a delightful day. We made Grimsby to breakfast, a distance of eighteen miles. The country was in many places romantic and beautiful, with fine farms and rich orchards of peach, plum, cherry, apple, &c. affording the most luxuriant promise. The wheat was remarkably fine, and the oat-braird looked fresh and well. The soil in general appeared to be clay. The road was tolerably good, and was bounded on the west by the wooded ridge, with Ontario, at a short distance on the east. Grimsby is a sweet little town near (perhaps too near) the margin of the lake, and nestling under the brow of the ridge, from whence issues a fine mill-stream, converted of course to good use. Our next stage was St Catharine's, a town upon the summit-level of the Welland Canal, which at this point descends by wooden locks to the level of the lake. Here I encountered my friend Dr D—— upon his voyage to Goderich, upon Lake Huron. The canal is barely ready, and I believe the Doctor's schooner is one of the first vessels which

has passed. From this place to Queenston, the country is, for the most part, under culture, and capable, I should think, in many places of being turned to good account, by laying it properly down to pasture. The rye was in ear, and the orchards still numerous and rich. When I got to Queenston, and expressed an urgent desire to get forward, the landlord begged that I would entrust my luggage to him, to be sent forward next morning, and walk up the hill to the coach which I saw waiting for some travellers then visiting the monument of General Brock. That a public conveyance should make such a pause, excited no surprise after what I had myself experienced at Hamilton; and I lost no time in taking possession, no remark being made by the coachman. Presently three gentlemen and a little boy made their appearance, and I could soon discover that something required explanation, which proved to be that I had deposited myself *sans ceremonie* in their private carriage or extra. I found them, however, uncommonly civil, and they would on no account allow me to remove. The hardship, after all, would not have been very great, as it was but a pleasant walk of seven miles in a lovely evening to my home at the Falls. I have said my home, and, truly, the easy hospitality of my friends rendered it so in every respect. We had a clear moon to-night, and Niagara presented to me its beauties in a new and interesting garb. I have already declared my intention to avoid lengthy or formal descriptions; and as to impressions, I can only say that the scene interested me more vividly upon renewing my acquaintance than even upon my first introduction.

Tuesday 17th.—Another lovely day. I proceeded, after breakfast to the Ferry, for the purpose of visiting the American fall. The ferryman's wife told me that, on the day when I was formerly there, her husband was prevented by the ice from returning until a late hour, and only then got across, by catching a casual opening in the shoals. Next morning the accumulation above the Falls gave way, and came down with such a crash that "she really thought the world was at an end." I was soon and safely put across, but a man does feel somewhat queer, with the roaring cataract above, distilling dews, copious and heavy as a Scotch mist, the ugly ripple on the water, and the cockle-

shell boat bobbing and dancing like an angler's float. In fact, however, there is little or no danger, and an accident I believe to be unknown. The whole scene, viewed about half way across, is truly magnificent, and not to be described. Upon reaching the American shore, a convenient and safe wooden stair enables the traveller to reach the top of the precipice. When about half-way up, he will find himself brought into almost appalling contact with the American fall. It is more confined than the British, but the body of water is absolutely confounding to look at. The village of Manchester is at a short distance, with good hotels, and various mills at work. A remarkable bridge, immediately above the Fall, communicates with Goat Island, on part of which is a paper-mill, all belonging to General Porter. The bridge, for which a small pontage is exacted, must have been an awkward affair to construct, but appears perfectly safe and secure. The piers were obtained by sinking coffers, and filling these with massy blocks of stone. The museum and paper-mill are both worthy of inspection. At the latter, fancy sheets are to be had, as memorials of a visit. Goat Island is a lovely spot, covered with lofty timber, and enamelled with native flowers. General P——, I understand, has thoughts of laying it out as a residence, and a most delightful one it will be, for river scenery certainly unrivalled. Paths are formed in various directions, of which one terminates at the verge of the great Horse-shoe Fall. A slender platform or pier projects for a considerable distance into the stream, and, from the extremity, you look directly down into the abyss. It is a fearful gulf, and required all the head I could muster to look into it. Indeed if I had not been strengthened by observing two carpenters at work on the further extremity, I should scarce have ventured.

A short way below this, and upon the island, is the spot where Sam Patch, of noted folly, amused the public by leaping from a ladder, as it was said, down the Fall of Niagara. Now, there can be no manner of doubt, that it was a most respectable jump, but still it had little to do with the Fall. It was in fact a plunge into the boiling cauldron below, and a lad of fourteen, son of the American ferryman, thought fit, not long since, as the father informed me, and without his knowledge, to perform

the same somerset, merely for his own recreation. This young Triton, upon my return to-day, presented himself to ferry me back ; and it was my lack of faith in his powers at the oar which elicited the account, with the additional assurance that a younger brother and he frequently swam the ferry to and fro. This being a performance, however, more likely to benefit himself than his cargo, I preferred putting myself into the hands of the elder Charon. I remained for hours upon the island, in the greatest enjoyment ; and, before leaving it, witnessed the prismatic colours floating and changing, in endless variety, over the fall *. The title of *horse-shoe* is becoming every year less appropriate, from the detrition of the rock ; and Mr C—— directed my attention to a stone placed, not many years ago, as a test, which palpably illustrates the fact. This has been a day of much enjoyment, and the close of it not a little enlivened by Dr D——, who arrived to dinner, with a budget full of anecdote and fun. He found the canal rather tedious, and ordered his schooner to rendezvous at Buffalo.

Wednesday, 18th May.—We had some warm showers this morning, which have imparted a delightful freshness to the air, and perfumed it with the fragrant odours of the peach and other fruit-trees. Vegetation is rushing forward with all that rapidity which distinguishes a Canadian spring. The gaudy little humming-birds have been seen fluttering about the garden ; the grapes, quinces, currants, &c. are well formed, and every thing around is in beauty. Dr D—— and I had a charming ramble down the river side to the Whirlpool, a wild and tremendous scene of confusion. It is occasioned chiefly by an island, which obstructs the current, and accumulates logs and drift-wood, about four miles below the Falls. The preci-

* Had Byron visited Niagara, in what strains would his muse have sung, when, in praise of Terni, he describes in those beautiful lines, how

“ An Iris sits, amidst the infernal surge
Like Hope upon a deathbed, and unworn
Its steady dyes, while all around is torn
By the distracted waters, bears serene
Its brilliant hues, with all its beams unshorn,
Resembling, 'mid the torture of the scene,
Love watching Madness, with unalterable mien.”

pitous rocks on each side, thickly wooded, with the thundering noise of the indignant stream, form a compound of the sublime and beautiful rarely equalled. We wandered over many lovely spots, where, peradventure, the man of taste may, at some future day, be led to combine the beauties of nature and of art, and when that hour shall arrive, a truly enviable field awaits him upon the banks of the Niagara. Our walk led us over a good deal of the battle-ground at Lundyslaw, where much American and British blood was shed in the last war, and a spot was pointed out where intelligence was occasionally conveyed to the British from the American side of the river, by aid of the bow-string. Our Canadian settlers fought with unbounded gallantry and devotion during that unfortunate period, and sustained severe and very heavy losses of property, besides the blood so freely shed in the cause.

What might be the issue of another dispute, (which, may God avert), is hard to say ; state affairs are not for me to handle ; but this is certain, that while the American citizens have been reimbursed every shilling of their loss, the Canadians have failed in obtaining the slightest compensation, and such a contrast acting upon human nature, is too palpable in its effects to require illustration. We may reasonably assume that it will operate unfavourably, while another cause is silently bearing on the same point. The Yankee who was my guide at Kingston to the Rideau Canal, among various questions, asked me if I thought another war likely to occur. I said with truth, that I trusted such an event was far off ; to which he answered, " Well, Sir, I guess, if we don't fight for a year or two, we won't fight at all, for we are marrying so fast, Sir, that a man won't be sure but he may shoot his father or his brother-in-law."

The day proved extremely hot for its early date in the kalendar, and I was glad to adopt Jonathan's plan, of strutting along with my coat on my arm in place of my back. Thirst, too, had its triumph, and I scarce recollect of any thing more welcome, than a beverage with which my companion regaled me at Forsyth's, under some odd name, but which consisted of a bottle of good brown stout, turned into a quart of well iced water, with a *quant. suff.* of ginger, cinnamon and sugar ; truly

it was a prescription worthy of being filed. From the roof of Forsyth's hotel there is a fine panoramic view of the Falls, well worthy of being seen, and I lingered, with a feeling of regret that I was so soon to take my departure. If any man has *really* experienced disappointment in visiting Niagara, I must commend him to the quaint and somewhat national remark of an Irishman, addressed to such fastidious travellers, that "unless they had really expected to see a river *falling up*, he can't tell what they have to grumble at."

I parted from my friends on the following day, I trust with a grateful sense of all their kindness, and of the special good fortune which had attended me in regard to weather, &c. The stage for Buffalo called for me about three o'clock, and with sincere regret I turned my back upon Niagara.

Our road lay along the river still, which here varies from half a mile to a mile in breadth. The country is well cultivated and improved. A mill-stream falls in at Chippeway, which is a small port, and was also the scene of some hard fighting in the last war. Grand Island, belonging to the States, is a conspicuous object, partly settled; it contains I believe 17,000 acres. We left Canada at Black Rock, a small town on the American Bank, and which once formed the basin or commencement of the Grand Canal. Nature, however, strongly designates Buffalo as the *entrepôt* for the lake and canal commerce, and there it will undoubtedly centre. Black Rock was surprized by the British in 1814, and considerable damage done. We crossed by a ferry-boat, leaving the coach at Waterloo, a paltry village on the Canada shore, not far from the ruins of Fort Erie. When we got across, we found a little inconvenience in getting ashore, owing to some canal operations. The arrangements for travellers are in general most complete; but here I felt rather at a loss, as no car appeared to convey our luggage to where the coach awaited us in the town, at some distance. In this dilemma, a respectable looking man who had crossed with us, addressed me with, "I guess, Sir, I must give you a lift," and, before I could answer, shouldered my portmanteau, which was of a size and weight that had often made me ashamed to father it, while I kept a paternal eye upon its movements, and off he marched for the town, I bringing up

the rear with my *sac-de-nuit*, &c. Having seen my luggage safely deposited in the boat, a doubt arose how to deal with my kind friend, nor could I divest myself of an *old country* feeling, that a gratuity was fairly earned and expected. I at once discovered, however, that I was in the wrong box. It was an act of pure disinterested kindness to a stranger, whom he saw in a difficulty, and I record it with the greater pleasure, because, from other occurrences of a like nature, I feel warranted, in my own experience at least, to deny the rude and selfish habits ascribed to the Americans, and to testify their obliging and accommodating disposition. A short drive of two miles brought us to Buffalo, where we found capital quarters with Mr Heriman at the Eagle. The town was particularly crowded at this season, always a busy one, and increased to-day from the formation of a favourite new bank. The Eagle had its full complement of guests, and the landlord, without any remarks from me, most courteously apologized for not having a single-bedded room to offer me. This matter, which should not be of great moment to a traveller, in a case of necessity, was still less so at present to me, as, in place of a stranger, I had my friend Dr D—— to occupy the chamber along with me.

And now when about to leave Canada, I am anxious to offer a few remarks of a miscellaneous nature, which have either been omitted, or which would have been misplaced, in the previous pages. Few things will puzzle an emigrant more than the choice of a situation; and the contradictory statements which selfish motives will present to him, requires his utmost prudence and caution to sift. In general, he ought to be in no hurry. If he can afford to board with a respectable family for some months, I am confident that his time and money will be well repaid, by the knowledge and experience which may be thus acquired. Besides the parts of the country I have touched upon, there are many others at least equally suitable. The Sandwich, Amherst, and Malder districts are very desirable, and being far west, few emigrating comparatively think of visiting them. The climate is equal to any part of the province. There is a daily line of steamers from Buffalo to Detroit River, on which they lie; and my Queenston friend Mr H. writes me that he is to launch a steamer this season, to run from Chippe-

way to Sandwich. The style of farming is bad, the settlers being mostly descended from French Canadians, and retaining all their unprofitable habits. The price asked for uncleared land is about 15s. or 20s. per acre ; and some of the old farms may be had reasonable enough.

The salubrity or unwholesome nature of a climate is a matter of high importance to the inhabitants, and still more so to those who encounter it as strangers. Upper Canada may safely be pronounced a healthy climate. It is certainly subjected to greater extremes of heat and cold than the maritime country of Britain, but, with ordinary attention, an equal portion of health and of longevity may be enjoyed in Canada as in any part of the Globe. Winter in the Lower Province is always longer, and frequently more severe than in the Upper, and in this consists any difference between them. But have we not heard of fever and ague in every part of them both? True—agueish attacks prevail here and in the States, even as they have done in our own boasted climate, within the recollection of thousands still alive. In a new country, while it is yet in a raw state, such things must for a time be expected ; but even the poor and hard worked emigrant has too often his own folly and imprudence to thank for his sufferings. Reckless and fool-hardy, he exposes his person to noxious vapours from the swampy borders of a lake, or to some sudden chill, when predisposed to fever from fatigue, or in a state of profuse perspiration. Others, again, fall victims to intemperance, and the blame rests most unjustly with the climate. There are two, or perhaps three, table-lands in Canada, which increase in salubrity as you rise above the level of the lakes, and of course these are points to be kept in view when chusing a location. That a certain degree of miasma exists is nevertheless certain, because even infants carefully attended to, are occasionally subject to aguish attacks ; but, in general, a reasonable attention to sobriety, cleanliness, and personal comfort, will prove preventives, and the disease is generally admitted to be on the decrease. In some seasons it breaks forth wholesale, like epidemics in other parts of the world. Three years ago this occurred in the Upper Province. The season had been extremely hot and moist. The waters of Ontario, generally clear as crystal, cast up a slime in the month

of July; and towards autumn, fever and ague raged through the land. Quinine is of course a sovereign specific, and for more ordinary practice, a tea-spoonful of sulphur in a wine-glass of brandy or other spirit, taken two or three times a-day, accompanied by cathartics and moderate nourishing diet, with suitable clothing, generally effects a cure.

There are three public matters which have occasioned some excitement in the Upper Provinces, and may be shortly adverted to.

1st, The oath of allegiance has been condemned for causing unreasonable and unnecessary discouragement to settlers from the States. After having heard a good deal of discussion on both sides, from those who ought to be best informed upon the subject, I believe the discouragement to be either imaginary or much exaggerated, and that in fact, American citizens are subjected to no heavier obligation than what every government is entitled to exact, and to which foreigners from other countries are equally liable.

2d, The old surveys and plans by which townships were laid out, and sections divided, have been too often inaccurate, and have given rise to much confusion, and an interminable crop of litigation. I heard many details of trouble and expense to land-owners from this source, and perhaps some revisal and adjustment by commission, or otherwise, might be advisable.

3d, Great has been the obloquy heaped upon the canals, and in many particulars, perhaps, not without cause. At the same time, when all indirect consequences are taken into account, the evil and loss may not be so great as many would represent it. To draw inferences from the superior advantage of railways, I hold to be unfair, as the canals have been so long in progress, and the other can only be said to have secured public confidence since the cities of Manchester and Liverpool became as one. A canal to unite Lake Erie with Ontario, so wonderfully separated by nature, and yet so important to surmount, seems a reasonable object of mercantile enterprise to achieve. Whether it has been planned and executed in the best line and most economical manner, are questions separate and distinct; but it ought surely to be more a subject of regret than of contumely, if it is likely to be superseded by a railway from Chippeway to Queenston.

This important measure has been checked for a season, but there can be little doubt that it will ultimately be carried through, and must prove of the greatest advantage. The line has been surveyed, and the expense will not exceed L. 10,000 or L. 12,000. It is not unlikely that the Americans will construct either a canal or railway from Lockport to Ontario, connecting the Erie canal with the lake, and which must prove another heavy abduction of traffic from the Welland. The Rideau canal is one so entirely in the hands of Government, that I shall leave it there without remark.

Education is a subject which cannot fail to interest emigrants of a higher class, and it may be of importance for such to know that the style of education for both sexes is rapidly improving. The Upper Canada College at York is well endowed, and when its wild acres shall be settled and cultivated, will become an institution not to be sneered at by any *Alma Mater* at home. The charges at present are,

Preparatory School for Boys.

General Branches, per quarter,	-	-	-	L. 1	5	0
Pens, fuel, &c. per ditto,	-	-	-	0	5	0

College for Senior Boys.

Classical and General Branches, per quarter,	-	-	-	-	L. 2	0	0
Pens, fuel, &c. per ditto,	-	-	-	-	0	5	0
Drawing, per ditto,	-	-	-	-	0	10	0
Books extra.							

Board, under surveillance of the Principal, L. 25 per annum. Besides which, there are other boarding-houses in York, and other boarding-schools at Cornwall, &c.

I would now offer a few remarks to those who may feel disposed to emigrate, from a view rather to prospective advantage than from the call of stern necessity, or from inability to provide for a numerous family at home. Assuming such an individual to be a man of sober habits, by which I would be understood to mean not merely a distaste for debauchery, but of a temperament which derives its chief enjoyment from the domestic circle, and from useful and rational pursuits; to such a man I am not afraid to say that Canada holds out an inviting field of enterprise and profitable occupation. Let him not, however, suppose

that he is just at once to bask in the full glare of prosperity. Many *disagrèmens* await him, but none which a man of ordinary discretion and perseverance will be long of surmounting. The circumstances, connexions, and habits of individuals are so various and so opposite, that it would be vain to draw up a scheme of settlement suitable or palatable to all. Nothing, however, is more certain than this, that here, as in all human arrangements, much benefit may be derived from combined efforts. For such a purpose, my own wish would be to form a small association of colonists, who would go to market for a tract of land suited to their purpose, and which there can be no doubt they would procure in a large block, and for a price to be paid down, upon very advantageous terms. Having made the purchase, let each individual be immediately put in absolute possession of his own estate. Future arrangements would be dictated by circumstances; and self-interest, the most efficient of all agents, could be easily brought to bear upon the good of all. Artisans, machinery, live-stock, with many other requisites, could be procured, at a remunerating rate for a community, which would never have paid a return to individual settlers, and a prosperous advance might soon be looked for. Of course, I cannot be supposed to contemplate a communion of property, or such-like wise headed dreams; but the mutual solace and comfort of ten or a dozen respectable families thus planted together, is beyond any estimate we can form. Sickness and death itself would be shorn of many terrors to the head of a family, when thus assured of his little ones having kind and willing friends around him, embarked in the same concern, and yet having no temptation to injure or defraud. Objections to such a plan may be raised upon the ground of human fickleness and whim, and certainly the selection would require to be made with strict attention to character and sense; but no insuperable difficulty presents itself to my mind, which should prevent it from being carried into successful operation. I would have the stock agreed upon placed in the hands of respectable agents, as the Upper Canada Bank, or a bank at home, a small committee appointed, and power given to make a purchase, and to have it surveyed and divided, and each man's portion set off by lot, or in such other way as might be preferred. Should any special advan-

tage, as a mill-power, gypsum-quarry, &c. accrue to one portion of the property, it might be again appropriated by lot, or have such conditions attached to it, for common behoof, as would place all the parties on a par.

Our farming interests at home have been severely scourged of late years, and capital has been, at each revolving term, compelled to meet demands, which profits reasonably expected ought to have supplied. Nor is it perhaps the least lamentable part of the case, that, notwithstanding the too palpable loss before their eyes, scarce a farm comes into the market without a very general competition. How shall we seek to solve conduct so much at variance with ordinary discretion? Perhaps it frequently arises from a man having grown up to middle life, with his habits and views fixed beyond a change; or, again, with a valuable stock, for which no adequate price is to be had,—in which predicament there scarce remains for him a choice but to venture upon another cast.

Many are the worthy and respectable men of this description, who may certainly better their condition by a removal to Canada; but it is a serious step, not to be lightly adopted, and which, above all, they must remember, cannot with safety, consistency, or credit, be retraced. In Canada he will become proprietor *in fee-simple* of lands, at a rate per acre which would scarce pay half of *his yearly rent* at home; but this is to be effected at a sacrifice of many early ties and connections, and by a cheerful submission to many privations and *bothurations*, which will require a steady and cheerful temper to surmount. From the prices of land, the rates of wages and labour, and the value of produce, which are given, and for the accuracy of which, I think I can pledge my credit, every man will be enabled to form a judgment for himself, so far as written statements avail; and I will only again repeat, that Upper Canada certainly appears to me blessed with all the solid materials of human happiness, independence and comfort. How long she is to continue in pupillage, or when the period will arrive when the parental tie is to be severed, are questions, momentous indeed, but difficult to solve. It must, however, be the anxious desire of every patriotic Briton and Canadian, that, happen when it may, or how it may, a cordial spirit of mutual concession and goodwill shall

be the instruments of bringing it to an adjustment. In this, and *in no other way*, can either country hope to derive from it security or advantage.

I am conscious that I have occupied more of these pages than I fear my readers will approve, and shall therefore make a halt for the present, merely concluding with a few tables, which may be useful. They are drawn from sources equally authentic, but different from those formerly given.

Prices of Live-Stock, Upper Canada.

Horses,.....	L. 7 10 0	to	L. 10 0 0
Oxen for labour, per pair,.....	15 0 0	...	17 10 0
Milch Cows,.....	3 15 0	...	5 0 0

Implements, &c.

Waggon for a pair of horses,.....	L. 20 0 0
Harness for do. do.	10 0 0
A plough,.....	3 0 0
Brake-harrow,.....	2 0 0
Long chains to drag trees, each,	1 5 0
Double horse-sleigh,	7 0 0
Common ox-sleigh,	2 0 0

Produce.

Wheat, per bushel,.....	L. 0 3 6	to	L. 0 5 0
Barley do.	0 2 6	...	0 3 0
Oats do.	0 1 6	...	0 2 0
Indian corn, do.	0 1 6	...	0 2 6
Pease do.	0 2 6	...	0 3 0
Potatoes do.	0 1 6	...	0 2 0
Hay per ton,	2 0 0	...	2 10 0

Wages and Labour.

Hire of a man for farm-work, with board, per month,	L. 2 10 0
Do. of female for ordinary house-work, do.	1 10 0
Carpenter per day,	0 5 0
Blacksmith on job per month,	4 5 0
Do. for a set of shoes,.....	0 10 0
Chopping per acre,	1 10 0
Logging (collecting and dragging) do.	1 0 0
Ordinary fencing of split rails, per rood,	0 1 1
Post and rail fencing, per rood,.....	0 1 10
Sowing and harrowing per acre,	0 5 0

Reaper's wages (find themselves) per day,	0	5	0
Common labourers at Indian corn or potato work, do.	0	3	6
Wheat, reaped, and hauled into rick-yard and stacked, per acre,...	1	0	0
Thrashing and winnowing, per bushel,	0	0	6

Household Furniture.

Handsome sideboard, two doors, and five drawers,	L. 15	0	0	
Secretary or writing-table,.....	10	0	0	
Sofas,.....	L. 12 to	15	0	0
Dining-tables—three to a set,.....	7	0	0	
Bureaus, six drawers,.....	5	0	0	
Do. do. plain,.....	4	0	0	
Do. with four drawers,.....	3	0	0	
Breakfast-tables,.....	1	5	0	
Black walnut chairs, hair-bottoms, each,.....	1	15	0	
Common Windsor chairs, each,.....	0	5	0	
Dining-room table, claw feet,.....	7	10	0	
Do. do. do. plain,.....	4	10	0	
Bedsteads, high posts,.....	2	0	0	
Tent do.	1	10	0	
Dressing-table and washstand,.....	1	10	0	
Double washstand,.....	1	10	0	
Light washstand,.....	0	12	0	
Ladies' work-table,.....	1	10	0	

These articles are handsomely and substantially finished ; and the native woods, such as bird's eye maple, black walnut, birch, elm, oak, cherry, &c. supply excellent and beautiful materials.