DIRECTIONS

FOR SETTLERS IN UPPER CANADA.

WITH A MAP.

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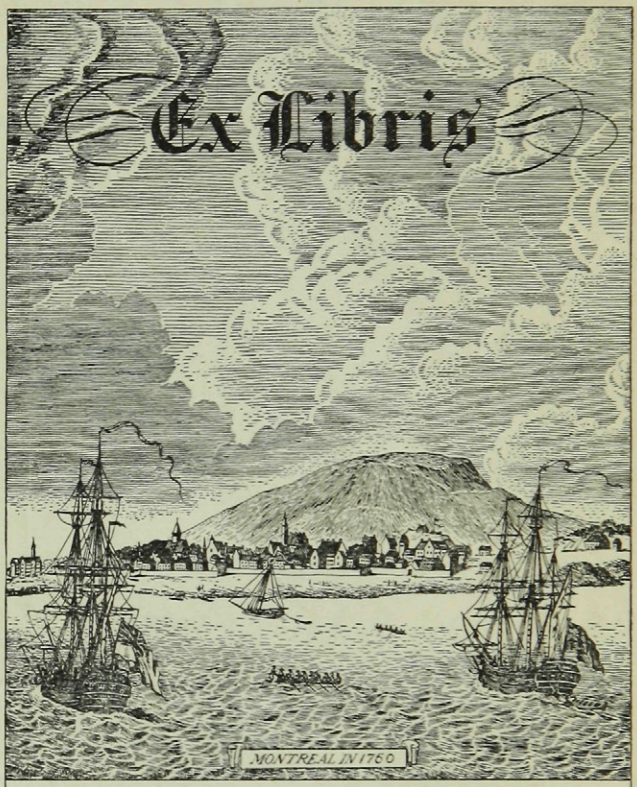

C. Gordonsmith

Samuel Cooper
Pertenhall

Published January 1.1821. by Baldwin, Cradock & Joy, London.

A

FEW PLAIN DIRECTIONS

FOR PERSONS

INTENDING TO PROCEED AS SETTLERS

TO

HIS MAJESTY'S PROVINCE

OF

UPPER CANADA,

IN NORTH AMERICA.

Pointing out the best Port to embark at for Quebec.—Provisions and other Things necessary to be provided for the Voyage.—The best and cheapest Method of Travelling from Quebec to Montreal, and thence to Kingston and York, a Distance of 600 Miles, whereby Emigrants may avoid heavy Expenses.—The Method of obtaining Land in the most eligible Districts.—What Property various Descriptions of Emigrants should possess on their Arrival in America.—Advice to Farmers, Tradesmen, Mechanics, &c.—A Description of that fine and interesting Province: its Productions, &c. &c.—Some cursory Remarks on the Manners and Customs of the Inhabitants.

CONTAINING ALSO

A SHORT SKETCH OR JOURNAL OF THE

AUTHOR'S VOYAGE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC,

IN JUNE, 1819.

BY AN ENGLISH FARMER

SETTLED IN UPPER CANADA.

With a Map.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR BALDWIN, CRADOCK, AND JOY,

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PREFACE.

IN offering this little volume to the Public, it is the Author's intention to afford those persons who are desirous of emigrating to our North American Colonies, particularly the province of Upper Canada, such information as will enable them to avoid delays and expense, and to establish themselves within a reasonable time after their arrival. That such information is very much wanted, the condition of numbers of emigrants who left England with property sufficient for every exigency, will evince. Many have expended large sums of money in search of farms and grantable lands, and have found themselves, at the expiration of two or three years, in more hopeless circumstances, and with worse prospects, than before their departure from their native country.

That these fine and interesting colonies present fair advantages to industrious emigrants of every denomination and profession, is a fact of which the Author is fully convinced; and as it is his ardent and heartfelt

wish to be serviceable to his fellow-countrymen, neither intending to mislead them by false representations, or to excite hopes and expectations which his conscience tells him can never be realized, he thought he should be fulfilling a duty which he owed to such persons (however inadequate his abilities might be to the task), in endeavouring to smooth the difficulties and remove the obstacles which might interrupt their welfare and success.

This little volume has no beauty of style, no elegance of language, to recommend it; it contains only an unembellished narration of facts, important to such persons as may require "*Plain Directions.*" It has been the Author's principal aim to render it useful; and he offers it to the public with the hope that they will excuse its defects, since he has used his best endeavours to serve them.

The condescension of a gentleman in an official situation at York, Upper Canada, has enabled me to give a Map or Plan of the province of Upper Canada, with its subdivisions into townships, &c. &c.

Upper Canada,
January 20, 1820.

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DIRECTIONS

FOR PERSONS INTENDING TO SETTLE IN

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FROM the commencement of the French revolution to the year 1815, the continent of Europe was distracted by sanguinary and expensive wars. The resources of great nations

were exhausted; and the distress which ensued after the termination of hostilities compelled multitudes of people to seek an asylum in the New World. The great mass of emigration was directed principally to the United States, under the mistaken idea that the territory of the republic offered more advantages, as well as more freedom, to settlers than the British colonies. Those colonies too, before the late lamentable war between Great Britain and the States, were but little known, except to merchants and seamen, who, from the nature of their pursuits, could have no opportunity of acquiring such a knowledge of the interior of the country, or the more remote parts of it, as would enable them to give a just representation of it. The advantages which these colonies, particularly Upper Canada, offer to emigrants are now partly developed. The Americans have been aware of them for some time, and have profited by their knowledge. Whilst English subjects, to whose dispositions a republican government and republican manners will always be uncongenial and repugnant, were settling on the banks of the Ohio and in the *Elysian Prairies* of the

Missouri—their enterprise and their money *both* nearly exhausted before they arrived there—thousands of the citizens of the United States, attracted by the salubrity of the climate, and the fertility of the soil of Upper Canada, were flocking into it, and taking without hesitation the oath of allegiance to the British government, in order to reap the benefit of settling there. This is a well known fact; and if it were duly impressed on the minds of persons desirous of emigrating to America, they would certainly prefer a country, where they could enjoy all the blessings and the privileges of our excellent constitution, to one, where they must live under a form of government with which they are unacquainted, and among a people who would be very far from answering the expectations they had formed of them. I have no hesitation in saying that the *British colonies*, particularly the province of Upper Canada, are more suitable for *British emigrants*, whether agriculturists or mechanics, than the United States, and that they would there have better prospects of success, as well as the enjoyment of a greater degree of happiness and contentment.

Mr. Charles F. Grece has fully demonstrated this fact in his valuable work entitled, " Facts and Observations respecting Canada and the United States of America. London, printed for J. Harding, St. James's-street, 1819." To that gentleman's publication, I beg to refer persons intending to proceed to the Canadas for a great deal of very useful and important information.

To forsake our native government and laws, and to add to the strength and resources of a rival nation, must, considered in a moral point of view, be culpable ; and on this subject Mr. Grece makes the following very just observation :—" I much question whether any sub-
" ject of Great Britain can, upon a general
" principle of reasoning, justify his conduct in
" deliberately adding to the strength and re-
" sources of a rival nation, whilst there are
" *extensive, rich, and fertile territories*, be-
" longing to his own country, inviting the
" hand of cultivation, and claiming the exer-
" tions of all those who may be induced to quit
" the immediate soil that gave them birth, to
" seek their fortunes in distant regions."

Having in the spring of the year 1819 de-

termined upon emigrating to one of the British colonies, I gave the preference to Upper Canada, as well from the good account which I had received of that province from some of my friends who had visited it, as from the favourable representation which Mr. Hugh Gray, Mr. Heriot, and Mr. Lambert, have given of it in their travels.

Although New South Wales possesses a fine climate and a fertile soil, yet it is at too great a distance from the mother country to make it a desirable residence for emigrants.

The Cape of Good Hope has almost the same natural advantages as New Holland, but its plains and woods are infested with lions and other ravenous beasts of prey; and the Caffres and Boshmen have lately disturbed the settlers.

Private individuals intending to emigrate to the Canadas, may proceed directly to the port at which they mean to embark, without having any occasion to apply to the secretary of state for the colonies, as all the satisfaction or information they would receive from Lord Bathurst would be contained in a printed or official letter, acquainting them that a grant

of twenty-five acres of land would be given to them by the governor on their arrival in Canada, without any assistance or encouragement except the actual grant itself.

I arrived at Liverpool about the middle of June, 1819. This is undoubtedly the best port to embark from, as vessels may there be met with at any time during the spring and summer months; and the expense of travelling to that town, even from places at a considerable distance, is not great. A circuitous, and often hazardous, passage by sea from the northern or eastern ports of England to the Chops of the Channel is likewise thereby avoided. In the winter, and very early in the spring, there are also vessels constantly going to New York; from whence there are steamboats to Albany, and a stage to Montreal, or to Sackett's harbour opposite Kingston, by Utica. This would be the best route for persons without families, or who had but little baggage, and who were desirous of leaving England in February or March. A considerable duty or per centage (as much, I believe, as thirty per cent.) on the value of their baggage, is paid at New York by persons not intend-

ing to settle in the United States, but who were only passing through them in order to proceed to the British colonies. Persons with families, and a considerable quantity of baggage, had therefore better embark for Quebec; and the commencement of April would be soon enough to leave Liverpool, as vessels cannot proceed up the river St. Lawrence to Quebec before the middle of May, on account of the ice.

I found a large ship lying in the Queen's Dock at Liverpool, which was nearly ready to proceed to Quebec, and engaged my passage in the steerage for 5*l.* 10*s.* having to find myself provisions, a bed, cooking utensils, and every other article, except water and the use of the ship's fire. I provided the following stores for the passage, being a sufficient stock for two months; since few vessels arrive at Quebec from Liverpool in less time than eight, nine, or ten weeks, during the summer months. Going to a ship chandler's near the Queen's Dock, with a list ready made out of what would be necessary, I bought as follows: viz.

	£	s.	d.
1 lb. of tea	0	8	0
7 lb. of sugar, at 10*d.* per lb.	0	5	10
2½ lb. of coffee, ground, at 2*s.*	0	5	0
A quarter of a barrel of salt-beef, or about 55 pounds	0	16	6
56 lb. common biscuit	0	10	9
2 bushels potatoes, at 2*s.* 4*d.*	0	4	8
Barrel for packing ditto	0	2	0
A liquor case with 12 bottles	0	10	6
2 gallons rum, at 16*s.*	1	12	0
2½ dozen porter, at 12*s.* 6*d.*	1	11	3
Hamper for ditto and packing	0	2	0
Tea-kettle	0	3	9
Tin water-can	0	2	6
Tin tea-pot	0	3	6
A tin coffee-pot	0	1	2
Tin kettle for cooking in	0	4	6
2 half-pint earthen mugs	0	0	4
2 plates	0	0	4
1 deep dish	0	1	0
1 table spoon and 1 tea-spoon	0	0	6
1 knife and fork	0	1	4
1 tin wash-hand-bason	0	2	6
1 bottle of mustard	0	1	6
Mustard-pot	0	0	8
Carried over	7	12	1

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward....	7	12	1
A candlestick	0	1	6
3 lb. of candles	0	3	0
Potatoe-net.....	0	0	6
Tin tea-caddy	0	1	6
60 eggs and packing	0	4	3
14 lb. of split-pease	0	3	6
2 ounces of ground-pepper....	0	0	6
Pepper-box	0	0	6
6 bottles of Cape Madeira	0	18	0
Half a cheese	0	4	3
2 wine glasses and 2 tumblers..	0	2	10
A bag for bread	0	0	10½
Hamper for the wine.....	0	1	2
A large second-hand chest to pack the above loose articles in, with lock.....	0	11	0
A ship's bed and bolster	0	13	6
2 blankets.....	0	15	0
A coverlet.....	0	7	6
	12	1	5½
Paid to the captain of the ship for passage.....	5	10	0
Total expense to Quebec.....	17	11	5½

There may, perhaps, be several superfluities in this list of what I provided for myself alone; it may, however, convey some idea of what others will require. For a number of persons, a stock must be provided accordingly, and agreeably to the nature of their appetites. Persons bringing beds, cooking utensils, bacon, hams, corned or hung beef, dried tongues and preserved fruits, from home with them, will lessen their expenses. Should there be women or children, it would be well to furnish them with the best white biscuit, or "good loaf-bread cut into slices and baked "a second time. If this be prepared pre-"viously to leaving England it will keep good "to the end of the voyage; and by soaking it "in water or tea, it will be found excellent "nourishment." (Dr. Franklin's Directions.) Cider, figs, raisins, almonds, portable soup, potted-beef; cakes and preserved fruit, such as damsons, plums, gooseberries, currants, dried apples, &c. &c.

As emigrants may have occasion to continue a week or ten days at Liverpool, it would be well for them to hire lodgings at any respectable housekeeper's—except the inns—

(and lodgings are always to be procured) and board themselves; they will, by so doing, avoid expense, and live more agreeably than at a tavern, besides being able to equip themselves with greater privacy and with less molestation.

Coarse warm clothing with flannel shirts, thick worsted or yarn stockings, and strong shoes or half-boots nailed, are most suitable for the climate of Canada in winter; and duck slops, duck trowsers, and calico or homespun linen shirts, for summer wear. Fur caps may also be brought out, as they are expensive here. Any old clothes will serve during the passage out, and in travelling through the country. Beds may be taken out *(without bedsteads)*. Curtains and curtain-rings, cords, blankets, sheets, warm rugs or coverlets, and several spare bed-ticks. All these latter articles are extremely dear in Canada. Scarcely any thing else need be provided, as all articles of hardware, axes suitable for the country, plough-irons, harrow-teeth, Dutch and tin ovens, tea-kettles, kettles for cooking meat in, &c. &c. &c., may be purchased at Montreal at nearly the same prices as in England.

Every thing should be well packed in strong boxes, cases, or trunks, the more portable they are the better, each not exceeding three feet in length, eighteen inches in breadth, and one foot in depth, made water-tight if possible, or in barrels about the size of flour barrels, also water-tight; and all to be well lashed up or corded. Beds, bedding, curtains, &c. &c., may be sewed up in a wool-sack or very coarse harden, with a strong cord round them; this is the most convenient and best method of taking out beds. China or other earthenware, may be packed in tow or the refuse of flax.

All things being in readiness, and the vessel on the point of sailing, the emigrant will have to attend at the custom-house with his baggage for examination; with respect to which business, the captain of the ship he goes out in will give him the necessary directions how to proceed, and assist him through it. He will also have to take an affidavit at the custom-house. He may take his sea-stores of provisions, &c., on board his vessel at any time, placing them under the charge of the mate; as they are never ex-

amined by the custom-house officers. When his baggage is to be examined, he may hire a cart and take it to the custom-house, accompanied by the captain of the vessel. After having finished his business there, he can have it conveyed in the same cart to the dock in which the ship lies, and from thence immediately taken on board; one journey and one expense will thereby answer both purposes.

There are several persons at Liverpool professing to assist emigrants in transacting their affairs there. Such may, perhaps, be honest men: I would not, however, advise emigrants to employ them; since by following the above directions, and those of the captain of the vessel in which they are going out, they cannot err, and by being their own agents will avoid a considerable expense. All spare money must be brought out in guineas or Spanish dollars, which may be purchased for good bills at any bullion office in Liverpool. Dollars are bought for about 4*s.* 4*d.* or 4*s.* 6*d.* each.

On the 27th of June, 1819, I sailed from Liverpool in a ship of 450 tons; having in about half a cargo, consisting of salt, iron, and

bricks. The steerage was formerly the cabin; and being fitted up as cabins usually are, it was not deficient in any convenience. A sort of poop or cuddy was built, as a cabin for the captain and chief mate.

Persons who are strangers to the sea will find it inconvenient to *cook* for themselves. It is very probable that the ship's cook may be fond of grog; and he would perform that necessary business for a wine-glass full of rum every night, and double allowances on Saturday nights; if, however, he should possess such *a failing* as not to be fond of grog, then one of the seamen might be procured. A gallon or two of rum, thus bestowed, would relieve the passenger from a deal of trouble and difficulty. It will be necessary to keep the liquor in a very secure place, as the seamen will not lose any opportunity of stealing it, or mixing it with water. I give this caution from experience, as will be seen in the journal.

Passengers should pay attention to cleanliness. Washing the hands and face in cold water every morning, (if fresh water is not allowed, use salt water with oatmeal) and keep-

ing as much as possible on deck in the air, even in blowing weather, will contribute very much to preserve health, and prevent or relieve sea-sickness. A little opening medicine, as epsom salts or an electuary, may be provided, and a dose taken occasionally. Passengers may also take out a few books for amusement, and a pack of cards. It will be necessary to have their births or cabins well *swept* twice a day, and washed once or twice a week. Early rising, and a sober, peaceable, and orderly deportment, I should also particularly recommend; and let persons be civil to the seamen, but not familiar with them.

The following sketch or journal of my voyage may not be unacceptable, as it will afford emigrants an authentic picture of what they themselves will have to undergo in crossing the Atlantic. Although a farmer, I was not inattentive to what passed on the *watery* element, the source of our national prosperity and glory, and the theatre of some of the noblest achievements of my countrymen.

CHAPTER II.

Passage from Liverpool to Quebec—Newfoundland—Anticosti—Description of the Country on each side of the River St. Lawrence.

On Sunday, June 27th, soon after daylight, we weighed and proceeded to sea; the wind westerly.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday to Tuesday July 6th, we had contrary winds (being from S.W. to N.W. but mostly W. and W.N.W.) with thick hazy weather at times, blowing fresh with a deal of sea; yet in that time we got clear of the Irish Channel. Attacked by sea-sickness, which I soon got over by keeping on deck in the air.

Tuesday, July 6th. The weather, which hitherto has been cold, is now warm and pleasant, and we have light breezes from the westward. Lat. at noon 50° 20′ N. long. about 14° 30′ W. Two sail in sight.

Thursday, 8th. Fresh breezes and hazy,

with a heavy sea. Wind W. and W.N.W. A ship and brig passed us under all sail, steering E.N.E.

Friday, 9th. Moderate and fine. Wind N.W. by W. A long swell from the N.N.W. Lat. at noon 48° 18′ N. long. 15° 30′ W. being 400 miles nearly due west of Ushant.

Saturday, 10th. Moderate breezes N.N.W. and fine weather. At 6, P.M. the wind shifted to N.N.E. in our favour: hauled up W. by N. At 10 set studding sails. We have had a beating wind for fourteen days; having never had an hour's slant of wind before to-day, nor a studding sail set.

Sunday, 11th. Moderate and fine. Set all the studding sails on the starboard side. Wind N.E. Course W.N.W. P.M. light winds and foggy.

Monday, 12. The wind again westerly. At 6, P.M. the wind S.W. lightning in the N.N.E. At 10 fresh breezes and fine weather, saw gulls.

Tuesday, 13th. At 1 taken aback with the wind from the N.N.E. being the quarter where it lightned. At noon fresh breezes N. by E. and fine weather. Lat. observed,

46° 15′ N. long. 25° 30′ W. A ship passed us steering S.S.E. The Azores at noon about 300 miles due south: gulls seen.

Wednesday, 14th. Moderate breezes from the northward, and pleasant weather. Course W.N.W. P.M. wind scant. At 8 wind again favourable.

Thursday, 15th. Light breezes and fine. Lat. observed 45° 37′ N. long. 30° 00′ W.

Saturday, 17th. Light winds, nearly calm, and fine pleasant weather. P.M. At 6 spoke an American ship from Liverpool bound to New York.

Sunday, 18th. Moderate breezes from the N.W. and fine weather. Lat. observed, at noon 44° 44′ N. At 6, P.M. a ship, having the appearance of a West-Indiaman, passed us under all sail, steering E. by S.

Monday, 19th. Strong breezes and hazy, with a heavy swell; wind N.W. P.M. at 10, more moderate with less wind; wind N. by W.

Wednesday, 21st. Fresh breezes at S.W. by W. several vessels in sight. P.M. at 6 fresh gales: spoke the Ida of London (West Indiaman), homeward bound. Several vessels

passed us, steering to the eastward. Fresh gales with a very heavy head sea; close reefed the topsails and handed the mainsail. At 9 taken aback in a squall with the wind from the N.N.W. braced round and trimmed on the starboard tack: heavy rain. At midnight moderate breezes N. N.W. with heavy rain.

Thursday, 22d. At noon fresh breezes N.N.W. and clear. Lat. observed, 44° 35′ N. At 7, P.M. saw a brig to windward, close hauled: moderate and fine weather, with a swell from the N.W.

Friday, 23d. A.M. calm and pleasant weather. Lat. observed, 43° 47′ N. At 6, P.M. cloudy, with light and variable winds. A ship passed us steering to the eastward. Lightning N.N.E. Saw flying fish and gulf-weed.

Saturday, 24th. At 3 a breeze from the N.E. made all sail; set studding sails on the starboard side. At noon moderate and pleasant weather; wind N.E. by E. course N.W. by W. Saw flying fish, bonitoes, gulls, and a deal of gulf-weed. Lat. 44° 00′ N. long. 41° 30′ W.

Sunday, 25th. At. 4, A.M. calm; at 8 a

breeze from the westward. Lat. observed, 44° 04′ N. long. 42° 00′ W. P.M. fresh breezes with a swell from the westward: a great deal of gulf-weed seen.

Monday, 26th. Wind W. and W. by S. course N.N.W. and N.W. by W. P.M. at 8 fresh breezes and squally, with a swell from the N.W. In top-gallant sails. Lightning N.E. by N.

Tuesday, 27th. Light and variable winds, and close hazy weather with rain. At 10, A.M. the wind S.W. by S. P.M. at 4, the wind N.W. At 7, a large whale playing for some time to windward of the ship. At sunset, a violent squall from the N.N.E. with heavy rain: clewed up and handed all the sails. Afterwards it blew a strong gale from the N.N.E. all night with a very heavy sea: ship lying-to under the close-reefed main-topsail, and labouring much: down top-gallant yards and struck the masts.

Wednesday, 28th. More moderate weather; a heavy swell still continues: made sail. Wind N.N.E. course N.W. by W. Saw a brig to windward. At 8, P.M. wind N.W.

Thursday, 29th. Moderate and fine. Wind

W. by N. course N. by W. at noon passed a French schooner. Lat. observed, 43° 47′ N.

Friday, 30th. Moderate and fine weather. At 3, A.M. a breeze from the W.S.W. a brig in company. P.M. at 5, 30, squally with rain. At 6, it cleared up: a steady breeze S.W. by W. Course N.W. by W. Long. at noon, 44° 45′ W.

Saturday, 31st. Moderate breezes and fine weather, with a flying fog. Wind S.W. by W. Course N.W. by W. going five knots. Lat. observed, 45° 08′ N. long. 47° 00 W. At 6, P.M. a brig passed us.

Sunday, August 1st. Moderate breezes W.S.W. with a thick fog. Course N.W. going three knots: saw several grampuses. At 8, tried for soundings, and found no bottom, with 110 fathoms of line. Lat. at noon, by account, 45° 57′ N. At 8, P.M. hove-to and sounded in sixty-nine fathoms; bottom, shells and small pebbles. Weather still foggy. Long. 49° 30′ W. Fogs are very prevalent on the banks of Newfoundland at all seasons of the year. Seamen term them the "Newfoundland Boatswain," from their tightening the rigging

of a ship very much, (as moisture and cold contract, and heat on the contrary stretches and expands.)

Monday, 2d. Moderate breezes at west with a thick fog. At 8, tacked to the southward. At noon, sounded in thirty-four fathoms; shells. Saw a brig to leeward. Ship about eighty miles east of Cape Race, Newfoundland.

Tuesday 3d. Foggy weather, with a moderate breeze W. by S. Course N.W. by N. At 8, sounded in thirty fathoms. At 5, P.M. spoke the La Hortence of Dieppe, French fishing-lugger. At 10, the wind S.W. by W. course N.W. going 6½ knots. Weather more clear. Passed several brigs and other vessels at anchor, fishing.

Wednesday, 4th. At 8, calm and hazy. Caught two halibuts, weighing about fifty and forty pounds, and a cod-fish of thirty pounds weight. Baited first with rind of pork and a piece of red cloth; afterwards with the roe or breeches of the fish, a bait which will be taken greedily. The Great Bank of Newfoundland is 540 miles in length from north to south, and from 150 to 200

miles in width from east to west. A great many vessels are employed annually in the fishery. The fishermen take out the entrails and cut off the heads of the fish when first caught; rub them over with salt, and pack them in the vessel's hold: when she is full they go to Newfoundland, and there salt and dry the fish for exportation. The French have two small islands on the south coast of Newfoundland, viz. St. Pierre and Miquelon, where they dry their fish, &c. At 9, a breeze from the westward; saw several fishing vessels. At 4, P.M. a large ship in sight. At 10, found the latitude by an altitude of the north polar star, to be 45° 20′ N. Moderate and fine weather.

Thursday, 5th. Fresh breezes, and squally with a heavy swell. P.M. at 9, 30, took the altitude of the polar star, and found the latitude to be, by Mr. Mitcham's (47, Whitechapel, London) tables, and the American tables by Mr. Elford, 44° 44′ N.

Friday, 6th. Fresh breezes at W. course N.N.W. Latitude, by a good observation, 45° 22′ N. and ascertained thereby, that the method of finding the latitude by the altitude

of the polar star (and working by Mr. Mitcham's and Mr. Elford's methods) is correct. P.M. strong breezes from the west with a high sea. A transport passed us (No. 4 or 7.) under all sail, steering east: two brigs also passed us. Saw many grampuses.

Saturday, 7th. Strong breezes at west, and clear. P. M. at 8, the wind S.W. by W. course N.W. going $6\frac{1}{2}$ knots.

Sunday, 8th. Fresh gales at west, and thick weather with a very high sea. Ship lying up N.N.W. under courses and double-reefed topsails. Saw several stormy peterels. Found my liquor-case broken open, and about five quarts of rum deficient: half of the liquor having been taken out of the case bottles, and the bottles then filled up again with water.

Monday, 9th. Light breezes from the southward and fine weather. At 8, saw the island of St. Pierre, on the south coast of Newfoundland, bearing north by compass, distant 16 or 18 miles. Made all sail; course N.W. Set studding sails. Saw several grampuses. A schooner in sight N.N.W. At noon the island of Miquelon (fifteen miles from Newfoundland, half way between Cape Race and

Cape Raye, on the south coast of it) in sight to the northward, distant twenty-two or twenty-four miles. We have this day been forty days out of sight of land.

Tuesday, 10th. At 8, fresh gales and squally with rain at times, and a high, rough sea; the ship under close-reefed topsails and foresail. At 8, P.M. more moderate weather. At 10, lightning in the E.S.E.

Wednesday 11th. At 8, light breezes from the E.S.E. and fine pleasant weather; water very smooth: made all sail, set studding sails on the starboard side. A brig to windward, standing to the northward. Saw Cape Raye, distant twenty or twenty-two miles. Many gannets (called by seamen *fishermen*, from their preying upon mackarel) skimming over the sea. They fly in regular lines abreast close to the water's edge, and being all white, except the extremities of their wings, have a curious and picturesque appearance. We had lines out for mackarel, but caught none. Saw several snipes, resembling those common in England. Cape Raye is high land and tabled. Off the point is a small island, or rock. A few miles to the S.E. of the

Cape, is a white farm-house, and a small quantity of cultivated ground above it; the farmer is the only inhabitant there: his house is about half way up the declivity of the hill (or highland), and faces the south. The country has a barren and inhospitable appearance, and is covered with stunted trees. Passed several vessels homeward bound.

Thursday, 12th. Fresh breezes and squally, with a high sea. Wind N.N.W. Passed the Magdalen Islands and Bird Island (so called from its being the resort of gannets and other sea-fowl) in the night: then the wind came round to the northward against us.

Friday, 13th. The land about Cape Gaspe in sight, and the south-west part of the island of Anticosti. This island is of considerable extent, being 130 miles in length and 30 in breadth; it is not high land, and in a more happy situation its scenery would be pleasing. It is uninhabited; the climate being too inhospitable to admit of its being settled upon. It is covered with small trees, the dark foliage of which presents an appearance extremely dreary. P.M. fresh breezes from the N.W.

and squally with a high broken sea; a brig in sight.

Saturday, 14th. Light winds and cloudy. Caught several very fine mackerel, also several dogfish (an animal resembling a shark in make, but small, having a skin as rough as a fine file). P.M. nearly calm, with heavy rain. At 10, fresh gales at north, and squally weather; furled the mainsail, and close-reefed topsails. The northern lights very brilliant, and casting a great light, illuminating the hemisphere from N.W. to N.E.; they prevail here winter and summer.

Sunday, 15th. Fresh breezes and cold clear weather. Wind N.by E. Beating up between the island of Anticosti and the main. Caught several fine mackerel.

Monday, 16th. Moderate and fine weather. At 8, nearly calm. Supplied, bound to Quebec with 160 passengers, the brig Jane, with provisions: which had been out nine weeks and their provisions nearly expended, having been for some time on a reduced allowance. P.M. at 2, a breeze sprung up from the S.W. made all sail: set studding sails. The island of Anticosti and Cape Gaspe in sight. A strong current

sets here along the western shore. Caught several fine mackerel and some dogfish. At 10, calm.

Tuesday, 17th. At 8, fresh breezes, W.N.W. and fine weather; course north: the land near the entrance of the river, to the southward, in sight. At noon, saw the land to the northward about Seven Islands Bay. P.M. at 8, nearly calm. At midnight, we were abreast of Seven Islands Bay.

Wednesday, 18th. Calm till 10 o'clock, then a breeze sprung up at west: made sail on the starboard tack. The land on both sides in sight; that to the southward about Cape Chat is very high land. Several small birds came on board. P.M. light and variable winds, and warm pleasant weather.

Thursday 19th. At 8, light airs, nearly calm, with warm, clear, and pleasant weather. The Montpeles or Bald Mountains in sight, also the land about Cape Chat at the entrance of the river St. Lawrence. Several vessels in sight. Saw several whales. At midnight, light breezes and fine weather.

Friday, 20th. At 7, 30, got a pilot on board: a French Canadian. Moderate breezes and

hazy weather. At 4, P.M. passed the Bald Mountains' point. At midnight, calm.

Saturday, 21st. Light airs, nearly calm, and very hazy, so that the land cannot be seen. P.M. at 1, 30, a breeze sprung up from the eastward: course W.S.W. At 7, 30, set the larboard foretopmast-studding sail. At midnight, moderate breezes and fine weather.

Sunday, 22d. At 8, saw Point Mille Vache to the northward, distant four or five miles. From thence to the island of Bic or Bique, across the river, is thirteen miles. Ships take pilots there; and the river is here about sixteen miles wide. A light breeze from the S.E. and fine pleasant weather, although hazy. P.M. at 8, fresh breezes from the S.W. and squally with heavy rain. Up courses and hove to. At 10, filled again: fresh gales and squally, with rain and a thick fog. At midnight, ditto weather.

Monday, 23d. Fresh gales at W.N.W. and hazy weather. At 3, came to with the best bower, in eleven fathoms water, off the south shore of the river, which is here about ten or twelve miles wide; the island of Bique bearing N.E. by E. seven or eight miles, and

Green Island S.W. by W. about fifteen miles: the south shore distant one and a half or two miles. At day-light, more moderate weather. At 10, weighed and made sail: the wind W.N.W. course S.W. At 6, P.M. we passed the light-house on Green Island. A few miles before we reached this island, the country on the south bank of the river begins first to be inhabited. At 10, we anchored in fifteen fathoms water, six or seven miles S.W. of Green Island.

Tuesday, 24th. Fresh breezes and cold clear weather: wind S.W. At 2, 30, weighed and made sail. We are now in the way of the tides which commence at Green Island. At 7, 15, the flood-tide having done, we anchored abreast of Hare Island, between the Brandy Pots Islands and Pilgrim's Islands, in six fathoms water. Hare Island (so called from the hares which abound on it) is eighty-five miles from Quebec; it is situated in the mid-channel of the river, which is here about fourteen miles in width. The country on the south shore of the river, opposite this island, is well cleared and cultivated. P.M. fresh gales at S.W. At 1, weighed; at 6, anchored

again, ten miles to the north-east of Kamouraska, in seven fathoms water.

Wednesday, 25th. Weighed when the flood-tide began to make, and made sail: wind S.W. moderate breezes and clear. At 9, anchored off the islands of Kamouraska in seventeen fathoms; a windmill, near the town, bearing S. by W. W. four or five miles distant. Kamouraska is a small town on the south bank of the river, pleasantly situated in a level of no great extent. It has a large and handsome parish church. From this town to Quebec the water of the river is fresh at all times. Persons resort to Kamouraska during the summer months for the benefit of sea-bathing. There is a road from here to Quebec, and also one to St. John's, the capital of the province of New Brunswick. On the opposite side of the river, is a deep and extensive bay called Malbay; and settlements have begun to be formed on the declivities of the high mountains fronting the river. Several patches of cleared ground, of considerable extent, are now covered with corn. The mountains are thickly wooded from their summits to the water's edge. Seals and white porpoises

abound in this part of the river. At 3, 30 P. M. weighed and made sail; wind S.W. At 6, 30, anchored again.

Thursday, 26th. At 3, weighed and made sail. At 6, we passed through the Traverse, between the two buoys. There are shoals in this part of the river, and the tides run with very great rapidity. Opposite to the Traverse, on the south shore, is St. Roch, a small village, delightfully situated on a level tract of land lying between the river and the mountains. It has a neat parish church. The strip of land extending along the south bank of the river is about half a mile in breadth, and is all under tillage: the corn has now a luxuriant and beautiful appearance. The farm houses, which are numerous on the south side of the river, are neat and commodious; almost all have two rooms in front, and are two stories high, with lofty roofs: they are constructed of wood and covered with shingles, the sides being whitewashed, or painted white, and the roofs of a lead colour. Near St. Roch, are three remarkable hills or mountains; they are of small extent, but steep and of considerable height, and have the appearance of being the

work of art rather than of nature. To the south-west of St. Roch, off the islands or rocks called the Pillars, the coast is thickly inhabited. The river is here about twelve miles wide. The opposite side is high land; the declivity facing the river is, however, not very steep; and a great part of it, from Cape Goose to the westward towards Cape Torment, is cleared and covered with houses and corn-fields. On the brow of the hill is a village containing from twelve to twenty farm-houses; and it has a neat parish church. Here are strips of cleared land two miles in length, and from half a mile to a mile in width. The other parts of the mountain are one entire thick and gloomy forest to their summits. Yet its dark green hue forms a very beautiful contrast to the rich golden tint of the corn-fields, studded with white farm-houses. Perhaps even the banks of the Thames do not present to us scenery which surpasses this in beauty,—certainly not in grandeur.

At 9, the tide having done, we came to an anchor, two or three miles beyond the buoys of the Traverse. At 3, P.M. we weighed again, and at 5 passed the village of St.

John's, nearly opposite the Island of Coudre, one of the most beautiful and fertile islands in the St. Lawrence : it is low land, and there are houses and corn-fields down to the water's edge ; several copses and small woods, left for fire-wood and purposes of husbandry, serve also to diversify and embellish the scenery.

From St. Roch to St. John's the distance is eight or ten miles. The hills to the southward are not lofty ; from their summits to the water's edge is three or four miles, and the declivity, which is very gradual, is covered with wood down to about half, or, in some places, three quarters of a mile from the river ; then that space is cleared, and in a high state of cultivation. The corn-fields have a luxuriant appearance, the corn being now fit for cutting ; and perhaps no scenery can be more agreeable, or rich, or picturesque. The dark green hue of the forest contrasted to the yellow tints of the corn-fields ; the houses irregularly scattered on the banks of the great river ; several small islands and rocks overgrown with trees ; the river itself twelve miles in width,—present a prospect at once sublime, beautiful, and interesting.

At 9, the flood-tide having done, we brought up in eight fathoms water. Light breezes, and fine, warm, pleasant weather.

Friday, 27th. At 4, 30, the flood-tide beginning to make, we weighed and made sail. At 6, passed the village of St. Thomas, where there is a neat parish church. At 9, we passed Crane Island and Rot Island, lying in the mid-channel: low islands, covered with trees, to the water's edge, and having a beauful appearance. Light breezes and fine pleasant weather.

At 10,15 we were abreast of Bertier, a pretty village, delightfully situated in a fine level country, on the south bank of the river, about 30 miles below Quebec and 10 miles from St. Thomas's. Opposite Bertier, about mid-channel of the river, is the Island Madam, uninhabited and covered with timber. It is low land, and extends for a mile (being its extreme length) along the east end of the island of Orleans; the finest and best cultivated island below Quebec. On the opposite side of the river are bold and lofty mountains. At 11, 40, the tide having done, we brought up beyond

the small island of Belle Chasse. At noon, light airs and pleasant weather.

The island of Orleans is about thirty miles in length, and four in breadth. It is of a very moderate height, rising gradually from the water, on each side, to the middle, on which is a narrow line of wood land. There is also a border of trees, extending all along the south bank of the river, from the water's edge to about a furlong's breadth. From thence to the summit or ridge of the island, is about two miles, and that space is wholly cleared and under cultivation; being divided into straight-sided fields of from three to seven or eight acres, enclosed with wood fences. The farm-houses are interspersed on the declivity: they have an appearance of neatness, comfort, and convenience; and near every one is a large barn. Close to the river's side, on the south bank, are several villages, at a distance of from three to six miles from each other. That on the eastern extremity of the island is called St. Francois: six miles to the westward of it is St. John's. The channel between the island and the south bank of the St. Lawrence is

from four to six miles in width; and the coast of the main being well cultivated and very populous, the scenery, as viewed from the island or the river, scarcely yields to any in beauty and luxuriance.

At 5, 30, weighed and made sail. At 6, we passed St. Valier, a handsome village situated at the bottom of a small bay: from it there is a fine view of the Isle of Orleans and the adjacent small islands; the scenery in its immediate neighbourhood is delightful; and it has a good parish church. We afterwards passed the villages of St. Michael, Beaumont, and St. Joseph; and the country around them has the same luxuriant, romantic, and beautiful appearance with that already described. At 10, 30, the tide having ceased to flow, we anchored a little below the village of Point Levi, off the west end of the Island of Orleans. Light breezes and pleasant weather.

Saturday, Aug. 28. At 7, 30, weighed in order to go alongside the wharf at Quebec, from which we are now about five or six miles distant. We have now a fine view of the magnificent Falls of Montmorency, where the river of the same name precipitates itself

from a height of 246 feet perpendicular into the St. Lawrence. The city of Quebec is also open to our view, with the grand and romantic scenery in its vicinity. The surrounding country abounds in villages and cornfields, and in richness of appearance it may vie with the best settled parts of the Old World.

At 9, we brought up near the wharf in nine fathoms water; having been sixty-three days on our passage from Liverpool. We have had a good passage, although a tedious one.

The behaviour of the captain of the vessel (Mr. Robert Dye), and of the chief mate (Mr. Thomas Randall), both of whom were excellent seamen, and worthy intelligent men, was uniformly kind, obliging, and social. The provisions with which I furnished myself were more than sufficient for the voyage.

CHAPTER III.

Directions for travelling from Quebec to Kingston and Hamilton—Directions for travelling from Kingston to York, the Capital of the Upper Province, 580 miles West of Quebec—How, and to whom, Emigrants must apply for Grants of Land, or the Purchase of Farms — Advertisements respecting the granting of Lands copied from the Upper Canada Gazette of January 6th, 1820.

THE emigrant having arrived at Quebec, his first consideration will be what part of the country to settle in: and whether he be a *farmer*, a *mechanic*, or a *husbandman*, I should strongly recommend him to proceed without delay to Upper Canada; and to locate himself somewhere between the towns of Kingston and York, on the borders of Lake Ontario, about 500 miles west of Quebec. The length of the journey may startle him; but it will be greatly to his advantage to undertake it; and by adhering strictly to the following advice and directions, his expenses will not be very considerable.

Many persons, both at Quebec and whilst he is travelling through the country, will officially inquire into his situation and circumstances, and offer him their advice; but he will do well not to listen to it, as their motives most probably will be self-interested. Let him be cautious how he gratifies idle curiosity; and let him rather steadily pursue the advice here given, as it proceeds from one whose motive in writing this book, is that his fellow-countrymen may reap the benefit of his experience, and not be subjected to imposition or unnecessary expense.

Amherst, or the Courthouse, in the township of Hamilton, district of Newcastle, is a small town well situated on the borders of Lake Ontario, 115 miles west of Kingston, 75 miles east of York, and about 500 miles west of Quebec. The great west or front road from Montreal to York, the capital of the Upper Province, and seat of government, passes through it; and its neighbourhood is very eligible for settlers of all denominations. The route is as follows: Quebec to Montreal, 180 miles; Montreal to Kingston, 180 miles; Kingston to the head of the Bay of Quinte,

75 miles; head of the Bay of Quinte to Amherst in Hamilton, commonly called the Courthouse at Hamilton, 40 miles.

Exclusive of its fine situation, the city of Quebec affords scarcely any thing that can either excite or gratify curiosity; the emigrant, therefore, should leave it as soon as possible. Let the vessel in which he came out be his home during his stay; his baggage will be taken the best care of there, and he will be at no expense for a boat or cart to remove it until his final departure. Besides, if he go to an inn or public-house, he will find himself very disagreeably situated, and the charges extremely high, without a single comfort or convenience. I should advise him to depart for Montreal the very next day after his arrival; or as soon as his baggage has been inspected *on board* by a custom-house officer, for which there will be no expense, and which business he must leave to the captain of the ship.

Montreal is 180 miles south-west of Quebec; seven steam-packets, provided with every accommodation which passengers can require, run between the two cities: one of

them leaving Quebec every other day. The largest are of 700 tons burden; and there are no vessels of the kind in the world superior to them. Cabin passengers pay each about 2*l.* 10*s.* sterling; besides a very reasonable charge for their baggage, if it exceed a certain weight or quantity. For that sum they are furnished with provisions and beds, paying exclusively for porter, liquor, or lemonade. In this country no money (or vails) is ever given to waiters or servants. The passage is performed in from thirty-six to forty-four hours, according as there may be more or less wind. Steerage passengers pay 15*s.* sterling, and are allowed to take a moderate quantity of baggage gratis. They find their own provisions and beds; the remainder of their stock of provisions brought from England will serve. Going in the steerage is a very cheap mode of travelling; the inconveniences attending the conveyance may on that account be submitted to by frugal persons: and every one will find frugality to be very necessary in the Canadas. When the emigrant has determined upon proceeding to Montreal, let him go on board one

of the steam-vessels, and acquaint the captain that he intends going with him as a cabin or steerage passenger. He must then learn at what hour the vessel goes, and be on board in time; hiring a cart or porter to convey his baggage from the ship. Eighty miles from Quebec, on the north bank of the river, is the town of Trois Rivieres, near which are extensive iron works. It is necessary that every person should look well to the security of his baggage. A small trunk, or other light article, may easily be taken away by another passenger *through mistake.* This caution must be particularly attended to on his arrival at Montreal; for as soon as the steam-vessel reaches the wharf, most of the passengers leap on shore with their portable baggage, and never return. The expenses of boarding and lodging at Montreal are very considerable; being from 5*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* a day at the hotels; and at the boarding-houses, from 15*s.* to 25*s.* a week. Mr. Clamp's coffee-house, near the wharf, has excellent accommodation; and Mr. Clamp, who is an Englishman, pays great attention to the comforts of those who visit his house. A short description of the boarding-houses

and small inns in this country may be serviceable. Boarding-houses are numerous in the cities and towns of America. Those of the first class are respectable; and at them the accommodation is good and agreeable, particularly in those where each of the company has a separate bed-room. The charges are a dollar, or four shillings a day. At inferior boarding-houses the accommodations are not comfortable, or convenient, or good. The company consists of all classes, from the man of independent property to the mechanic. The beds are indifferent, and from four to ten are crowded in one room, destitute of curtains, &c. and swarming with fleas and bugs. In such houses there is no such thing as comfort or privacy. Inns of the second class bear a great resemblance to the latter kind of boarding-houses. A person may either board at them for so much a week, or pay for each meal separately: in that case the charges are extremely high: 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* for breakfast; 2*s.* 6*d.* for dinner, and 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* for supper, without beer or liquor; besides sixpence or a shilling a night for a bed in a room where are half a dozen others. It

must, however, be acknowledged, that the tables here are far more plentifully furnished with provisions than in England, and of as good a quality. The innkeepers in this country are too independent in their principles to pay the least attention to the comfort or convenience of their guests. They do not behave even with common civility. An Englishman, who expects to find that ready compliance with his wishes and wants to which he has been accustomed in England, will be greatly disappointed. There are no *bells*, as there are no *servants*, at the inns in this country. The traveller finds himself solitary, unnoticed, and left to supply his own wants. If he is loud, or peremptory, or remonstrative, he is treated in return with insolence or contempt. The chief aim of the host is to get the stranger's money; generosity and benevolence are not ingredients in his composition.

Montreal is a handsome and flourishing town, pleasantly situated between a lofty mountain, of peculiar beauty, and the river St. Lawrence: it is pretty well paved and lighted, and contains about 25,000 inhabitants. Shoemakers, tailors, joiners, bricklay-

ers, and brickmakers, might find employment here, should their money be nearly expended.

Should the steam-vessel in which the emigrant came from Quebec, continue at Montreal twenty or twenty-four hours, he can, to avoid expenses on shore, remain on board the night following his arrival; and in the morning, hire a cart in the old market-place (which is close to the wharf) to convey his baggage to La Chine, distant nine miles. There is no conveyance by water to that village, on account of the rapids, and a cart may be hired for five, or, at most, six shillings. He can walk by the side of it, and order the driver to go to Messrs. Grant and Duff's, merchants, at La Chine, who will forward his baggage to Kingston, consigned to Mr. H. C. Thomson, in whose store it will be perfectly safe until his arrival. The packages must have the owner's name upon them, and be directed to Kingston. He must obtain a receipt from Messrs. Grant and Duff, and they will be accountable for their safety. An inventory should be kept of the contents of every package. The emigrant will have leisure to

make out this during his passage from England to Quebec. At La Chine he can go to Mrs. Campbell's inn.

The emigrant has now the most difficult part of the journey before him, viz. that between La Chine and Prescott, a distance of 120 or 130 miles. There is, however, a good road (the great west road), and farm-houses at every half mile or mile, the whole way, with inns at a convenient distance from each other.

There are three modes of travelling. The most expeditious, and most expensive, is by the stage which conveys the mail: it passes through La Chine twice a week during the summer. The fare is thirteen dollars, or about 3*l.* sterling, from La Chine to Prescott, and the passenger is allowed the carriage of a small trunk gratis. The fare and provisions on the journey will make the whole expense amount to 3*l.* 12*s.* sterling. No money is given to the driver. When the coach arrives at Prescott, passengers can proceed to Kingston, sixty miles further, in a steam-vessel up the river St. Lawrence, or on foot.

The second method of travelling from La

Chine to Kingston, is by the Batteaux or Durham boats. In that case the emigrant can accompany his baggage, as the boats belonging to Messrs. Grant and Duff which convey merchandize, also take passengers at a moderate expense; they finding their own beds and provisions on the way. These boats do not arrive at Kingston in less than ten or twelve days; the passengers suffer many inconveniences and *some* hardships: yet for women and children this is, perhaps, the least expensive mode of travelling, as well as the most convenient. Provisions, such as biscuit, or bread and meat, should be taken from La Chine. Passengers sleep on shore at nights, either at a house, if there happen to be one near, or under a tree. They also have to land and walk where there are rapids. (Rapids are descents of the river, of greater or less extent, sometimes being upwards of a mile in length, where its bed is full of large stones, over which the current flows very rapidly, and breaks with violence).

The third way of travelling from La Chine to Prescott and Kingston during the summer months, is on foot. For single men it is eligible, easy, and cheap. There are farm-houses

and inns on the great west road for the whole distance. By subsisting principally on bread and cheese and milk, or *Sepaune* and milk, the expense of each person will not be more than three shillings sterling a day; and he may walk with ease thirty miles a day, having sent his baggage forward from La Chine to Kingston by a bateau from Messrs. Grant and Duff's. If travellers call at farm-houses, they will not be charged so much for provisions and beds as at the inns. Even women and children might travel in the same manner by easy stages, and by sometimes hiring a waggon for a few miles, which can always be procured of a farmer on the road. Nine miles from La Chine, the road passes through the town of Point Claire; and nine miles further, is the ferry over the River Ottawa (four miles,) which is passed in a bateau. There is then a good road through a populous country to Glengary, a considerable Scotch settlement, about sixty miles from La Chine. Or after proceeding fifteen miles from the ferry over the River Ottawa, the traveller can hire a bateau (at a house by the side of the lake)

to take him to Glengary down the Lake St. Francis, twenty-four miles. Going that distance by water would be a great relief to women and children, and the expense would not be very considerable; especially, if by inquiring the day when the mail would pass over, they could be in readiness to go with it. From Glengary to the town of Cornwall (the next stage) the distance is twelve or fourteen miles, and the road good. From Cornwall to Prescott the River St. Lawrence is mostly seen from the road, and between those two towns the country is thickly settled; and there are several villages. When the emigrant has arrived at Prescott, he may proceed, at a small expense, to Kingston in a steam-packet (up the River St. Lawrence), or continue his journey on foot. From Prescott to Kingston the distance is sixty or sixty-five miles; the country is also well settled and the roads good.

Kingston is a town of considerable size, agreeably situated upon a cove at the north-east end of the Lake Ontario, above the head of the St. Lawrence. It is our naval depôt in this part of the world, and has a good har-

bour. In its neighbourhood are several quarries of Limestone. Lat. 44° 80′ N. long. 75° 40′ W.

Should the emigrant have occasion to remain at this town a few days to wait the arrival of his baggage, or recover from the fatigues of his journey, he will find excellent accommodation at Mr. Benjamin Alcott's inn, a quarter of a mile up the main street, leading from the wharf or landing-place. Mr. Olcott is a very worthy honest man, and charges reasonably. Mrs. Patrick's inn is also well recommended; as are Mr. Walker's hotel and Mr. Moore's coffee-house, as superior houses.

From Kingston to the Court-house in Hamilton the distance is 115 miles, and the route is as follows:

A steam-packet goes twice a week during the summer, from Kingston to the carrying-place at the head of the bay of Quinte, a distance of seventy-five miles. The fare for steerage passengers is trifling, they finding their own provisions. At the carrying-place are two inns. The distance to the Court-house at Hamilton is forty miles; the road is

good, and the country in its vicinity well cleared and settled. At Presqisle, eight miles from the carrying-place, is Mr. Marsh's inn, and his charges are very moderate. Twenty-two miles further, at Haldemand, are Mr. Grover's and Mr. Spalding's inns. There is a good inn at Cobourg, two miles short of the Court-house at Hamilton; and two good inns at the Court-house. There is a land-board at the Court-house every Wednesday, of which Major Rogers, of Haldemand, is president. Emigrants may there obtain grants of land, on producing certificates of their having taken the oath of allegiance to His Majesty's government. Or they may purchase good farms in the neighbourhood, or find employment among the old settlers. But the best and most convenient method for settlers to proceed, is to go from Kingston to York, at the west end of Lake Ontario, the capital of the Upper Province, and the seat of government; and to apply at the office of Mr. Fitzgibbon for instructions. From that gentleman they will receive every requisite information and assistance. Should they wish to purchase farms, they would at

that office procure them the most readily, and on the most advantageous terms. And if they wish to receive grants of land, they could there take the oath of allegiance, and get their petitions to the council made out for a trifling expense, not more than seven or eight shillings. A steam-packet proceeds from Kingston to York once a week. The fare for steerage passengers is fifteen shillings; (they furnishing themselves with provisions,) &c.; the distance 180 miles; and the length of the passage about thirty-six hours. There are also small vessels, which take passengers and goods on very moderate terms, continually going in the summer from Kingston to Hamilton and York.

I should still recommend emigrants, after having been at York, to establish themselves finally in the neighbourhood of Amherst or the Courthouse, in the township of Hamilton, in the Newcastle district, county of Northumberland; of which a description will be given in the next chapter. After having received a grant of land at York, in a township (of which several will be ready for settling this year, 1820) in that district, the emigrant

might proceed by water from York to the village of Cobourg, two miles from the Court-house at Hamilton, or Smith's Creek, five miles from it, in a schooner; or on foot, the distance being about seventy-five miles, the road good, with inns at convenient distances; and the country well settled.

The following advertisement is copied from the Upper Canada Gazette (published at York), of January 6th, 1820.

" General Land Agency Office, York, Upper Canada."

" The subscribers have established an of-
" fice, at the seat of the government of Upper
" Canada, for the purpose of transacting *land*
" *agency business* of every description.

" Emigrants, and all others applying for
" lands from the Crown, can obtain every re-
" quisite assistance and information, to enable
" them to transact their business with the least
" possible loss of time and trouble. One of
" the subscribers having been appointed a
" commissioner to administer the oath of alle-
" giance, additional facility is thereby afforded

" in expediting the business of petitioners for
" grants of the Crown lands.

" This office will afford the easiest and
" most probable means of enabling persons to
" purchase or sell lands in any part of the
" province. A regular register of all lands
" offered for sale will be kept, and persons
" wishing to purchase, shall have access to it
" free of expense.

" No pains will be spared to make this es-
" tablishment of great utility to the public,
" who, in their transactions with it, may
" depend upon meeting with the most ready
" attention.

" Letters transmitted by post, are requested
" to be post-paid.

" B. GEALE,
" J. FITZGIBBON."

The latter gentleman, who is an officer in the army, distinguished himself eminently in the late war with the United States, when their armies invaded this province; and the utmost confidence may be placed in the honour and integrity of both.

The following regulations have lately been

made by his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, with respect to the granting of land in the Upper Province: this advertisement is also copied from the Upper Canada Gazette of January 6th, 1820.

" Executive Council Office, York, 14th December, 1819.

" Whereas, it is desirable to alleviate the " situation of the poorer classes of settlers, by " an exemption from any charge on the " patent-deed, and also to remove all obstacles " from the more free accommodation of others " with larger grants than have been usually " made: his Excellency the Lieutenant-go- " vernor in council has been pleased to order, " that the first-mentioned class of settlers may " receive a gratuitous grant of fifty acres; " under exclusion, be it understood, from any " further grant from the Crown, but with li- " berty to lease the reserves.

" To meet the above gratuity, and in- " creased burdens attending the purchase and " distribution of lands, &c.; it is ordered that " the scale of demands on the grant of one

" hundred acres and upwards, shall be regu-
" lated according to the annexed table, to
" take effect from the 1st January, 1820.

" It is further ordered, that the restriction
" from sale for three years be abolished; and
" that deeds may issue, on proper certificates
" of the performance of settling duties being
" produced. The grantee will be required to
" clear one half of the road in front of each
" lot, and the depth of two and one-half chains
" from the road the whole length of every lot,
" and erect a dwelling-house.

" FEES.

" Upon all grants of land issuing under Or-
" ders in Council, bearing date subsequent to
" 1st January, 1820, the following sums will
" be paid by the patentee:

		£ Sterling.
" On grants of	50 acres ...	— .....
" On grants of	100 acres....	12 .....
" On grants of	200 acres....	30 .....
" On grants of	300 acres....	60 .....
" On grants of	400 acres....	75 .....
" On grants of	500 acres....	125 .....

		£ Sterling
" On grants of	600 acres....	150 .....
" On grants of	700 acres....	175 .....
" On grants of	800 acres....	200 .....
" On grants of	900 acres....	225 .....
" On grants of	1000 acres ...	250 .....
" On grants of	1100 acres....	275 .....
" On grants of	1200 acres....	300 .....

" In three equal instalments.

" The first on receipt of the location " ticket; the second, on certificate filed of " settlement; the third, on receipt of the " fiat for the patent.

" No petition can be entertained unless ac- " companied by a written character, or a sa- " tisfactory reason shown for such not being " produced.

(Signed) " JOHN SMALL, Clk. Ex. Con."

Any emigrant from Great Britain, whether farmer, husbandman, or mechanic, may receive a grant of fifty acres of land, under the above-mentioned restrictions, on application at York to James Fitzgibbon and B. Geale, Esquires; and all are entitled to the benefit of the above regulations.

CHAPTER IV.

The part of the Upper Province which is best to settle in—Description of the neighbourhood of Amherst, or the Court-house, in the township of Hamilton, District of Newcastle, County of Northumberland—Rice Lake: its fine Situation for Settlers, &c.—Expense of clearing Land—Expense of building Houses and Barns—Maple Sugar—Cattle—Hogs—Horses—Poultry, &c.

THAT portion of the Upper Province which borders on Lake Ontario, between the carrying-place at the head of the bay of Quinte, or Presqisle, and the town of York, the capital and residence of the Lieutenant-governor, offers the most eligible situations for settlers of all descriptions. The great road from Kingston to York passes through it. The soil for that extent, 115 miles, is excellent, and the climate salubrious, being milder in winter than it is between Montreal and Kingston, and not so hot in summer as it is beyond York, and on the borders of Lake Erie. That tract is also well watered by creeks and small

rivulets, and the aspect of the country is agreeable. It is not mountainous or low, but finely undulated.

The town of Amherst (commonly called the Court-house,) in the township of Hamilton, district of Newcastle, county of Northumberland, is finely situated, at a distance of forty miles from the head of the bay of Quinte, and seventy miles from York. It is two miles from the village of Cobourgh, and five miles from the town of Port Hope or Smith's Creek, both situated on Lake Ontario; and half-way between it and Cobourgh is the best and most extensive grist-mill in the province. In its vicinity there are also several saw-mills. The immediate neighbourhood of the town of Amherst is well settled and populous; and to the eastward, westward, and north-westward of it, are several extensive townships, already partly settled, and rapidly increasing in improvement and population. Good farms, suitable in size for *any* purchaser, with houses and other buildings on them, are always on sale in this district. At the distance of ten miles and a half due north of that town, is Rice Lake, a most beautiful piece of water,

twenty-two miles in length from east to west, and from three to four miles and a half wide. The picturesque and interesting scenery which this lake, with its numerous small islands, thickly wooded to the water's edge, and its luxuriant fields of rice, presents to the view, is not, perhaps, surpassed by any, either in the New or the Old World. It abounds with fine fish; and, in the spring and autumn months, immense flocks of wild ducks, geese, and other aquatic fowls, darken its surface. It produces an abundance of rice of an excellent quality; whence its name. The country which surrounds it, is elevated from forty to sixty feet above its level; and although the land breaks upon it rather too abruptly, yet there is a fine shore, neither too bold, nor so low as to be wet or swampy. The Otanabee, a river as wide as the Thames at London, discharges itself into the lake on the north side, at nearly an equal distance from each end of it. It is navigable for vessels of a considerable burden, for twenty miles from its entrance. Rice Lake has also a communication by water with the bay of Quinte, by means of the River Trent; there are, however, rapids for a short distance,

which at present interrupt the navigation: but the government has it in contemplation to make a canal. A good carriage-road leads to the lake from Amherst. On its north borders *one* township (Otanabee,) containing 75,000 acres, inclusive of 1,800 acres as a plot for a town, has just been surveyed; and the applicants for the land were so numerous, that 50,000 acres were located within a week after it became ready for settlement. The town will offer very eligible situations for tradesmen and mechanics; and a quantity of land, on terms extremely liberal and advantageous, will be allowed them to build upon.

Two other townships, of nearly the same extent as Otanabee, will be ready for location, and distribution among emigrants, this spring and summer; from May to November. The soil is in general excellent; and, when the above canal is completed, the borders of Rice Lake will, without doubt, be one of the finest situations in the Canadas, as well for agriculture as commerce. The land, which is thickly wooded with maple, beech, hickory, elm, ash, bass, and some oak, pine, cedar, cherry, and walnut, may be cleared and fenced

ready for the first crop, which requires no assistance from the plough, for about eighteen dollars, or four pounds sterling, an acre. The first crop is considered to pay all expenses of felling the timber, burning it and fencing the land. A log-house may be built for from ten to twenty pounds sterling, according to its size; and a barn, capable of holding fifty quarters of wheat in the straw, for about five pounds sterling. A person would not require a barn the first year. Maple-sugar, equal in quality to the best West India sugar, is made by every farmer at no other expense than that of his labour. Some persons here make from 500 to 1000 pounds annually.

The land produces excellent wheat, from twenty-four to fifty Winchester bushels per acre, according to its quality:—also good rye, barley, oats, and pease. The next best production is maize or Indian corn. From 40 to 100 bushels are produced on an acre of land from four quarts of seed. It affords wholesome and nutritious flour for domestic consumption, and is the best and readiest feed for pigs and cattle. When pigs are put up to be fattened, the corn is given to them in the

cob without any preparation. Most farmers feed from ten to thirty hogs every year, each weighing from twelve to eighteen stone, of fourteen pounds to the stone. The pork, which is equal to any fed in England, is packed in barrels (with salt), containing 200 pounds each, and in general sells for 4*d.* or 4½*d.* per pound. Salt here is bought for 4*s.* 6*d.* sterling a bushel.

The breed of horned cattle in this province is small, but hardy and thrifty. The excellent pasturage which this country affords for cows gives to their milk a peculiar richness; and the butter and cheese are not surpassed in quality by any in the world. The former sells for 1*s.* and 1*s.* 3*d.* and the latter for 8*d.* and 10*d.* a pound, of sixteen ounces. Good milch cows are sold for from 5*l.* to 7*l.* sterling each. Oxen are in general used for draught. A yoke of good oxen (two) may be bought for 16*l.* sterling. Beef sells for 4*d.* a pound.

The sheep resemble the Norfolk breed in England, being rather tall, and frequently horned, with *darkish* legs and faces. A flock will average each about five pounds of wool, of a *fineish* quality; and it is commonly sold

for 2*s.* 6*d.* sterling a pound. Almost every farmer keeps from 20 to 100 sheep; and as families here manufacture their own wearing apparel, blankets, &c. in a manner which does infinite credit to their ingenuity and industry, the wool is mostly consumed for those purposes. Mutton sells at 4*d.* and 5*d.* a pound.

The horses here are small, but spirited and extremely hardy. During the winter they are very much used in drawing sleighs; and, when on a journey, will travel with ease fifty miles a day. When cast loose, they take great delight in rolling themselves in the snow, which is frequently from one to two feet deep on the level ground. A good horse will fetch from 16*l.* to 24*l.* sterling.

There is an abundance of domestic poultry in Upper Canada, the climate being very favourable to the production and rearing of it. Almost every farmer has a flock of geese. One brood goose in general brings up ten or twelve young ones; they are similar in their habits and unanimity to those common in England, but of a larger size, weighing mostly ten or twelve pounds each. Feathers are sold for 2*s.* 3*d.* per pound.

CHAPTER V.

Animal and Vegetable Productions of Upper Canada—Deer—Beaver—Otter—Musk-rat—Hare—Bear—Wolf—Fox—Racoon—Porcupine—Martin—Squirrel—Serpents—Birds, Partridge—Pigeons—Wild Ducks—Geese—Humming Bird, &c.. Fish; Salmon—Trout—Maskalungi, &c.—Trees, Shrubs, and Pants—Apples—Peaches—Plums—Cherries—Hickory Nuts—Butter Nuts—Walnuts, &c. &c.

In proportion to the increase of the human species, and the progress of cultivation in a country, the various individuals of the brute creation, its ancient and natural proprietors, become less numerous, and confined to narrower limits. They shun the vicinity of the usurpers of the soil, and fly to those retreats which interest or convenience have left open to them. The forests which bound the settled parts of Upper Canada, still furnish an asylum for a variety of wild animals: among which are deer, beavers, otters, musk-rats, hares, bears, wolves, foxes, racoons, porcupines, martins and squirrels.

Deer were formerly very numerous, and large herds were met with in every part of the province; but they are now scarce in the immediate neighbourhood of the settlements, and are seldom seen within a distance of six or eight miles of them. The Indians, however, supply the markets with venison, and it is usually bought at *3d.* and *4d.* a pound.

When those artificial or superfluous wants, which have been introduced into the world by luxury and refinement, cannot be supplied without having recourse to cruelty, we have but little satisfaction in reflecting that they are *beneficial* to mankind.

The beaver, the most inoffensive as well as the most sagacious of the brute creation, is pursued with avidity by the merciless savage for the sake of its *skin*; and, with far better pretensions to civilization and economy than its inhuman persecutor, it becomes his victim, because it is defenceless. Yet the Indian cannot with so much propriety be accused of cruelty as the European nations, his instigators, who have adopted the fur of the beaver among their principal ornaments. Their rapacity has nearly untenanted the forest of

these interesting animals; their embankments or dams, which still remain, are the only vestiges of that industry and ingenuity which existed in the province previous to its occupancy by the Europeans.

In the choice of situation, and the construction of these dams, the beavers exhibit proofs of *contrivance* and *skill*, which man, with *all* the boasted superiority of his reason over *instinct*, would find it difficult to surpass. The course of the most rapid streams is arrested; precautions are used against sudden inundations: places of security against attack are provided, and the means of retreat secured: storerooms for provisions are prepared; and, when, settled, the utmost cleanliness, regularity, and good order prevail in the community. Man, the lord and *tyrant* of the creation, discovers with savage joy the establishments of this inoffensive race, and attacks them with relentless fury. Unmindful of their plaintive cries, he destroys the peaceable and unsuspecting inhabitants, because pride and fashion have stamped a high value on their furs, sparing, with avaricious mercy, a small number to propagate the breed, in order that he may the

more readily find victims for his future rapacity.

A good beaver-skin *will fetch in this country* from 2*l.* to 50*s.* sterling. These animals feed on the bark of trees, &c.; their tails, which are large and flat, are eaten as a peculiar delicacy.

Otters are not very numerous, as there has long been a great demand for their furs.

The musk-rat bears a great resemblance to the beaver in its manners and appearance; but is not more than one-fourth part of the size of that animal. It erects its habitation among sedge, and other aquatic plants, in the shallow parts of lakes, and in creeks where there is but little current. These dwellings, like *those* of the beaver, are not constructed without considerable labour and skill. They rise in a conical form from the bottom of the lake or creek, where the water is seven or eight feet deep, and are frequently three or four feet above its level, and ten or twelve feet in circumference; appearing like islands in miniature, and lying in groups. They are formed of bunches of sedge and coarse grass mixed with mud, which the animal collects

with its mouth and feet; and they are so strongly cemented or clotted together, that they are opened with difficulty. The musk-rat is eagerly sought after by the Indians, as well for food, although it is not considered by others to be eatable, as for the sake of its skin, which is sold for fifteen pence. The fur smells strongly of musk.

The hare of Canada is of a species differing essentially from that of England. Its size is between the hare and common wild rabbit of that country; and in its appearance and habits, it participates of the nature of both. Its colour in November (the only month in which I have seen it) is like that of the English wild grey rabbit: its head, ears, and fore-legs also resemble those of that animal. Its hind legs are much longer, in proportion to its fore ones, than those of the English hare, so that it runs awkwardly and with difficulty: for this reason it is always found very far in the woods, within a short distance of thick cedar swamps, so as to be near a place of refuge. It has very large, spreading feet. Its flesh is not white, nor so dark as that of the English hare, and its grain is very fine. The

skin is thin and tender; and although the fur is thick and fine, it is of but little value. It is found sitting on dry leaves, or under the bole of a fallen tree, generally near swamps, which are thickly covered with cedar or tamarack. It feeds in winter on moss and the young shoots of trees.

Bears were numerous when Canada first began to be peopled by the Europeans, and were destructive to the hogs and grain of the settlers. But their numbers have been greatly diminished by the demand for their furs; and they now scarcely find a refuge in the thickest parts of the forest. The Indians track this animal in the snow with unerring perseverance; and having discovered its retreat, which is generally under the root, or in the hollow of a tree, they dislodge it by fire. As soon as the bear make its appearance, it is shot or killed with axes. The bear is not naturally ferocious or wild, and will never attack a person unless when provoked, or in protection of its cubs, of which the female has two at a time, and which she will always defend with the utmost obstinacy and fury; at other times, a person may pass a bear within a few

paces without danger; and they may be driven, like hogs, out of a plantation of Indian corn. A full grown bear will weigh in autumn, when it is fat, from 220 to 260 pounds; the flesh is eaten, and the hams are highly esteemed, when they are properly cured. A bear's skin is worth *here* from 20*s.* to 40*s.* sterling, according to the quality of the fur: this is best when it is thick and long, and of a glossy black colour.

The following anecdote relates to a circumstance which took place a few years since in this province. A person crossing the bay of Quinte in a small skiff, discovered a bear in the water, and rowing to it, he aimed a blow at its head with an axe. The bear warded off the blow with its paw, and threw the axe into the lake; then climbing into the skiff, to the no small terror of the boatman, it seated itself quietly at one end, and was taken to the shore, where it was killed by several persons who were assembled.

Wolves harbour in the most impenetrable recesses of the forest, and make their appearance so seldom in the settlements, that many *old* inhabitants of the country have never *seen*

one. They sometimes kill sheep and young cattle; but by a little precaution on the part of the farmer, their depredations are easily prevented. The females will frequently cohabit with dogs; and they are in fact rather a species of wild dog than real wolves; of whose courage and ferocity they appear to be in some measure divested.

There are four species of foxes in Upper Canada. The black fox, the fur of which is valuable, is scarce: the red, the grey, and the cross fox, commonly so called from its having a black streak across the shoulders, and one along the back. Although foxes are numerous, they are deterred by dogs from approaching the settlements, and seldom destroy the poultry, when necessary care is taken of it. A red fox's skin sells for 4*s*. sterling.

Domestic dogs and cats are very numerous here. The dogs are of a mongrel breed, and better adapted for the protection of the houses and farm-yards than any other purpose. Good water-spaniels would be serviceable here in shooting wild ducks.

Racoons are inoffensive, except that they will enter the fields of Indian corn, in troops

of eight or ten, to feed upon it. When disturbed in these depredations, they ascend trees with considerable agility, and are easily shot. They resort to hollow trees in the day-time, and live in them during the winter, making their appearance again late in February; the warmth of the sun then enticing them out of their habitations. These animals are easily domesticated. The females breed in hollow trees, and produce five or six young ones. A full grown racoon will weigh twenty pounds; and the flesh is considered to be good. The skin sells for from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* sterling.

The porcupine feeds upon roots and vegetables, frequently entering the plantations of Indian corn. Like the racoon, it will climb trees, and dwells in recesses under their roots or in their cavities. Its flesh is eaten by the Indians; and they use its quills for ornamenting baskets, shot belts, &c.

The Martin. This elegant little animal abounds in the forest, and preys upon squirrels and mice. Its skin is in great request, on account of the beauty of the fur. Those of a dark colour are most esteemed; and muffs, caps, tippets, &c. are made of them. A

martin's skin *sells* here for about 2*s.* 6*d.* sterling.

There are five kinds of squirrels in Upper Canada; namely, the large grey squirrel, the black squirrel, the common red squirrel, the little striped squirrel, and the small flying squirrel.

The first-mentioned species is scarce. It is as large as a common sized cat, and so extremely shy and active, that it will evade the pursuit of the keenest sportsman.

The black squirrel is as large as a ferret; the fur is of a jet black. Like the grey squirrel, it is very active, and not easily overtaken in the woods. When domesticated it is remarkably gentle and playful; running loose, and associating with dogs and cats, and frequently going to a considerable distance from the house, to which it will always return of its own accord. The flesh of these squirrels is good. They are the prey of martins.

The red squirrel resembles that species common in England: it feeds upon beech-nuts, acorns, butter-nuts, &c. When the butter-nuts are fit for gathering, these squirrels climb the trees, and strip them of all the fruit; they then descend and convey it to

their habitations for winter provision. More than a bushel of these nuts are frequently found in a hoard belonging to a pair of squirrels. Sixty of these animals have been shot by one person in four hours.

The little striped squirrels swarm in the forests, and near the fields of Indian corn; the cobs of which, although bigger than themselves, they will carry and hoard up in large quantities under the roots of trees, &c. for winter store. These beautiful little animals enliven the woods of Canada. They are not more than half the size of the common red squirrel; have a black stripe, edged with white, along the ridge of the back, and one along each side; and their tails are about four inches long, with short bushy fur.

The small flying squirrel is about the size of the species last described. In the colour, and the softness of its fur, it resembles the long-tailed field-mouse of England; the back and upper part of the web being of an ash colour, and the belly and under part of the web milk white. The fur is as smooth and as soft as velvet. It leaps from tree to tree with great swiftness and agility; taking its flight from the

highest branches of a tall tree, from which it will reach another in a descending direction, at a distance of from thirty to sixty feet.

Serpents. In the territory of the Mohawk Indians, and to the south-west of York, near Lake Erie; it is said that there are rattle-snakes. I cannot contradict this report; but settlers with whom I have conversed on the subject, and who have been thirty years on the borders of Lake Ontario, have never even *seen* one; and it is certain that this noxious reptile is no where found between Quebec and Kingston, or between the carrying-place at the head of the bay of Quinte and York. Mr. Grece, in whose opinion and information the utmost confidence may be placed, says, that there are no venomous reptiles in Canada; and in numberless excursions through the woods, I have never seen any, or heard of any having been seen by the oldest inhabitants; so that I am fully convinced that there either are none, that they are extremely scarce, or confined to very limited tracts. There is an abundance of snakes from two to three feet long, vulgarly called "garter snakes." They are very active, and so inoffensive that the

settlers scarcely ever destroy them. There is also a species of water-snake, equally inoffensive; but vipers, scorpions, or centipedes, there are none.

It is said that the hogs of this country, which are a fierce and ugly race of animals, are very destructive to serpents. It is reported likewise that a small island in Lake Erie was so infested with rattle-snakes, that even the Indians durst not set foot upon it; and that a person who purchased it, bought a great number of hogs and landed them upon it, by which the snakes were entirely destroyed. This story may or may not be authentic. I have seen a pig seize a garter-snake and eat it voraciously: it is well known that the fat of the hog is a remedy for the bites of venomous reptiles; and it is very probable that even the poisonous fangs of the rattle-snake will have no effect on this animal, defended as it is by a mass of fat.

There is a variety of the feathered tribe in Upper Canada. The species most numerous are the partridge, wild duck, and pigeon. Pine partridges abound in the forests. In its appearance and habits this bird partakes of

the nature of the partridge, grouse, and pheasant; and it may, perhaps, with more propriety be called the *American pheasant*. In the southern states of the republic it *has* that appellation, in order to distinguish it from a species of quail, which is termed there the *partridge*. The male is as large as the ring or stock-dove, common in England. The feathers of the tail are seven or eight inches long, and it elevates and spreads them out in the same manner as the turkey. It has several long feathers of a deep purple or glossy black colour, on each side of the neck, which it can raise after the manner of a ruff. It has also three or four long, pointed feathers on the top of its head, which it can elevate so as to form a crest. The plumage on the back and wings resembles that of the English partridge; that on the under parts is mottled. The feathers of the tail are a mottled grey, with a black bar, half an inch broad, across their tips, the extremities of which are grey. The female is considerably smaller than the male, and its plumage and appearance are not near so handsome. These birds feed upon beech-nuts, buds of trees, and the cones of pines. They

are never found in the fields, but abound in the thickest parts of the forest, generally in cedar swamps, or among young hemlock trees (a species of pine,) in their vicinity, or near a road. They are shy and artful, except when hunted with dogs trained to the diversion, when they will perch upon trees, and, with their necks extended and crests elevated, look steadily at the dog which is barking at them below, until the sportsman approaches quite close, or near enough to shoot them. When eight or ten are discovered on a tree, if a person kill the one which sits *below* the rest, he may shoot the whole of them afterwards, as they will not endeavour to escape. They are often found sitting on the ground, or on fallen trees. In the spring the males perch on old logs, and make a drumming noise by striking their wings together, so loud as to be audible at a considerable distance. The female produces from eight to sixteen young ones at a brood. The flesh of the pine partridge, or American pheasant, is very white, and has a peculiarly fine flavour, superior, it is thought, to that of the English partridge and pheasant. These birds run swiftly, and will frequently

elude the sportsman by concealing themselves (when running) behind old logs. Persons have killed from twenty to thirty of them in a few hours.

Pigeons are extremely numerous from the latter part of April to the middle of October. Their plumage is blue, and in size and appearance they bear a very great resemblance to the blue pigeon common in English dovecots. Immense flocks of them visit the settled parts of this province. A gentleman here told me that he once, after harvest, caught with a net, at three hauls, thirty-two dozen in an afternoon, out of a flock of, perhaps, 150 dozen. Their flesh is good.

Wild geese are numerous; as are wild ducks of several species. They abound in the lakes, particularly in Rice Lake, where they feed upon the rice, from which their flesh derives an exquisite flavour. That species called the black duck, has dark brown plumage, with glossy feathers in each wing. Six of them, which were killed at one shot with a musket, weighed in the feathers and entrails nineteen pounds.

Humming-birds frequent the gardens in

great numbers during the summer months; and, like the bee, they derive their subsistence from the flowers. They are the smallest of the feathered tribe, yet nature seems to have compensated them for their diminutive size, by having bestowed a peculiar beauty and elegance on their plumage and appearance. In their habits they are restless, and in their tempers extremely irritable and impatient.

The rivers and lakes of Upper Canada abound with a variety of fine fish. The *smallest* streams are full of trout; and every year, in the months of October and November, vast quantities of salmon are caught with spears, in the rivulets which empty themselves into Lake Ontario.

In Rice Lake there is an abundance of very fine pike; to which the settlers have given the Indian name of *maskalungi;* every year, in the month of April, great numbers of these are caught with spears. Two men go out in the night in a boat, having a small iron grate, termed a *jack,* projecting over on one end of it, in which a fire is kept burning: the fish are thus seen at a considerable depth; and forty or fifty, weighing from six to eighteen

pounds each, are frequently caught by two persons during the night.

The forests of Upper Canada consist of pine of several species; oak of two kinds, ash of two kinds, elm, white and red cedar, larch, called here tamarack, beech, sugar-maple, bass, hickory, lime, birch, aspen or white poplar, and alder; with iron wood, walnut, butter-nut, cherry, elder and plum trees interspersed.

Pines are not found on the best soil; they are scattered in *groves* throughout the forest, on light and sandy land, overtopping the rest of the trees by thirty or forty feet. The hemlock-pine grows in general near creeks. The average height of the white pine here, from the root to the topmost branch, is 120 feet; but it very frequently grows to the height of 160, and sometimes of 180 feet; and the largest are from nine to twelve feet in circumference.

The hemlock is the most beautiful of the pine species. Its elegant dark green foliage, and light, spreading branches, together with the young trees springing up in rows along the remains of the fallen trunks, appear as if

nature designed her work, like a fairy scene, to excite our admiration. These trees seldom exceed 100 feet in height, or three feet in diameter.

The red or Norway pine grows in some districts, and is found interspersed in groves of white pine.

The white oak of Canada produces acorns, which eat nearly as well as nuts.

The black ash grows on flat and moist ground, and makes excellent rails for fences, being durable in its nature, and easily split up.

Elm, beech, sugar-maple, bass, and hickory, are a sure criterion in ascertaining the quality of land in Upper Canada. Tracts which are wooded solely with those kinds of trees, are invariably fertile, rich and productive. Beech affords the greatest quantity of ashes for making pearl-ash, and, next to maple, is the best fire-wood.

The sugar-maple has a great affinity to the English sycamore, the "*acer magnum*" of Linnæus. Its leaves and capsules are similar *in shape* to those of that tree, but smaller. Its bark is not so smooth, nor its branches so

large or expansive. It grows to the height of from seventy to ninety feet; and the trunk is frequently without branches to the height of fifty feet. Excellent sugar, beer, and wine, are made from the sap of the maple-tree; and the following directions for making them are copied from the Utica Almanack for the year 1819.

" *The sugar-maple.*—The maple not only " affords an excellent sugar, but a pleasant " molasses, an agreeable beer, a strong and " sound wine, and an excellent vinegar.

" The following receipts for making each " of them have been obtained from persons " who have succeeded in the manufacture of " them, and are earnestly recommended to " those citizens of the United States who live " in the neighbourhood of sugar-maple trees.

" *To make Maple Sugar.*—Make an incision " in a number of maple trees, at the same " time, in the months of February and March, " and receive the juice of them in earthen " or wooden vessels. Strain the juice (after " it is drawn from its sediment) and boil it. " Place the kettle directly over the fire in " such a manner that the flames shall not play

" around its sides. When it is reduced to
" a thick syrup, and cooled, strain it again,
" and let it settle for two or three days; in
" which time it will be prepared for granulat-
" ing. This operation is performed by filling
" the kettle half full of syrup, and boiling it a
" second time. To prevent its rising too sud-
" denly, and boiling over, add to it a piece of
" fresh butter or fat, of the size of a walnut.
" You may easily determine whether it is suf-
" ficiently boiled to granulate, by cooling a
" little of it. It must then be put into bags,
" or baskets, through which the water will
" drain, so as to leave it in a solid form. This
" sugar, if refined by the usual process, may
" be made into as good single or double re-
" fined loaves, as ever were made of the sugar
" obtained from the juice of the West India cane.

" *Maple Molasses.*—This may be made in
" three ways: First, from the thick syrup
" obtained by boiling it after it is strained for
" granulation: Secondly, from the drainings
" of the sugar: Thirdly, from the last drain-
" ings of the tree (which will not granulate)
" reduced by evaporating to the consistence of
" molasses.

" *Maple Beer.*—To every four gallons of
" water (while boiling) add a quart of maple
" molasses. When the liquor is cooled to blood
" heat, put in as much yeast as is necessary to
" ferment it. Malt or bran may be added to
" this beer, when agreeable. If a table spoon-
" ful of the essence of spruce is added to the
" above quantities of water and molasses, it
" makes a most delicious and wholesome
" drink.

" *Maple Wine.*—Boil four, five, or six gal-
" lons of sap (according to its strength), to which
" add yeast in proportion to the quantity you
" make. After it is fermented, set it aside in
" a cool place, well stopped. If kept for two
" or three years, it will become a pleasant
" sound wine, in every respect equal to the
" second class of wines imported from foreign
" countries. This wine may be rendered fra-
" grant by the addition of a little shred mag-
" niola root, or any other aromatic substance.

" *Maple Vinegar.*—Expose the sap to the
" open air, in the sun, and in a short time it
" will become vinegar.

" By these receipts large quantities of each
" of the above articles have been made in the

" frontier countries of New Hampshire, Mas-
" sachussets, New York, and Pennsylvania."

The sugar-maple is also in general use for fire-wood in Upper Canada, as it burns more *steadily*, and, from the spirit which it contains, more *briskly* than any other timber. The variegated kind, or *curled* and *bird's-eye* maple, makes handsome furniture.

The cedar-tree grows in swamps and on the borders of rivulets: it rises to the height of from 90 to 110 feet, tapering gradually to the top. The largest are three and four feet in diameter. The branches bend downwards from the stems. This elegant tree is an evergreen, and its foliage is like that of the lignum vitæ. The wood is exceedingly durable, and well adapted for buildings and fences.

Of the bark of the birch-tree the Indians construct their canoes; they also make baskets, and other utensils of it.

The hickory-tree grows to the height of eighty feet. It is a species of walnut, and produces nuts, somewhat smaller, but equal in quality to those of that tree. The wood is tough, and makes the best *handles* for axes.

The butter-nut tree is likewise a species of the walnut, which it greatly resembles. The nuts are larger than those of the English walnut tree; the kernels are sweet and well flavoured. These trees grow in abundance in most parts of the province.

The hazel abounds in many districts.

The wild cherry-tree produces a small black fruit, not exceeding in size the largest black currants, and, like them, growing on fruit-stalks from a long foot-stalk. These trees abound in most parts of the province, and grow to the size of the largest apple trees. They are in general literally loaded with fruit, which is of an agreeable quality, although it has rather an astringent taste, and it makes a good preserve. The stones are large in proportion to the size of the cherry.

Wild plums, of a good quality, abound in the forests; and excellent preserves are made of them.

Currants and gooseberries also grow spontaneously in the woods, and the former are cultivated to very great perfection in the gardens. Wild vines also flourish here, and the grapes have an agreeable flavour.

The other wild fruits are cranberries, bilberries, mamaberries, and strawberries; the latter grow in very great abundance in the meadows and woods, and are equal to those produced in our English gardens.

The apple-tree thrives as well in this province as in any part of the world. The orchards seldom fail of producing an abundant crop, and the fruit is of an excellent quality. Great quantities of cyder are made; the price last year (1819) in the market at Kingston, by the barrel, was 9*d.* a gallon, including the cask.

Peaches are very plentiful on the borders of Lake Erie; they are sent from those districts to the lower parts of the province, and were sold last year at Kingston for 3*d.* a dozen.

The climate of Canada is very favourable to the production of melons, water-melons, and cucumbers; all of which arrive at the greatest perfection, and are abundant throughout the province.

Pumpkins and squashes are also plentiful. The former afford an excellent vegetable, as well as a nutritious food for cattle and pigs.

They are grown amongst the Indian corn, and almost every farmer raises several waggon loads of them annually. Molasses of a very good quality are made by boiling the pumpkins; and this useful article of domestic consumption is manufactured at no expense, and with so little trouble or difficulty, that there are but few families who do not make considerable quantities of it every year. Beer and a good preserve are also made from pumpkins.

Potatoes, parsnips, carrots, beets, turnips, onions, cabbages, beans, peas, asparagus, and all other vegetables, are also produced by every farmer in this country in the greatest abundance, and of the best quality.

There is not a great variety of plants in Upper Canada. Several kinds of shrubs and flowers, which are propagated in the English gardens, here grow spontaneously in the woods; as balsam trees, the dwarf sun-flower, everlasting Michaelmas daisies, columbine, gentian, &c.

Sassafras and winter-green are abundant in the forests.

The white or natural clover (the Irish shamrock) appears, like the strawberry plant,

to be indigenous to the soil: it forms the principal *pasturage* in the cleared parts of the province; and the paths through the forest, with the soil round the roots of trees which have been overturned, are covered with this beautiful, rich, and luxuriant vegetation.

CHAPTER VI.

General Appearance and Climate of Upper Canada—Scenery—Observations on the Inhabitants—Indians—General Remarks, and Advice to Emigrants—Conclusion.

UPPER CANADA is a country of vast extent. Previous to its settlement by the Europeans, it was one entire and uninterrupted forest. Within the last forty years towns have been built, roads made, and considerable tracts of land cleared and cultivated.

The general fertility of the soil is such, that the settlers have been amply remunerated for their labour and privations. After a long sojourn in a desert, they have at length, like the Israelites, emerged into a land of plenty, where they are surrounded with every comfort and convenience.

The stranger who travels from Montreal to York, is agreeably surprised at finding himself every where in the midst of rich and fertile fields, which but a few years before were

a forest. He sees around him the neat and convenient habitations of the settlers. The hand of industry is every where visible to him; he hears the *sound of the axe* at every step. The inroads of the fire arrest his attention; and he contemplates with pleasure the future prosperity and importance of a country, which has every natural advantage to favour and cherish it.

From Montreal to Kingston and York, the great west road lies within a few miles of the River St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario; sometimes it is close on their borders. The country in its vicinity, for the whole distance, nearly 480 miles, is under cultivation; except in some few townships where the proprietors, neglectful of their own interest, and that of the community, have been dilatory in making improvements. But these uncultivated tracts bear only a small proportion to those which are cleared. The farm-houses and cottages are generally within half a mile of each other, and there are inns at convenient distances.

At one time the traveller passes through a narrow strip of cleared land; at another, through tracts half a mile or a mile square, in a high

state of cultivation. He every where sees the vestiges of recent clearance, in the half-burnt and branchless trunks of trees which have been left standing; and in the stumps of others, which have been cut off three feet above the ground, with which the fields are studded. At every half mile or mile he crosses a beautiful stream of pure and limpid water (for this country is intersected by the finest rivulets in the world), on which is a grist or saw-mill. He is surrounded by fields of wheat, and of Indian corn, intermixed with the luxuriant gourd. On either hand his prospect is bounded by the thick and variegated foliage of the forest; except where the majestic St. Lawrence, or the light green expanse of the Ontario, meets his view through the trees. Above him is a clear and azure sky; he breathes a salutary and pure air; the pine partridge, disturbed by his sudden appearance in its haunts, springs up and perches near him; the humming birds sport amongst the flowers which border the road; and flocks of pigeons, and the blue jays, woodpeckers, robins, and others of the feathered tribe, enliven the scene.

Canada, perhaps, has been represented to him as a gloomy and impenetrable forest, the abode of savage beasts of prey, or of Indians, even exceeding them in ferocity. Perhaps he has been told that it is locked up by frost for seven months in the year, or buried in snow; and he may have been influenced by these false or malicious representations. He will, therefore, be agreeably surprised at meeting with the very reverse of such a deformed picture; at seeing a country of an aspect agreeably undulated, watered with fine streams, and possessing a soil as rich and productive as the most fertile parts of the Old World; at finding that the stately and beautiful forests are so free from underwood and projecting branches, that he may take his horse at full speed through any part of them; and that there are no noxious beasts of prey, no venomous reptiles, and no wild Indians, to molest him.

The inhabitants of Upper Canada consist of British and Americans, with several families of German, and some of French extraction. From this mixture arises a great diversity of manners and customs in the province.

But as the emigrants from the United States form by far the greater moiety of the people, the rest are, in some measure, compelled to conform to their habits and usages.

The emigrants from the States are of two classes; namely, the royalists who came in after the revolutionary war, and those who have come in since the late war with Great Britain, to purchase, or to *beg*, the land which they were unable to conquer. They who obtain grants of land by petitioning for them, are first obliged to take the oath of allegiance to the British government.

Englishmen, who have in general been accustomed to subordination, and habituated to a decent, orderly, and respectful deportment, find a difficulty in reconciling themselves to the manners and customs of the *former* republicans, who have a certain vulgarity and contemptuous arrogance, united to ignorance and illiberality, about them, which is disgusting. The conciliatory Scotchman, like the Vicar of Bray, can so arrange his conduct as to make it suitable for all changes and circumstances. The inoffensive but improvident Irishman cannot well disguise his feelings, and he acquires but little popularity.

There is one truth which the *English* and *Irish* emigrants will easily discover. It is that the Americans of all classes, old and young, women as well as men, detest and hate them: they have imbibed that hatred with their mother's milk, and it has become deadly and rooted. I could pursue this subject farther, but I shall only at present observe, that the English, &c. who have lately come into the province, begin to form societies amongst themselves: each party may, perhaps, in time overcome its prejudices, and unanimity and benevolence prevail amongst them.

The old inhabitants of the country, as well as the late emigrants from the States, are possessed of a great many excellent qualities. They are industrious, ingenious, prudent, peaceable, and just. If benevolence, hospitality, and generosity, are locked up in their breasts, yet they have but few vices: refinement will, perhaps, at some future period develope all.

Emigrants from Europe will do well to pursue *their* method of clearing and cultivating the land. The Americans are, without doubt, the best *axemen* in the world. They cut down the largest oaks with a small heavy

axe, of a peculiar make, not exceeding six inches in length and four in breadth, weighing five pounds and a quarter; it costs here 15*s.* sterling. The average height of the forests of Canada is from eighty to ninety feet; the groves of white pines overtopping the rest by thirty or forty.

As the settlers encroach upon the forest, the Indians, the original proprietors of the country, retire from them. The Mohawks, a partly civilized tribe, still retain their possessions on the Bay of Quinte. All are peaceable and inoffensive, and beneficial to the settlers rather than troublesome or injurious to them. They are ingenious, and manufacture baskets, corn-shovels, mats, brooms, bowls, chair-bottoms, and a great many other articles and utensils which are useful to the settlers, and which are procured from them for a very trifling remuneration.

To conclude. This beautiful and abundant country affords the means of subsistence for every person. Common industry, exerted on its rich and exuberant soil, will enable every one to acquire not only the necessaries of life in profusion, but also many of the luxuries of it. Farmers, husbandmen, tradesmen, and

mechanics, will all have before them the most flattering prospects of success. Farms of all sizes are always upon sale in every part of the province, and a person may establish himself *comfortably* here with a property of *one hundred*, or even of *fifty* pounds.

Labourers are paid from *four* to *six shillings* a day, besides *their provisions*. Tailors, shoemakers, and other mechanics, are wanted in all parts of the province; and they who have come over are prosperous and successful, even beyond their expectations.

If persons have a sufficiency of money *only* to pay their passage *over*, they need not fear but that their industry will enable them to live in comfort. A farmer possessed of 500*l.* or 1000*l.* sterling, would be able to purchase a farm, with a good house, barn, and other buildings upon it.

The climate of Upper Canada is extremely agreeable and salubrious; the heat in summer is not oppressive, nor the cold in winter severe. The winter lasts about five months.

THE END.

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