

From the (Westchester) American Star.

We must no longer say "The Canadas," nor "Her Majesty's dominions of Upper and Lower Canada," both having by force and authority of an act of the Imperial Parliament been united into one. Politically speaking, therefore, Canada is henceforth to be regarded as *one province*. It already contains a million of inhabitants; the emigration to it is from twenty to fifty thousand, annually, and what with its noble river Saint Lawrence, notwithstanding an inhospitable climate, it is one of the finest countries in the world. To believe this, one must see it—and "seeing is believing." Such, at least, is the writer's experience, from recent observation.

A traveller from "the States," who visits Canada for the first time, will find many things to surprise him, besides a strange consciousness that he is in "foreign parts." However accurate may be his knowledge of the history, he will hardly be prepared to realize its actual extent and importance—the intimate connexion of its remotest parts—the wealth and grandeur of its ancient cities and the vigorous growth of the new. Traversing the St. Lawrence some four hundred miles, say, from a hundred miles above Montreal to a hundred below Quebec, he sees a beautiful country, not only cleared, cultivated, and thickly settled, but actually adorned with a continuous line of villages on either bank. There is scarcely a point from which the spire of a parish church does not greet his eye, and there will frequently be three or four in view at the same time. This is no exaggeration; the scene has been described even in more glowing colours by a late standard author. "The whole of Lower Canada, for more than 400 miles along the St. Lawrence, presents an extensive chain of farms. Corn-fields, pasture and meadow lands, embellished at intervals with clumps of trees, snow-white cottages, neatly adorned churches, alternately present themselves to the eye in the midst of the verdant foliage which shades the banks of that noble river." Then there are the cities of Montreal and Quebec, with their population of 40,000 each; the former, said to present at this time the best opening for mercantile enterprise in the world; the latter, glorying in her fortifications, second scarcely to those of Gibraltar or of Malta; and in her historical associations second to none. The citadel of Quebec, from its dizzy height of 350 feet perpendicular above the St. Lawrence, looks down as it were with an air of military command upon this continent; and with its soil moistened by the blood of Wolfe and Montcalm, and consecrated by the grave of Montgomery, cannot but be regarded for the first time by the beholder with mingled feelings of admiration and awe. The plains of Abraham, Cape Diamond, Point Levi, Montmorency and the Isle of Orleans are familiar to every tyro in history as classic ground. A small monument marks the spot where Wolfe died, and a chaste and beautiful obelisk has been erected near the citadel, which has on one side the name of WOLFE, and on the other that of MONTCALM. The scenery from these heights is in keeping with their historical renown. Nothing can exceed the grandeur and beauty of the landscape.

And where is this strong hold, exactly, as to latitude and longitude, and what are its relations to us? Quebec is 450 miles from the sea, 180 miles from Montreal, 380 miles from Kingston, and 540 from Toronto. Casting a glance at the map, it will be seen that a line due south from Quebec passes very near to Boston—a line due west passes through the centre of Lake Superior and the head waters of the Mississippi. Standing upon the dome of the House of Assembly, and looking north, the eye takes in all the extent of cultivation between Cape Diamond and the North Pole; looking south-east, you can almost see the State of Maine, and are within less than 300 miles of its sea coast. A line on the map due south from Montreal passes near the City of New York—a line due east, from the same point, passes through the middle of the State of Maine, as we claim the boundary—a line due south from Kingston in Upper Canada, passes near to Harrisburg—a line due south from Toronto passes near to Pittsburg—a line due east from the same point, passes not far from Whitehall at the head of Lake Champlain, and still nearer to Portsmouth, in New Hampshire; while Malden comes down to as low a parallel of latitude as the northern line of Pennsylvania and of Connecticut. We have Canada for our immediate and intimate neighbor from Michigan to Maine inclusive, to say nothing of the north-west. The New York frontier alone upon Upper Canada must be some five hundred miles; separated, however, through this whole extent, with the exception of the distance from Lake Champlain to the St. Lawrence, by the river St. Lawrence, Lake Ontario, the Niagara river and Lake Erie. Of this boundary the St. Lawrence constitutes about one hundred miles.

Toronto and Kingston are the important points in Upper Canada, and are both flourishing. The former has a population of 13,000, and the latter from 6 to 8000. The Rideau Canal has given an impulse to Kingston, and Toronto is said to have one of the finest back countries in the world. The traveller is nearer to Montreal, measuring the distance by day's journeys, when in the city of New York, than when in Toronto. He reaches Montreal on the morning of the third day after leaving New York. Then again, when in Toronto he finds himself within a half a day's journey, by steamboat and railroad, of Buffalo!

Of the million of inhabitants in Canada, 600,000 is the estimate for the Lower, and 400,000 for the Upper Province.

The traveller is struck with the universal prevalence of French in every thing in Lower Canada.—It would seem that nine-tenths of all that meets the eye and ear is French, from the administration of justice in their courts, to the leeks

and garlic in the market place. Of the French population, which constitutes four-fifths of the whole, certainly not one in ten speak or understand English.

It is not yet a century since the British rule commenced—at that time there were about 70,000 inhabitants in all Canada. Quebec was founded in 1608. Wolfe fought on the plains of Abraham in 1759, and the province was confirmed to the British by the treaty of 1763, making a period of one hundred and fifty years from its first settlement that the French government prevailed, excepting a short period that the English had possession of Quebec in 1629. During this period there was more than one unsuccessful attempt made by the English and Provincials to conquer the country. The troops employed in these expeditions were generally from New England, and we are informed that a prejudice still prevails against "Bostonians."

Upper Canada was not then known as a distinct province. It was a mere district attached to Quebec, until after the war of our revolution; when in 1781, a great many loyalists and disbanded soldiers of the British army were located here under favourable grants from the government. It is even said that some who had not been very loyal, affected the merit of torism to avail themselves of the kindness of the mother country to the persecuted refugees. Until 1791, the government of all Canada was in the hands of a Governor and Council appointed by the crown. In that year a Constitutional government was provided by act of Parliament for each province. It was enacted, that in Lower Canada there should be a legislative council appointed for life, by the crown, consisting of 34 members, and a House of Assembly elected for four years by forty shilling freeholders of the counties and the five pound freeholders or the ten pound annual renters for the towns, composed of 88 members. In Upper Canada, the chief Executive officer was styled Lieutenant Governor; the Legislative Council consisted of 17 members, and the House of Assembly of 50. The Governor had a right of veto upon the acts of the two Houses—in certain cases the royal sanction was required; and in some, even that of the Imperial Parliament. It was provided by another act that no taxes should be imposed on the Colonies, but for the regulation of trade, and that they shall be applied for the use of the province, in such manner as shall be directed by "any laws made by his Majesty," by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly. Hence one of the principal causes of dissatisfaction. This form of government after existing for near half a century, is now at an end—having been first "nullified" by rebellion, and since repealed by the high behest of the home government. What is to be the result of the Union Bill, no one can tell.—Upper Canada is emphatically a young giant, having quadrupled her population since our last war. A single fact illustrates the ever conflicting policy of the Imperial with that of the Provincial Parliament—the interest of the mother country contrasted with that of her provinces.

The British Government have expended more than a million upon the Rideau Canal, a circuitous route connecting Montreal with Kingston by way of the Ottawa river. This is regarded as almost exclusively a *military work*, constructed mainly with a view to strengthen the power of the Government over its Colonies, and its hold upon them in the event of war with the United States. Less than half the money thus expended—nay, it is even said one fourth, would have made a perfect navigation round the rapids of the Saint Lawrence, brought the two points much nearer to each other, and been far more advantageous to the growth and prosperity of the country. So deeply did the inhabitants feel this, that they had actually undertaken and entered with spirit upon the execution of this rival work, by aid of provincial resources alone, when their late troubles brought every thing to a stand.

The difficulties in the Lower Province are far more intricate and complicated. The very concessions to their religion and laws and language, and the indulgence with which they were treated for so many years after the conquest, make the French population more restive under British restraints. Among the laws and customs still in force we find many "founded principally on the jurisprudence of the parliament of Paris, as it stood in 1763, the edicts of the French Kings, and the Roman Civil Law." Trial by jury prevails in criminal cases only, and but few civil cases are tried in this manner. The proceedings in their courts are conducted both in French and English—it is common to have one half the jury English, and the other half French, and for one advocate to address them in French and another in English. One of their great objections to the Union Bill, is, that it extends and enforces the right of trial by jury in civil cases. A distinguished lawyer of Montreal inquired with emphasis, the other day, "how it was possible we got along with the trial of *titles to land*, before a jury!"—Their lands are generally held by *Federal tenure* under large proprietors, termed *seigneurs*, to whom they were originally granted under this tenure, by the French King. Its leading features, as it now prevails, are the payment of a small annual rent, and a percentage on the advance in case of sale. Notwithstanding every facility and encouragement for the conversion of these tenures into those of free and common socage, the Canadians adhere pertinaciously to their old forms. It is said indeed to be one cause why no improvement takes place, and the price of land is kept down. No provincial Legislature could ever be induced to pass Registry Laws, and it is difficult if not impossible to ascertain the true state of titles.—It required the omnipotence of a British parliament to overcome their objections to such laws; and still the French Canadian inveighs with equal earnestness against the wise provision of

the Union Bill as against the more unjust enactments of arbitrary power.

England now holds Canada by dint of military occupation. The late rebellion has cost her some millions. Go where you will on the great highways, and in the cities and villages of Canada, and you meet with fortifications and barracks, and the Queen's troops: there are the Coldstream Guards, and the Grenadier Guards, and the Scotch Highlanders, and regiments of less distinguished fame and less distinguished cap and plume, numbering 17,000 men. It must be said of the soldiers, that they are generally fine looking men: and of the officers, that many of them are accomplished gentlemen. Nothing can exceed their dress and drill and discipline and music. If you approach by the late rebellious Sorel, or from any "sympathizing" quarter, you must obtain passports, tell your age, give the colour of your lady's eyes, and place the keys of your trunk in the hands of her sovereign majesty Queen Victoria's officer of the customs. Nathless, it should be added, this is all done with the least possible trouble to you, without detention, and without actual search; as well becomes the officers of a gracious Queen to receive her neighbors on a friendly visit to British America.

That part of Upper Canada composing a species of triangle, "two sides of which are formed by the Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron, with their connecting channels, about 570 miles in length, and 50 to 80 in breadth," is said by high authority to be "one of the most fruitful on the earth, and capable of supporting a most numerous population."

There is now an uninterrupted inland navigation from the head of Lake Superior to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, some 2000 miles; besides that of the Ottawa, extending nearly 1000 miles, broken however by rapids.

As to the character and importance of the timber trade alone, the same authority says:—"The timber is obtained from the immense forests upon the shores of the great interior lakes. The trees when felled, are put together into immense rafts, which often cover acres, and on them are raised small huts, the residence of the woodmen and their families. Ten or twelve square sails are set up, and the rafts are navigated to Quebec, through many dangers, in which nearly a third of them are said to be destroyed.—Those which survive are ranged along the river in front of Quebec, forming a line four or five miles in extent.

The capital invested in this trade is estimated at £1,250,000 sterling—the export of 1831 exceeded £1,000,000 in value, and the ships employed were over 1000.

At this crisis of Canadian affairs it is worth while perhaps to look a little more closely into the history, statistics and politics of our neighbors than we of "the States" have been in the habit of doing. Not in the spirit of a prying curiosity; much less that of espionage, to interfere with their domestic troubles, stir up false sympathy, or provoke aggression: great indeed has been the mistake of our citizens upon the New-York frontier, and deep is the debt of gratitude we owe to General Scott for rescuing us from the brink of war; but, as a leaf in the volume of human nature containing an interesting passage of the history of a great and growing country, and of an interesting and peculiar people. It is in this spirit—under a sense of obligation to all parties and professions during a recent visit, and without unkind recollections toward any, that this hasty sketch has been attempted.

THE MORAL FLOOD.—When sailing down the Thames, upon one of the most beautiful voyages in the world, from London to Margate, few people are aware that at high tide they are borne upon a flood of waters several feet higher than the level of the surrounding country. The whole of that vast river is an aqueduct, raised and supported between banks of stupendous construction, the work at first of immemorial ages, but gradually increased in strength and height as the bed of the river has grown higher by continual deposit. They glide between forests of masts, and admire the magnificent proud sailing vessels, as it were the swans of ocean with their snow-white wings, between fair and golden fields and emerald meadows,—the wealth of universal, of British commerce, borne upon the water, the wealth of British agriculture and industry enriching the land; but they little think upon what all these fair prospects and riches depend, and what disasters must invade the occupiers of land and water, and their ripening riches, if but a small portion of the artificial barrier of earth were to be loosened from its position. Yet these banks having been once commenced, must from time to time be made higher continually, and the danger also must become continually greater in magnitude, and more eminent. If nature had been left to take her own course, the deposit of soil would have taken place over the surface of the land, as well as on the bed of the river; the bed and banks would have maintained their same relative height, or rather the land would have gained most, as on the banks of other rivers; the harvest of wealth would not have been reaped at so early a period, but it would have been sure for ever. The social system in this country is in an equally artificial state. In our opinion it is no less dangerous and alarming. We see the tide of riches and commerce, and trade and manufacture in all its branches, borne onwards and aloft at a very artificial elevation, an elevation which requires to be continued and constantly increased for the very maintenance of its existence, and one which carries with it the utmost ruin in its consequences, should it ever meet with disaster and interruption. In the early part of the last century, the Thames burst its bounds, and overwhelmed the rich harvests of its shores in Essex, far and wide, with a terrible inundation. The site obtained its name from the calamity, and is still called Dagenham Breach. It was only at enormous expense, and after many years loss and labour, that the injury was repaired, and

the land restored to cultivation. A century has elapsed, and if the same catastrophe were to happen again, the calamity must be still more dreadful. There is at the present moment some alarm excited, and some symptoms of a recurrence, in the same neighbourhood. Our social system is in a condition analogous in all respects to that which we have described. Let us consider it well, and be upon our guard and take warning. If the majestic Thames should burst its bounds again, bearing on its bosom the riches of all the world, and the means of every luxury, the ruin would be greater than all the riches which it now bears. If, through the loss occasioned by it, or other changes and distresses, the whole adjacent country must become a swamp, like the once magnificent Babylon. Let us look to it, lest this wealthy and majestic British empire should itself become as Babylon.—*London Times*.

WATERLOO AT NOON ON THE DAY AFTER THE BATTLE.—On a surface of two square miles, it was ascertained that fifty thousand men and horses were lying! The luxurious crop of ripe grain which had covered the field of battle, was reduced to litter, and beaten into the earth; and the surface trodden down by the cavalry, and furrowed deeply by the cannon wheels, strewn with many a relict of the fight. Helmets and cuirasses, shattered fire-arms and broken swords; all the variety of military ornaments, lancer caps and Highland bonnets; uniforms of every colour, plume and pennon; musical instruments; the apparatus of artillery, drums, bugles:—but good God, why dwell on the harrowing picture of a foughten field?—each and every ruinous display bore mute testimony to the misery of such a battle. * * * Could the melancholy appearance of this scene of death be heightened, it would be by witnessing the researches of the living amidst its desolation, for the objects of their love. Mothers and wives and children, for days were occupied in that mournful duty; and the confusion of the corpses, friend and foe intermingled as they were, often rendered the attempt at recognizing individuals difficult, and in some cases, impossible. * * * In many places the dead lay four deep upon each other, marking the spot some British square had occupied, when exposed for hours to the murderous fire of a French battery. Outside, lancer and cuirassier were scattered thickly on the earth. Madly attempting to force the serried bayonets of the British, they had fallen, in the bootless essay, by the musketry of the inner files. Farther on you traced the spot where the cavalry of France and England had encountered. Chasseur and huzzar were intermingled; and the heavy Norman horse of the Imperial Guard were interspersed with the gray chargers which had carried Albyn's chivalry. Here the Highlander and tirailleur lay, side by side, together; and the heavy dragoon, with green Erin's badge upon his helmet, was grappling in death with the Polish lancer. * * * On the summit of the ridge, where the ground was cumbered with the dead, and trodden fetlock deep in mud and gore, by the frequent rush of rival cavalry, the thick-strewn corpses of the Imperial Guard, pointed out the spot where Napoleon had been defeated. Here, in column, that favoured corps, on whom his last chance rested, had been annihilated; and the advance and repulse of the Guard was traceable by a mass of fallen Frenchmen. In the hollow below, the struggle of France had been vainly made; for there the Old Guard, when the middle battalion had been forced back, attempted to meet the British, and afford time for their disorganized companions to rally. Here the British left, which had converged upon the French centre, had come up—and here the bayonet closed the contest.—*Maxwell's Victories of the British Army*.

GRATITUDE.—A few days past some children were playing at the bottom of an old dried-up well, at a small village in the department of the Rhone. They amused themselves by stirring up the rubbish at the bottom, and discovered a large iron chest, completely eaten up with rust. One of them was immediately despatched in search of a strong cord, and the chest was borne in triumph to the owner of the well. On being forced open, it was found to contain an immense heap of gold coins of the three reigns which preceded the revolution of 1789, and also several bundles of family papers. The proprietor thanked the children for their discovery, but added, that he should apply to their parents for some indemnity for the cord, which they had materially damaged in their effort to draw up the iron chest!

PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS AT DAMASCUS.—The chief rabbi being requested to sign a confession of the murder, said:—"When you smote me with 500 stripes over all my body, I would not confess to a lie—when you plunged me into a pool of cold water for three hours on the winter's day, a drawn sword over my head, so that I could not raise it, I lied not—and when you inflicted 170 stripes on my hand, I still would not utter a falsehood—and when you drove the bones which you placed round my head into my eyes so as to blind me, I still lied not and spoke not this falsehood, and now shall I sign to a lie." The writer adds—"the rabbi was then sent back to prison to await his trial."

At the Derry Assizes, William Collins was found guilty of being a Ribbonman. Mr. Schoales, (Queen's counsel,) counsel for the crown, in his opening statement, said—"The system has branched out to an awful extent, and if I should say it had 1,000,000 members, perhaps I should not exceed the truth."

A boa-constrictor in the Manchester Zoological Gardens has been known to go twenty-five weeks between meal and meal, though in good health. In the spring it generally takes three or four feeds within a week of each other, and then one each month until the close of August or September.

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