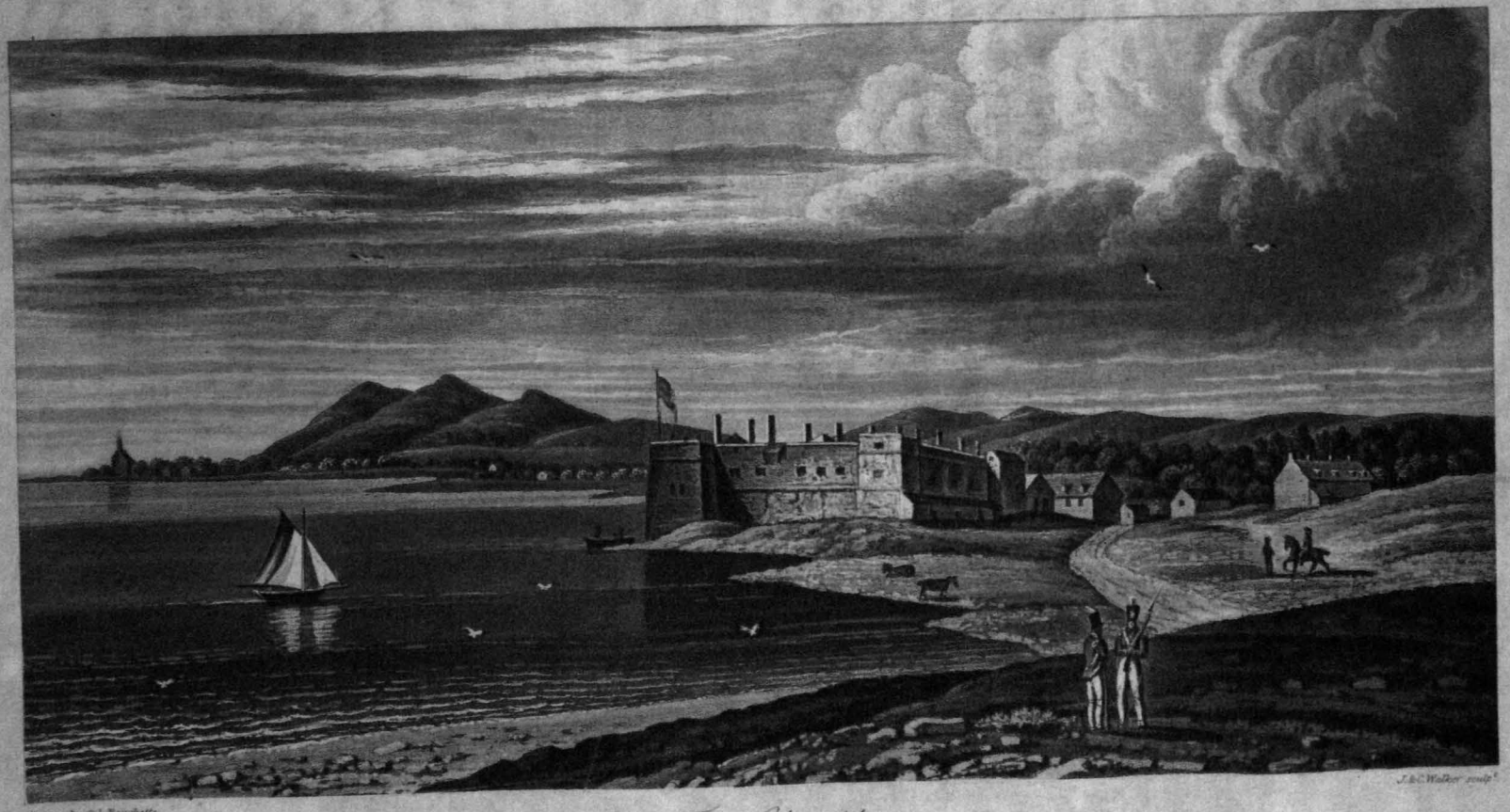


Drawn by Col. Bouchette

J. & C. Walker sculp.

Fort Chambly

view, and the most extensive scope of country, that can be embraced at once from any spot in Lower Canada. Beneath the spectator, lies the magnificent valley from which the mountain rises; and winding amidst its numerous beauties, he can trace the Richelieu from its outlet from Lake Champlain, to its confluence with the St. Lawrence, which is also discovered at various points, till its surface is distinctly disclosed opposite Montreal. The city and mountain of Montreal are very clearly seen to the westward. To the eastward, the prospect is partially intercepted by one of the hills forming the group collectively called the Rouville mountain. With the aid of a telescope, the town of Three Rivers can be descried, in clear weather, to the N.E., and to the southward the settlements of Burlington, on Lake Champlain, in the state of Vermont, at the respective distances of about 60 and 70 miles from the spectator.

The town of William Henry, or Sorel, is very pleasantly situated at the confluence of the Richelieu, Sorel, or Chambly River (known by each appellation,) with the St. Lawrence, on the site of a fort built in the year 1665, by order of Monsieur de Tracy, similar to those erected in the neighbourhood of Montreal, &c. as a defence against the incursions of the Indians, and which received its name from Sorel, a captain of engineers, who superintended its construction; but its modern appellation it derives from our august sovereign, in honour of whom it was called William Henry, at the time His Majesty, in early life, visited that distant section of his vast empire. The plan of it covers about 120 acres of ground, although at present the number of houses does not much exceed 200, exclusive of stores, barracks, and government buildings. It is laid out with regularity, the streets intersecting each other at right angles, and having in the centre a square, 170 yards on each side; the dwelling-houses are of wood, substantially and well constructed, but the protestant and the catholic churches are both stone buildings: there are eight principal streets, that are named after different branches of the royal family; the whole population is about 1500 souls. Before the town, the bank of the Richelieu is from ten to twelve feet high, having near the point two or three wharfs; the river is here 250 yards broad, with from two and a half to five and a half fathoms of water. On the opposite shore there are convenient places for building vessels, and

some of large tonnage have been constructed there; but latterly this branch of trade has not been so much attended to here as it used to be, notwithstanding the accommodations for carrying it on, would induce a belief that great encouragement would be given to it. A small distance from a little rivulet to the southward of the place is a blockhouse and an hospital, and a little further on a neat cottage or lodge, with out-houses, gardens, &c. called the Government-house, serving as an occasional residence for the Governor in summer, and sometimes for the commanding officer of the troops stationed here, usually one or two companies of infantry. The present town of Sorel was begun about the year 1785, when some loyalists and disbanded soldiers settled there; and it still continues to be the residence of many old military servants of the crown. Some trade is carried on here, but not so much as might be supposed its situation at the junction of two navigable rivers would command: the timber trade, the export of grain from this part of the country, and the interchange between the American states, might be extended to a considerable amount, and apparently with many advantages.

The seigniories of Sault St. Louis, La Salle, Chateauguay, and Beauharnois, and the townships of Sherrington, Hemmingford, Hinchinbrooke, and Godmanchester, together with the Indian lands, occupy the westernmost angle of the province on the southern shores of the St. Lawrence, and form a tract in no respect inferior to the fertile country of which we have just spoken, enjoying a climate equally mild and salubrious, a soil rich and excellent in the aggregate, whilst the land, which is abundantly watered, rises in general from the front in gradual swells, clothed with hard timber, to the province line, bounding that tract in the rear. These seigniories are remarkably well settled and, excepting Beauharnois, have by far the greater proportion of their lands improved upon: the great superficial extent of Beauharnois is likely to leave it open for some years longer, to the reception of new settlers. The village of Beauharnois, on the shores of Lake St. Louis, consists of about 40 houses, one third of which are stone, and many two stories high. It is well situated, and offers a convenient stopping-place for the steam-boat plying between the cascades and La Chine, which takes in here its daily supply of wood.

The townships of Hemmingford, Hinchinbrooke, and Godmanchester, after having, for many years, been left to the despoiling occupation of unauthorized settlers, were placed under the superintendency of a vigilant and zealous agent *, under whom the settlements have grown into strength, prosperity, and consequence; whilst the judicious plan of government location proved the means of *effectively* providing for a numerous class of industrious emigrants and others, who are now reaping the fruit of the bounties of the crown. Hemmingford Mountain, otherwise called Covey's Hill, in the township of Hemmingford, has about the same perpendicular elevation as the Rouville Cone, and commands also an extensive horizon, in which are distinctly discovered the Montreal Mountain, the Pinnacle and Mansfield Mountains, and several other prominent features of the country. Its northern ascent, though somewhat abrupt, is rendered easy by the windings of the path, which is the only avenue traced to its summit.

Resuming the subject of the eastern townships, it will be found that, in the tract of country known by that name, 98 whole townships and parts of townships have been at different times laid out and subdivided by actual survey, and that about ten more remain to be admeasured and erected by letters patent, to complete the internal division of the tract. Very few, if any, of the townships thus surveyed, can be said to be wholly destitute of settlers, although by far the greater number present but unconnected and partial settlements thinly scattered over the country. The townships most settled are Ascot, Eaton, Compton, Hatley, Stanstead, Barnston, Barford, Potton, Sutton, Dunham, Stanbridge, Farnham, Brome, Bolton, Orford, Stukeley, and Shefford, which form the mass of townships on the frontier of the province, about Lake Memphremagog and the forks of the St. Francis. On Craig's Road the townships of Ireland, Leeds, and Inverness are the most populous and improved; and on the St. Francis, Shipton, Melbourne, Wickham, Grantham, and Upton.

The main and, indeed, the only roads leading from the heart of these townships to the older settlements, are Craig's Road, which, from its inter-

* Mr. Bowron.

section of the St. Francis at Shipton, is open to the settlements of St. Giles; the East and West River Roads of the St. Francis, leading from Sherbrooke to the Baie St. Antoine, on Lake St. Peter; and the road through Hatley, Stanstead, Potton, Sutton, St. Armand, Dunham, and Stanbridge to the settlements of the Richelieu River. By this latter road, are opened several avenues into the state of Vermont, with which a constant intercourse is kept up. Same parts of Craig's Road are almost impassable, owing to swamps and windfalls, and particularly so between the settlements of Leeds and those of Shipton. Of the roads along the St. Francis, that on the eastern bank is the best and most generally used in summer, the other is practised preferably in winter. The worst section of the summer road lies between the seigniory of Courval and the house of a farmer, by the name of Spicer, a distance of six miles. Of this distance, four miles are called the *Savanne*, which during the wet season is dangerous and frequently impracticable. The bogs in the southern quarter of Simpson are also very bad for about half a league, but they are not of a shaking nature, from the firmness of the substratum. The road through Potton and Sutton is very rugged, broken, and otherwise bad. The minor public roads connecting the settlements of the townships circumjacent to Ascot are numerous and, generally speaking, much better, as having the advantage of receiving more frequent repairs from the settlers, to be found in greater numbers on their borders, this quarter of the tract being more closely inhabited.

Labouring under the weighty disadvantage of the want of good and convenient roads communicating with the principal market-towns of the province, the prosperity of the eastern townships can only be attributed to the enterprise, industry, and perseverance of the inhabitants, who, considering merely the mildness of the climate, the advantages of the soil, and the locality, boldly entered the wilderness originally, and have now the gratification of seeing around them, corn-fields of unrivalled luxuriance, thriving farms, and flourishing villages. The town of Sherbrooke contains about 50 dwelling-houses; it occupies a high position on both banks of the River Magog, at the forks of the St. Francis, and its settlements are connected by a bridge; the old court-house and jail are on the Ascot side. As the seat of jurisdiction of the district of

St. Francis, it is a place of general resort; besides being, as it were, the emporium of the township trade, or rather (as the head of the present navigation of the St. Francis), the place of transit through which the chief part of the township produce is conveyed to the market-towns, or elsewhere. The chief articles of trade are grain, pot and pearl ashes, and likewise horses, horned cattle, sheep, and other live stock.

At some distance from Sherbrooke, remarkably well situated, is Belvedere, the residence of the Honourable W. B. Felton, the proprietor of large tracts of land in Ascot and other townships, and the original promoter of the settlements of that section of the province. The surrounding positions command a delightful circuit of scenery, in which nature and art alternately share the homage of our admiration. The bold ridge of Orford and Bolton Mountains, and the high conical hill in Potton, called Owl's Head, from its singular formation, are seen in the horizon to the west and south-west; and in more remote perspective is discovered the conspicuous cone of the Pinnacle Mountain, St. Armand. To the eastward the gay spires and flourishing settlements of Eaton, and to the north of these the woodless front of the Bald Mountain, and to the south and south-east the beautiful and picturesque settlements of Compton, beyond which the majestic highlands of the Connecticut bound the view.

Stanstead village is the next in the scale of consequence, although in point of neatness it takes precedence of Sherbrooke. The buildings are generally more regular and tasty, many of them two stories high, and several are built of brick. The style of building throughout the townships, is very different from that followed in the French settlements of the province, and borders considerably, if it is not absolutely similar, to the American style, in the adjoining state of Vermont. Indeed, when we come to contrast the system of agriculture, as well as the plan of building, pursued in the townships, with those adopted in the seigniories by Canadian farmers, we find a striking dissimilarity, and can easily trace the analogy of appearance that prevails between the township settlements and those of the American frontier. That the American agricultural system has the advantage of the Canadian, is, we believe, generally admitted, and to this the superior produce of the township lands seems to bear abundant testimony. The domestic cleanliness usually to be met with in the houses of the inhabitants is such as

to characterise them for that virtue; whilst domestic manufactures of every description, introduced in the country, such as homespun cloths and linens, diaper, &c., are evidence of their industry: some of the cloths and linens are of a tissue and texture, not much inferior to the common description of imported British cloths and Irish linens.

In the other townships, whose names have been previously mentioned, a number of pretty villages and hamlets are dispersed, that enliven the aspect of the country, and form, as it were, so many points whence the collective energy of the inhabitants, fostered by the aid of society, extends its influence to the surrounding country, and encourages a degree of industry that, ere many years, will convert dense forests into fertile fields.

The route to St. Armand lies across the townships Potton and Sutton, and part of the county of Richmond, in the state of Vermont. This tedious route being passed, the village of Frelighsburg is seen delightfully situated at the base of the St. Armand's Mountain, in a fair and picturesque valley, the Pinnacle rising boldly behind it to the eastward. It consists of a church and 50 dwelling-houses, about a quarter of which number is built of brick, two stories high. The village and the mountain embellish each other reciprocally; the prospect from the Pinnacle borrowing much interest from the gay settlements below it, whilst the village itself is beautifully set off by the lofty hill, that forms a magnificent back-ground to the landscape. From the summit of Pinnacle Mountain one peculiarity, in the splendid and comprehensive view it presents, is remarkable in the prospect southward, where the Vermont hills and settlements are traced to their union with the mountains and settlements of Lower Canada, with which they are blended, as it were, under the eye of the observer, being merely divided by an imaginary line of latitude that defines the dominion of the respective powers.

The several roads to Phillipsburgh, on Missisqui Bay, in St. Armand, are tolerably good, and exhibit a pleasing variety of landscape as they wind round the base of hills, and pass over gentle acclivities. The settlements are in a flourishing condition, and the country agreeably diversified by frequent hillocks and rich swells of land. The village is neat and pleasantly situated upon the eastern shores of the bay, on the public communication between Lower Canada and the United States.

On Stone by C. Hagha

Sketched by Col.o Bouchette.

KILBORN'S MILLS, STANSTEAD, L.r CANADA & THE UNITED STATES SETTLEMENTS, Vern.t

South of the Province Line. Lat 45 N.

W. Day, Lith.r to the King, 17, Gate St.t Lincolns Inn Fields

Turning from this section of the eastern townships to the more northerly parts, the settlements of Ireland, Leeds, and Inverness will be considered with some interest, from the rapid progress they have made within the last few years. Those of Drummondville, on the St. Francis, will probably be found to elicit still more our surprise, from their present state of advancement. The lands composing them were granted to officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of disbanded corps of royal veterans, who commenced their settlements, under the direction and superintendence of Lieutenant-Colonel Herriott, C. B., an officer no less distinguished for his services during the late American war, than for his zeal in forwarding the interests and prosperity of this veteran colony. The small village of Drummondville is situated in the township of Grantham, on the banks of the river St. Francis.

In dismissing the consideration of this part of the country, we would remark the broad and conspicuous distinction existing between two classes of the people of the same province, in a small comparative extent of territory, as betwixt the inhabitants of the seigneurial settlements and those of the townships, differing as they do in their language, their religion, their habits, their systems of agriculture, the tenure of their lands, and partially in their laws. The prevalent language in the townships is English, the tenure of the lands, free and common soccage, and the laws by which lands descend by inheritance, are English. The French idiom is universal in the seigniories, the tenure of the lands, feudal, and the law of descent by which property is governed, is prescribed by the custom of Paris.

SOUTH SIDE *of the* ST. LAWRENCE.—§ II. *Country east of the* RIVER CHAUDIERE *to the west bounds of the* DISTRICT OF GASPE.

This section of Lower Canada is bounded to the north-west by the St. Lawrence, which forms an extensive front of 257 miles, and to the south-east by the highlands dividing the British from the American territories in that quarter. These highlands are situated, at their nearest point, 62 miles, perpendicular distance from the St. Lawrence; but, in approaching the river Chaudière, they diverge southerly, to the sources of the Connecticut. The superficial extent of this tract of country is

about 18,802 square statute miles, and its population about 65,430 souls, chiefly occupying the borders of the St. Lawrence to the lateral depth of 9 miles, and the banks of the river Chaudière.

Of the above-mentioned superficies, however, a considerable section lies in a sort of temporary abeyance, arising from the claim set up by the government of the United States of America, to the dominion of a tract exceeding 6,000,000 of acres. The merits of this claim were succinctly taken into consideration in the first chapter of the present volume; but the recent decision of the umpire to whom this important international question was referred, having since come to light, we feel called upon to take notice of it in this place, although it is understood that neither power interested in the reference, has acquiesced in the award.

The line of boundary prescribed by the King of Holland, as adjusting the claims of Great Britain and the United States in this part of the American continent, appears to be, as far as we are informed, a continuation of the meridional line from Mars Hill (up to which point both nations are agreed) until it strikes the river St. John; thence up the middle of that river to the mouth of the St. Francis, a river falling into the St. John from the northward; thence up the St. Francis, about 18 miles; thence on a line due north or west to the table-land along which the Americans claim the boundary; and finally along that table-country to the highlands of the Connecticut. By this irregular line of boundary a tract of territory of about 1,530,000 acres is cut off from Lower Canada, and the river St. John exhibits the strange and inconvenient characters, of belonging in part to one power exclusively, and in part to another exclusively, whilst another section of the same stream is under the common dominion of both powers. The boundary is also liable to the momentous objection of approaching too near the banks of the St. Lawrence, and even the capital of British North America; and the separation, that the American claim evidently tended to effect, between the Canadas and the seaboard provinces, is not only as substantially produced by the awarded boundary, but the "wedge," besides being driven in between New Brunswick and Lower Canada, is calculated also to sever the eastern section of the latter province from the western, and thus become equally dangerous, as affecting the integrity and safety of the colonies.

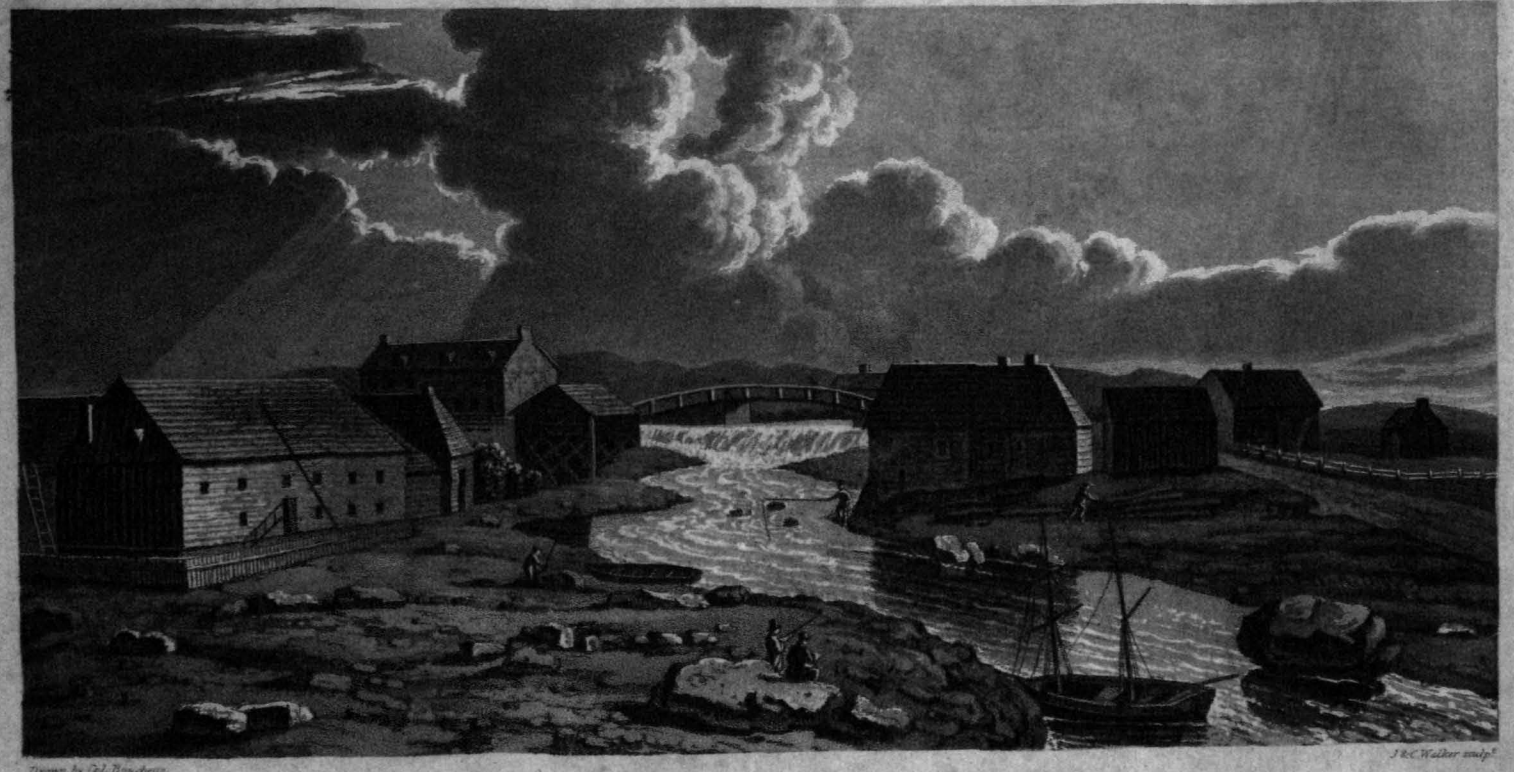
The award of the umpire—dictated, no doubt, by a sincere desire of doing impartial justice to the high parties concerned—is in fact *a compromise;* and we apprehend that the question of reference did not contemplate a decision upon that principle, but was confined to the mere declaration of *what was the boundary intended and meant by the treaty of* 1783. It was in the spirit of that treaty alone that the rule of decision was to be sought for, and not in abstract theories of equity; although the matter, if decided even upon the latter principles, properly understood, must have led to a different determination, from the obvious advantage the award pronounced would, if acceded to, give to the American over the British interests. It were idle to enter here into a repetition of arguments that have been so often urged and exhausted; but the justice of the British claim, and its paramount importance as connected with the preservation of the British North American colonies, cannot be too often or too emphatically enforced; and we vainly endeavour to view the possible surrender of the tract in question, to a foreign state, in any other light than that of the first step towards the loss of those fine provinces.

Putting aside the assumptions of the American government, and viewing that tract of country as it now actually stands, forming part of the province of Lower Canada, we shall consider the Mars Hill highlands as constituting its bounds to the southward, and describe its geography accordingly.

The face of the country, though abounding with extensive valleys and flats, is decidedly hilly; but it is neither so boldn or so mountainous as the country on the opposite banks of the St. Lawrence. The land generally rises in irregular ridges from the borders of the river, towards the rear, and attains, in general, a considerable elevation at the distance of 10, 15, and 20 miles from the front, forming at its height the verge of a broad and extended tract of table-land of gentle descent towards the River St. John, beyond which it reascends again, and acquires a superior degree of altitude, towards the sources of the Allegash, merging in the range of highlands that are a continuation of the Connecticut range, stretching eastwardly, and winding round the sources of the rivers falling into the Atlantic, and those flowing into the St. Lawrence, and the St. John, in the opposite direction.

This vast tract of territory is very well watered by numerous rivers and lakes, and their tributary waters, that flow through the soil in multifarious ramifications. Of the rivers, the largest are the St. John and its principal branches, the Madawaska, Etchemin, Du Sud, Le Bras (a branch of the Du Sud), Ste. Anne, Ouelle, Du Loup, the Green River, Trois Pistolles, Rimouski, and the Great Mitis and Matane rivers. The chief lakes are those of Metapediac, Mitis, Temiscouata, Long Lake, and the Eagle Lakes; but others of inferior magnitude are frequent, and these in general, as well as the larger lakes, abound with a variety of excellent fish.

From the high grounds of Lauzon, opposite Cape Diamond, a general and gradual declivity eastward is perceptible along the St. Lawrence as far as the River du Sud, beyond which the immediate banks of the river are moderately elevated for a considerable distance down. The River du Sud takes its source in the hills to the S.W., and winding in a general north-easterly course for about 30 miles, through a level, rich, and fruitful plain, discharges itself into the St. Lawrence 35 miles below Quebec. The richness of the harvests in the luxuriant valley it traverses had long acquired to it a reputation as the granary of Lower Canada, but it is now supposed to yield in fertility to the lands on the Richelieu river. Its scenery is soft and beautiful in the extreme. The village of St. Thomas stands on the N.W. shore of the River du Sud, near its junction with the St. Lawrence. Viewed from Chapel Hill, which lies about 3 miles to the S.W., it appears to great advantage, a conspicuous object in one of the most enchanting prospects to be seen in the province. From the insulated altitude of the rock, the spectator commands a beautiful panoramic view of the surrounding champaign country, which is in a high state of cultivation, and chequered with frequent farmhouses and extensive barns, whose dazzling whiteness is agreeably contrasted with the rich verdure or maturer hue of the field, and the luxuriant foliage of the elm. To the N. and N.E. the broad stream of the St. Lawrence is displayed in all its grandeur, the eye being able from this one point to survey its expanded surface above and below for a total distance of nearly 40 miles. The villages above St. Thomas, and particularly St. Michel and St. Vallier, are remarkably picturesque,



Drawn by Col. Bouchette

J. & C. Walker sculp.

Harrowers Distillery & Mill on the River Trois Saumons.

and their locality peculiarly advantageous, as they are seated on the banks of the St. Lawrence, upon some agreeable eminence, and on the borders of an excellent road.

At Ste. Anne's, 24 leagues below Quebec, are first to be met with those insulated cliffs which characterize the scenery about Kamouraska. They are composed of granite, and generally rise in abrupt slopes, presenting rugged faces, thinly clad with dwarf trees. The highest of these hills is Montagne Ste. Anne, which from its towering elevation, not much unlike that of Rouville Mountain, peers above the fine country at its base. The access to its summit is precipitous and craggy, but the toils of the explorer are amply rewarded by the varied beauty of the prospect. Like Chapel Hill, near St. Thomas, it rises amidst fertile fields; but the features of the circumjacent country exhibit rather more of the varieties of hill and dale, swelling into gentle slopes, or occasionally springing up into conical hills of the same description as the Ste. Anne's Mountain, though much inferior in altitude. To the eastward the spectator views the beautiful village and settlements of River Ouelle, towards the west those of St. Roch des Annais: to the southward runs a bold but not very high ridge, skirting the most luxuriant fields; whilst to the northward the St. Lawrence, ever a conspicuous object in Canadian scenery, is seen proudly rolling its broad stream to the ocean, along the base of the stupendous range of mountains on the opposite shore.

At the eastern base of the mountain, very agreeably situated upon an eminence, are the small village of Ste. Anne's, the parish church, the parsonage-house, and a large stone college, 3 stories high, occupying an elevated, romantic, and very salubrious spot. To the zeal of the Rev. Messire Painchaud, the curate of the parish, in promoting the benefits of education, is entirely due the foundation of this interesting institution; and the liberal principles by which it is to be governed are in accordance with the enlightened spirit of the age, and such as to extend its advantages to the youth of all denominations *.

The populousness of the seigniories upon the southern bank of the

* Vide *Topographical Dictionary*, "Ste. Anne."

St. Lawrence, below Point Levi, had for some years pointed out the necessity of such a college; but some want of unanimity relative to the spot most eligible for its construction,—whether it should be Kamouraska, River Ouelle, or Ste. Anne,—and a deficiency of funds, retarded the execution of the project, until the vigorous measures pursued by Messire Painchaud led to the judicious selection of the beautiful site the college now occupies, and to its immediate construction subsequently.

The parishes on the borders of the St. Lawrence, below Ste. Anne's, are River Ouelle, Kamouraska, St. Andrew's, River du Loup, Cacona, Isle Verte, Rimouski, and Matane. Mitis, which intervenes between Rimouski and Matane, constitutes no parish of itself, but is attached to the one or the other of these. The parishes above Bic, or from Cacona inclusive, are very populous, the farms in a good state of cultivation, the soil generally excellent in its varieties, and the inhabitants in every respect easy and comfortable. One principal road, running along the river's bank, connects the whole line of flourishing settlements; whilst others, called *routes*, lead to the interior concessions and parishes, and are intersected by other front roads running parallel to the main road on the St. Lawrence's border. The roads are in general kept in good repair, and the bridges thrown over the rivers and streams are neat and substantial. At River Ouelle and River du Loup, tolls are exacted for the passage of the bridges, which are moderate enough at the latter place, but considered too high at the former.

River Ouelle and Kamouraska are the most populous villages below Ste. Anne's; and of these two Kamouraska enjoys a superiority in point of magnitude as well as situation. Both villages contain several very neat dwelling-houses, the residences of the principal inhabitants of the respective places; a few shops, and two or three good taverns. At River Ouelle is established at the mouth of the river a very productive porpoise fishery, held by several individuals in shares. Kamouraska, 90 miles distant from Quebec, is celebrated in the province for the remarkable salubrity of its atmosphere, which enjoys all the invigorating properties of sea air, arising from the breadth of the St. Lawrence, which is here upwards of 6 leagues, and the perfect sea salt of the waters. Kamouraska is now the chief watering-place in Lower Canada; and, as such, is the resort

of numerous visiters, of the first rank and respectability, during the summer months. The seignior of this highly valuable estate, Pashal Tasché, Esq., occupies the manor-house, which is very pleasantly situated at a short distance east of the village, near the borders of the St. Lawrence, at the foot of a well wooded ridge that shelters it from N.E. winds, and enhances the beauties of the situation.

The seigniory is wholly settled, and indeed the redundant population occupies part of the waste lands in its depth. The front, which is generally low, abounds in those rich natural meadows to be met with in some of the parishes above, affording abundant wholesome pasturage, and enabling the farmer to produce large quantities of butter, much esteemed for its excellence in the Quebec market. The islands in front, besides embellishing the landscape, are used as the sites of extensive fisheries, the chief of which is that of the herring. Between these islands and the main shore, schooners find a safe strand at low water.

East of Kamouraska, the country continues for some distance singularly diversified, by abrupt and insulated hills, whose craggy and almost barren faces are usually contrasted with well cultivated fields. The church of St. Andrew's is first seen from the westward to emerge very prettily from behind two of these cliffs. Two leagues below St. Andrew's, Temiscouata portage strikes the main road; and about a quarter of a mile west of it stands an inn, kept by Madame Perron The land rises here very near the river in a steep ascent to an elevation of from 150 to 200 feet, the road running by the houses at the foot of the bank, although the fields and enclosures are upon the hill, the access to the summit of which is difficult, and subjects the farmers to some inconvenience when driving their cattle to the grazing-grounds.

The portage of Temiscouata is 12 leagues long, and traverses the country from the shores of the St. Lawrence to Lake Temiscouata. Through this communication lies the mail route to Frederickton, St. John's, and Halifax; and hence may be formed an opinion of its importance, and of the consequent expediency of improving it, to render the intercourse more easy and expeditious between the eastern and the western parts of the British colonies. It was first opened in 1783, but has since undergone, from time to time, considerable repairs; and more

recently a sum of 500*l.* was expended in its amelioration, under the direction of commissioners and the immediate superintendence of Mr. Wofle, adjutant h. p. of the 60th regiment. The road penetrates a wilderness, and is irregular and winding in its course, in order to avoid, as often as practicable, the hills that present themselves on the direct route. There is a good bridge across River du Loup, and small bridges over the minor streams, so that waggons may now pass through without interruption.

About 6 miles from the entrance of the portage, and half a mile above the mouth of the River du Loup, is the saw-mill and extensive timber establishment of Henry Caldwell, Esq., where that branch of Canadian trade is carried on upon a large scale. The mill is connected with the estuary of the river by a *dalle* or aqueduct, through which deals are transported from the mill to the basin, where schooners are laden with them. Several square-rigged vessels have also taken in cargoes of timber here; but the operation of loading can only be performed by means of scows or flat boats, the shallowness of the water rendering it necessary that ships should lie out at a considerable distance, where they are much exposed to the winds, although the anchoring-ground is sufficiently good.

The parishes of Cacona, Isle Verte, and Trois Pistolles present themselves next in order after River du Loup. Their settlements do not extend far beyond the river or front range, which exhibits neat farm-houses, large barns, and extensive enclosures that bear evidence of a good soil and industrious cultivation. After traversing these seigniories, we come to that part of the road called the Rimouski or Nine-league Portage. It is but partially settled, and the rugged aspect of the rocky ridges to the north and south of it render it a gloomy section of the road. These ridges form a valley whose breadth at its western entrance is nearly 2 miles; but tapering towards its eastern extremity, its width is contracted to not more than 800 yards. It is 27 miles long, and comes out over the bold and broken mountains of Bic, where it becomes excessively hilly, presents a series of abrupt cliffs and craggy hills, from the aspect of which, the eye is much relieved by dwelling on the mellowed landscape that offers itself in the well-dispersed settlements of

Rimouski. After passing the steep and broken high grounds of Bic, the banks of the St. Lawrence become of a moderate varying elevation, excepting at Grand Mitis, where they rise abruptly about *Anse aux Snelles*. The public road is not open beyond *Anse au Coq*, a distance of 4 leagues below the church of Rimouski, and follows in its bearings the sinuosities of the river, having on its borders comfortable farm-houses and well-cultivated fields. It passes at Father Point, a spot of much beauty, remarkable as the place of residence of most of the pilots of the St. Lawrence, several of whom are in affluent circumstances. Below *Anse au Coq* no proper road exists; but the beach is frequented as such, and the communication kept up with Mitis and Matane by that medium. The locality admits of the opening of an excellent road at trifling expense; and there is no doubt that the making of such a road would be an important encouragement to the settlements of that section of the province.

The grand river Mitis discharges itself 24 miles below Rimouski into *Anse aux Snelles*, an expansive estuary, which is easily forded at low water. Mr. Larrivé's dwelling-house and establishment stand at the mouth of the river, across which *booms* are extended to retain the deals turned off from the saw-mill, situated about two miles and a half higher up, occupying a most advantageous site. At the foot of the falls that are used in working the mill, the river forms an almost circular basin, bounded by a perpendicular rock of about 200 feet, excepting to the eastward, where the ground is woody but of equal elevation. The mill itself is awfully situated on the deep inclination of the falls, and the uproar of its rapid machinery, the loudness and beauty of the cascade, combine with the peculiar wildness of the scenery, to render the spot extremely romantic. The proprietor of this mill is generally a large timber contractor; and vessels usually receive their cargoes at Mitis, where they may lie at anchor off *Anse aux Snelles*—somewhat exposed, however, to the force of the tides and stress of weather.

From Grand to Little Mitis, the distance is only 6 miles; but there is no regular road connecting both places, the communication being kept open merely over the beach, along which a proper road might easily be traced. The banks of the river are of a moderate elevation, rising in

slopes by no means too precipitous for tillage, and possessing a light but fertile soil. The chief settlements of the seigniory of Mitis are situated at Little Mitis Bay, upon a rocky point, having to the N.W. the St. Lawrence, and to the S.E. the deep bay which receives the waters of Little Mitis River. The lands in the vicinity of the bay consist of a light but good soil, whose properties are improved by the sea-weed which abounds along the shores, and is profitably used as manure. Extensive salmon and herring fisheries are set up in the bay S.E. of the point, which yield an abundance of both articles for the Quebec market, where they generally meet with ready sale. Halibut and cod are also taken off and in the bay, where seals are to be seen in great numbers at ebb tide, basking on rocks in all directions. From the depth and breadth of Mitis Bay, its position and soundings, it will probably be found to offer essential advantages as a roadstead for vessels bound up or down the river, whether to take in a pilot or to discharge one. The opening of Kempt Road from Grand Mitis to Lake Metapediac, and thence to Ristigouche, was an undertaking of great moment to that part of the province; and at the same time that it will add to the means of communicating with New Brunswick and Gaspé, it will give an additional impulse to the settlements in the lower section of the district of Quebec.

The parish of Matane lies about 30 miles below Mitis, from which it is separated by a total wilderness. The intercourse between both places is kept by water only, or sometimes, but with considerable difficulty, by the beach. The banks of the river are almost uniformly low, and the surface of the country so level, as to offer combined facilities in making a road to connect the settlements. The timber, consisting chiefly of evergreen woods, is generally diminutive upon the skirts of the forest; but, receding from the river, the trees increase in magnitude, and the rising grounds are clothed with a more sturdy growth of hard woods. The tract of country lying between Mitis and Matane possesses all the advantages necessary to render it fit for the reception of a large colony of emigrants, and from its situation is peculiarly adapted to that purpose. The soil is sandy towards the front, but it becomes richer in the interior, if the quality of the timber be a faithful indication of the character of the land. The rivers Blanche and Turtigoo and other inferior streams flow

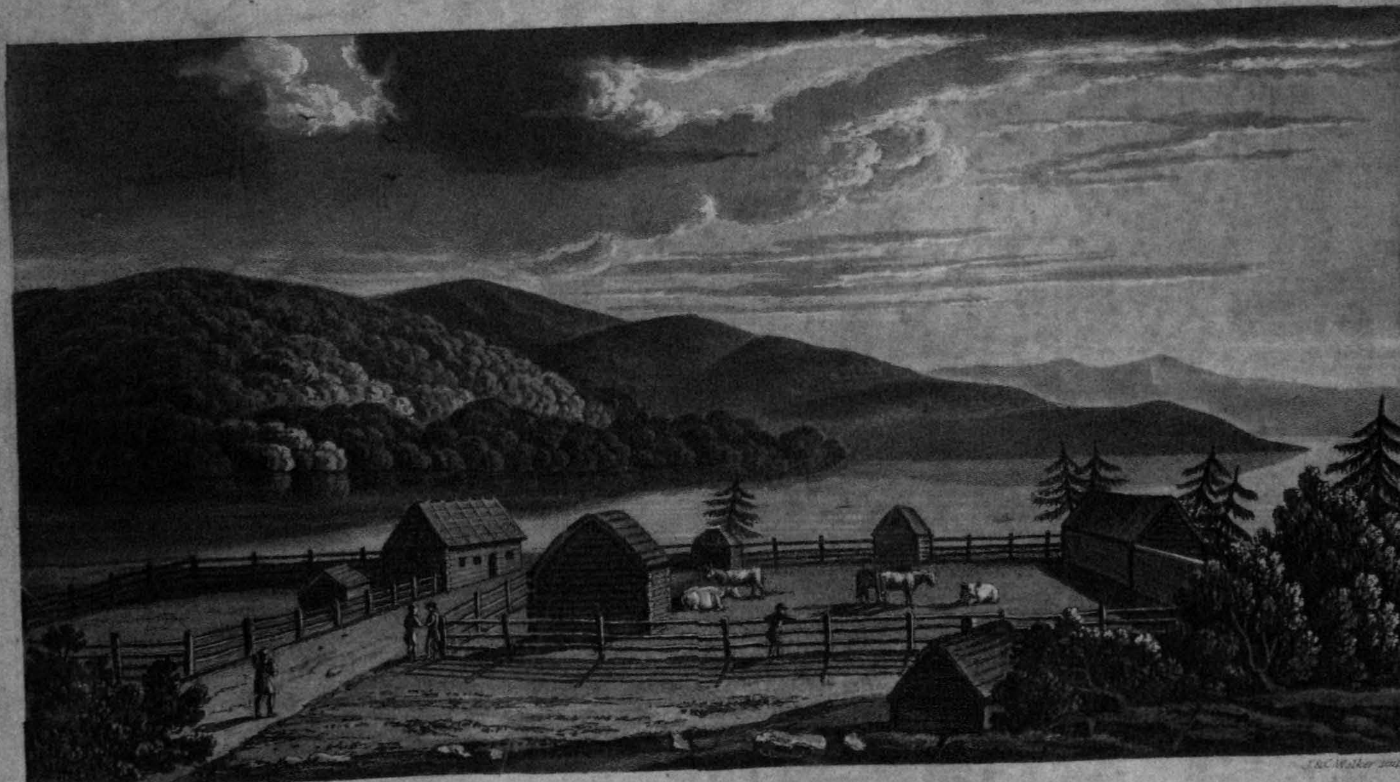
through it, and discharge themselves in the St. Lawrence. At the mouth of the river Blanche an excellent mill-site presents itself, and several others are to be met with on the rivers and rivulets by which this tract is so amply watered.

The chief settlements of Matane occupy both banks of Matane River, and extend about one mile above its mouth. They may be said to cover a superficies not exceeding 600 acres of cultivated land, and to contain a population of about 300 souls. A wooden church stands a few perches to the east of Mrs. M'Gibbon's manor-house, and at some distance below it is built the seigneurial mill, on a small creek. The settlements of Matane are but partially seen from the river, as they are situated rather inland, and in some measure concealed by a singularly bluff point or mound that rises abrupt and isolated to the westward of the river's entrance. A sand-bar across the mouth of the river obstructs its navigation at low water, but schooners ascend as far as the manor at high tide, a distance of eight or ten rods: further up are the rapids, which offer a propitious situation for mills, and also contribute to adorn the scenery, which is picturesque and interesting. These rapids are stated by Indians to be the only impediments to the navigation of the river, the course of which is uninterrupted beyond them. The soil of Matane is composed of a thin light bed of sand upon a rich substratum of marl, which produces excellent crops. There being no regular road along the front of the seigniory, the beach, a beautiful firm sand, is used as the highway at low water, the accumulation of drifted timber above high-water mark, rendering the communication by land impracticable at any other time. A few wretched habitations are scattered along the beach as far as the eastern extremity of the seigniory, below which are the settlements of Cape Chat and St. Anne's, at the respective distances of 27 and 36 miles from Matane.

Of the country in the rear of the settlements on the southern shore of the St. Lawrence, below Quebec, much has been said, as offering an extensive field for colonization. The River St. John, flowing from its source to its confluence with the Madawaska, in a course nearly parallel to the St. Lawrence, traverses the tract longitudinally, a distance of about 182 miles, presenting an almost uninterrupted boat navigation the whole

of this distance, and thus forming a grand base for the erection of a double range of townships, for the reception of the redundant population of the old French grants, and the extensive emigration that takes place annually from the mother country to these provinces. The proximity and relative situation of these lands, with the flourishing settlements of the St. Lawrence, would greatly tend to accelerate the advancement of their settlement, inasmuch as roads of communication might very easily be opened at various points between Quebec and River du Loup, it being well ascertained that a favourable locality presents itself for this purpose from L'Islet, Ste. Anne's, and other places, whence a good road might be constructed across the country to connect the St. Lawrence and the St. John's, besides the route in actual existence, by Temiscouata.

The settlements of the fiefs Madawaska and Temiscouata at the south-eastern extremity of the portage have made much progress since 1823, when Alexander Fraser, Esquire, the chief proprietor of these fiefs, first established his place of residence at the village of Kent and Strathern, on the borders of Lake Temiscouata. The lake is about 23 miles in length, varying in breadth from half a mile to two and a half miles, with a considerable depth of water. Its landscapes are remarkably romantic, bounded as it is to the eastward by a bold shore, rising to the elevation of mountains, the highest of which are Mounts Lenox and Aubigny. On the slope and at the base of the former, large quantities of excellent lime-stone are found, that supply the settlements of Madawaska, below the lake, with that useful material, which is also to be found in abundance, though inferior in quality, on the western shore, in the vicinity of the settlements. There is no doubt that the condition of the Temiscouata portage, and of the post-route to Frederickton and St. John's, must in a great measure depend on the progressive advancement of the settlements at the lake, by which the thoroughfare would be increased, the communication familiarized, and the roads kept in better repair. On a stream near the village, Colonel Fraser has erected corn and saw mills that are of great moment to the inhabitants. The lake and the rivers abound with a variety of excellent fish, the largest and most abundant species being called the Toledo, taken in the river to which it has given its name, and also in various parts of the lake. The settlement at the junction of the



Drawn by Lt. Bouchette. J. & C. Walker sculp.

Long's Farm on Lake Temiscouata at the extremity of the Portage

Madawaska and the St. John's is largely supplied with it from Temiscouata, whither the inhabitants come up to kill it with the line and hook.

Besides the settlements that are scattered along the portage and other parts of the New Brunswick communication, and those to be found in some of the townships, the tract of country in the rear of the French grants below the River Chaudière is an absolute wilderness. Only a small portion of it has, comparatively speaking, been admeasured and subdivided into townships; and of such townships as have been laid out in whole or in part, namely, Cranbourne, Frampton, Buckland, Ashford, and Ixworth, the most forward in improvements and population is Frampton, whose settlements are rapidly increasing, and are now in a very flourishing state: the others have generally a few scattered settlements in the front ranges skirting the older grants.

SOUTH SIDE OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

§ III.—District of Gaspé.

The district of Gaspé is the only section of Lower Canada of which a general description remains to be given. The peninsulated tract of country so called lies between the parallels of 47° 18′ and 49° 12′ north latitude, and between 64° 12′ and 67° 53′ west longitude. It is bounded by the River St. Lawrence to the north, by the Gulf to the east, south by the Bay of Chaleurs, and by the district line dividing it from Quebec to the westward. It therefore enjoys the advantage of an extensive coast, which, including the shores of the numerous bays that indent it, may be about 350 miles, extending from Cape Chat round to the head of Ristigouche Bay. Its greatest width, from north to south, is about 90 miles.

The imperfect knowledge of the natural divisions of this district existing some years antecedently to the present period had led to the belief that it was traversed centrally by a ridge of mountains terminating at Cape Rosier; but it would appear, upon further and more accurate observation, that the central parts of the peninsula exhibit the aspect of

an elevated valley, having to the north a range of hills skirting the St. Lawrence, and another to the south, at no very remote distance from the shores of the Ristigouche River and the Bay of Chaleurs. In this valley is found a series of lakes, from whence most of the rivers flowing northward into the St. Lawrence, and southward into the Bay of Chaleurs, take their sources.

The face of the country is, generally speaking, uneven; in some parts it is decidedly mountainous, and the valleys, which are often irregular and broken, are occasionally intersected by deep ravines; but the mass of the lands is nevertheless perfectly adapted to agriculture. With the exception of some of the higher hills, that are thinly clad with a diminutive growth of timber, the country is very well wooded, the forests chiefly consisting of maple, beech, birch, pine, larch, white cedar, spruce, and hemlock; but there is a scarcity of oak, and what there is of it is inferior in size and quality.

From Port Daniel to Maria, a distance exceeding fifty miles, along the Bay of Chaleurs, the land, to the depth of about ten miles from the shores, is composed of a friable red clay soil, covered with a thick coating of vegetable mould, easy of cultivation, and producing the finest crops. This description of soil appears, as far as observation goes, to predominate in the district; excepting on the River Ristigouche, where the lands are marked by a superior degree of richness. There are on the Ristigouche many valuable spots of excellent meadow and interval land, and several good tracts on the shores of the Gulf, at Pabos, Grand and Little River, L'Anse au Beaufils, Mal Bay, Douglas Town, and Gaspé Bay.

The soil in many parts of the district is considered particularly suitable to the culture of hemp, but the infant state of agriculture, the want of mills and machinery for preparing the plant after it has been reaped, and the inability of the grower to bring forward a sufficient quantity to form an object of speculation and of export, have hitherto prevented the trial being fairly made. Flax is successfully cultivated, and raised in a proportion adequate to the wants of the inhabitants in their domestic manufactures.

The district of Gaspé is divided into two counties, Gaspé and Bonaventure, and nominally subdivided into ten townships and seven sei-

gniories and fiefs; but the townships have not yet been accurately defined, and serve merely to describe situation. There are also two other classes of descriptive names; the one derived from the rivers or bays on which different settlements have been formed, the other from distinctive appellations attached to particular places by the Roman Catholic clergy. No part of the district has yet been regularly erected into parishes.

The chief rivers by which the district is watered are the Ristigouche, that partly bounds it on the south, the Pscudy, Goummitz, Guadamgonichoue, Mistoue, and Matapediac, which fall into the Ristigouche; the Grand and Little Nouvelle, Grand and Little Cascapediac, Caplin, Bonaventure, East Novel, and Port Daniel, that discharge themselves into the Bay of Chaleurs; Grand and Little Pabos, Grand and Little River, and Mal Bay River, flowing into the Gulf of St. Lawrence; the River St. John, and N.E. and S.W. branches, that fall into Gaspé Bay.

There are numerous lakes in the interior; but that part of the country being only very superficially explored, their exact position is not known. It is ascertained, however, that they, as well as the rivers, abound with a variety of fish, and that salmon, at one period very abundant in the rivers, has since several years become almost extinct.

The roads in the district of Gaspé are few and very bad, and indeed the various settlements would be wholly without the means of intercommunication but for *bridle* roads—that is, such as may be travelled on horseback—or the beach, which is in many places used as the highway. From River Novel to Port Daniel, where the country is most thickly settled, a tolerably good road of that description is opened, that may be travelled part of the way by wheel-carriages. Beyond Port Daniel the road has been traced and opened to Percé, and, although traversing a thinly settled country, is, together with other roads of the district, about being materially improved out of the funds appropriated for that object by the legislature of the province. The road acts* have hitherto been so much disregarded as to create a just degree of dissatisfaction; and the restriction, on the other hand, of the duties of the Grand Voyer to certain sections of the district, to the exclusion of others, such as Gaspé Bay, is

* 36 Geo. III. chap. 9; 48 Geo. III. chap. 25.

a considerable drawback upon the improvement of its internal communications.

The deserted state of the country from Cape Chat round to Gaspé Bay has exposed the victims of shipwreck, so frequent along that inhospitable coast, to the greatest sufferings and distress; and the Gaspé commissioners in 1820 wisely suggested in their report, the expediency of opening roads and establishing post-houses at public expense along that shore of the river and gulf of St. Lawrence, by which the unfortunate might find some relief. The sum of 5000*l.*, including 1000*l.* already appropriated for the purpose by the legislature, was considered by them sufficient to accomplish so humane an object, on granting the lands on the road to actual settlers as soon as it would be opened.

"The roads which would be of the most immediate use are as follow; that is to say, from Gaspé Bay across the peninsula to Griffin's Cove, on the St. Lawrence, about ten miles; from Lake Matapediac to Grand Mitis, on the St. Lawrence, twenty-four miles*; from the source of the Ristigouche to the River St. John, about thirteen miles; a road from the Basin of Gaspé to Percé, over ungranted lands, about twenty-four miles; from Percé to New Carlisle, over the intervening ungranted lands, about twenty-four miles; from New Carlisle to Carleton, about nine miles, over ungranted lands; from Carleton to Ristigouche, twelve miles, over ungranted lands; from Mitis to Cape Chat, sixty-six miles; from Cape Chat to Fox river, one hundred and five miles; and from thence to Griffin's Cove, about six miles. It is to be observed, that, from Cape Chat downwards, there are several places where it would be necessary that the road should pass behind the mountains, and in some places there may be interruptions from ravines and gullies. These roads it would, at first, only be necessary to open in a rough manner; that is to say, about 22 feet wide, 12 feet of which to be clear of impediments (which might cost about 10*l.* per mile, as paid by the commissioners of internal communications in the district of Quebec for work of a similar description), leaving them to be hereafter improved by

* This road has since been properly opened under the authority of an act passed by the provincial legislature, and is now one of the most important communications in that quarter. It is called the Kempt Road.

the grantees occupying the adjacent land, as provided by the act 36th Geo. III. chap. 9. Those roads upon which it might be expedient to establish post-houses at an early period might be done with more particular care. A line of posts from that district to Quebec must, for the above as well as other manifest reasons, be of essential advantage to travellers, as well from Gaspé and Chaleurs Bay, as to those arriving from parts beyond the sea, who, on making the coast, might find it preferable to proceed by land to Quebec. From Grand Mitis to Quebec the road is already opened; and for that part of it which is near Mitis, the country is indebted to the public spirit of John Macnider, Esquire, of Quebec, who, at his own private expense, has cut several practicable parts of the road over points of land between Rimouski and Mitis, by which means the communication with the latter place is not only opened, but materially shortened. This road is connected with that opened from Rimouski to Trois Pistoles, in virtue of an act for improving the internal communications *."

There are three seigniories, Magnache, Pabos, and Grand River, the first and last of which are partially settled, the second not at all. The residue of the lands in the district is held in free and common soccage. The front ranges of the soccage lands are in several places settled, or in progress of amelioration, along the whole of the Bay of Chaleurs, a considerable distance westward up the river Ristigouche, and eastward as far as Gaspé: a few settlers have commenced improvements in the second ranges on the Bay of Chaleurs.

The population of the district, by the census of 1825, was given at about 5000 souls; and it may at present be computed, from correct data of increase, at 7,677. This population is chiefly situated between Point Mackarel and Ristigouche, and on the borders of Gaspé Bay. There are besides about 409 Indians of the Micmac tribe domiciliated at Ristigouche and Cascapediac, who are not included in the above statement.

The principal and indeed the only villages are those of Carlisle

* Commissioners' Report, 1820. The Honourable Mr. Justice Taschereau and Colonel Jacheraau Duchesnay were the commissioners in question, under the 59th Geo. III. chap. 3. The secretary to the commission was Robert Christie, Esquire, and the land-surveyor Joseph Bouchette, junior, Esquire, D. S. G.

and Percé, at each of which there is a jail and a court-house, where the provincial courts and courts of general sessions of the peace are held. The courts are also held at Carleton and at Douglas Town.

The inhabitants of this district, during the earlier period of its settlements, chiefly derived their subsistence by fishing and hunting; but these resources having in some measure failed, they have more generally turned their attention to agriculture, and have succeeded so well, that they now stand in little need of those supplies they were accustomed to import. Their lands yield good harvests of wheat, barley, pease, oats, and potatoes; excellent green crops, such as turnips, carrots, &c.; and the meadows produce hay in great abundance. The usual time for sowing is May, and the reaping-season September. The Canadian breed of cattle is that most generally raised by the farmers, but its condition had for a long time been neglected, in the pursuit of other objects foreign to rural economy, and the various species had degenerated. Some enterprising individuals have, however, imported superior kinds from the United States, New Brunswick, and even from Europe, and a stimulus has thus been given that has since produced a very perceptible improvement in the department of stock-farming.

"The district abounds with lime, particularly Gaspé Bay, the north shore of which is from its entrance, including Cape Gaspé upwards, a series of capes and precipices of the best limestone. In the Bay of Chaleurs it is not so abundant, the coast in that part of the district exhibiting a chain of low capes of a red sandy stone, similar to that description of stone called pudding, which by the action of the sea and weather falls and crumbles into fine gravel and sand. At and near Percé, in certain spots, the capes appear to be partly of variegated marble, and are composed of marine petrifactions. In New Carlisle, at the distance of three or four miles from the sea-side, at a small lake, is a bed of shell marl, said to be of a superior kind *."

Indubitable indications of coal-mines have been traced in the vicinity of Gaspé Bay, on the shores of which, and at Paspebiac in the Bay of Chaleurs, are found a variety of valuable pebbles, such as cornelian,

* *Evidence of Robert Christie, Esq. before the committee on the crown lands, Lower Canada.*

agate, and jasper, susceptible of the highest polish, and rivalling in beauty the precious stones of the same description from India.

The climate of Gaspé, although the situation of the district is upwards of one degree north of Quebec, is not much, if at all, more rigorous than that of the other parts of Lower Canada bordering the St. Lawrence. The thermometer ranges from $\frac{0}{2}^{0}$ in winter, to 80 in summer, in the shade, the severity of the cold being generally tempered by the waters of the expansive bay, and the heat of summer moderated by a regular sea breeze in the morning and land wind at night. The skies of the bay of Chaleurs are serene, and its atmosphere is pure and clear, the fogs, so prevalent on the coasts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, being almost unknown in the bay, past the entrance of which they are seen rolling in dense volumes, but they very rarely impair the brightness of the heavens.

The staples of the trade of the district are fish, oil, timber and furs; and of these the two former are by far the most abundant articles of export. Of the fisheries the cod is the most extensive. It commences in May, and terminates in October, and is chiefly carried on in open barges of 18 feet keel, manned by two fishermen, who daily put out about 3 or 4 miles from shore to cast their lines. The cod fishery likewise employs small craft that venture out to greater distances than the barges, and fish for several days together on the neighbouring banks. There are about 15 vessels of this description belonging to the district managed by a complement of from 6 to 10 men each, thus employed for about 2 months in the summer season. Of the first-mentioned class of fishing boats or barges, there were in 1820, 680; but this number is now much augmented. The cod fisheries of Gaspé employ about 1800 * persons of both sexes, of whom about 500 are men who go thither for the season, from the parishes in the neighbourhood and below Quebec. The whole product of the cod fishery may be estimated at about 50,000 quintals of dried, and 10,000 quintals of green fish, with about 20,000 gallons of cod oil, which are exported to Quebec. The herring and salmon fisheries are the next in degree of importance, or at least produce. About 4,000† barrels of the former, smoked as well as pickled, are annually shipped to

* Commissioners' Report, 1820. † Idem.

Quebec, and about 2,000 * of the latter, which is a considerable diminution upon the produce of former years, attributable to the deficiency of proper regulations, restricting the time of fishing to certain seasons, and otherwise regulating the mode of taking the salmon. This fishery is carried on by persons practically unconnected with the cod fishery, and its supplies are exported to Quebec, Halifax, and the West Indies.

The whale fishery gives employment to 5 or 6 large schooners, manned by from 8 to 10 men each, who are extensively engaged in this branch of the fisheries during the summer months. The produce is from 18,000 to 20,000 gallons of oil, which are chiefly exported to Quebec; and the total number of persons occupied in the fishery, whether in taking the whales or preparing the oil, amounts to nearly 200. The whale fishery particularly merits the attention of the legislature. By encouraging bounties to secure the adventurer against the serious loss consequent upon an unsuccessful voyage, the number of vessels employed would soon be considerably increased, and this important branch of trade so effectually carried on by the hardy inhabitants of Gaspé district as to compete, in some degree at least, if not rival, that of our American neighbours, who are now almost in the exclusive enjoyment of it, and carry on their enterprising fisheries at the very mouths of our bays and harbours.

Upwards of sixteen square-rigged vessels are annually employed in the export of dried fish to the south of Europe. Most of these vessels are built in the district, and are of the first-class of merchants' ships. Upwards of fifty small vessels are constantly, during the summer months, employed in the coasting trade, and from thence to Quebec, Halifax, and the West Indies.

The lumber trade of the district has only commenced since 1815 or 1816. In 1818, four vessels sailed from thence, laden with timber. In 1819 and 1820 this number had much increased; and in the years 1825 and 1826, about 60 sail of vessels were engaged in the trade, and carried away about 750,000 feet of pine timber †. The vast quantities of pine

* Commissioners' Report, 1820.

† J. Crawford, Esq. From this gentleman's able answers to a series of queries, proposed by me, relative to the district of Gaspé, I have derived considerable information.

timber growing in certain parts of the district render this branch of trade susceptible of great augmentation. It is carried on to a far greater extent on the opposite shore of the bay of Chaleurs that lies within the province of New Brunswick; and indeed frequent instances are found of inhabitants of that province coasting over to the Gaspé side, and carrying away, in defiance of the authorities of the district, large quantities of pine of great value. The prosecution of the timber trade is attended with a variety of advantages to a certain class of the people of the district, inasmuch as it gives them employment during the suspension of the fisheries in winter, at which season the Chantiers are always opened, and the timber prepared for market the following spring. The provisions of the lumber act did not extend to the bay of Chaleurs and Gaspé in 1821, and we are not aware whether its operation has yet been extended to that district.

There is a resident judge at Gaspé, whose jurisdiction is limited to suits involving a demand of 20*l.*; and this jurisdiction is reduced to one half in cases of process against real property; nor can the provincial judge legally issue writs of *capias* or attachment against the body of debtors. This very circumscribed jurisdiction of the court of king's bench at Gaspé has for some time been a subject of complaint by the inhabitants of the district, from the remote distance of the superior courts of the district of Quebec, to which they are compelled to resort to prosecute claims exceeding 20*l.* in amount. The administration of the criminal law of the district is more satisfactory, courts of quarter sessions being regularly holden in four different places in the district.

"The bay of Gaspé, and particularly the *Bay des Chaleurs*, are susceptible of the most improved agriculture, and have in this respect a decided superiority over the island of Newfoundland and the islands in the Gulf. The improvement of the district will principally depend on the attention which its inhabitants bestow on the culture of the soil and the encouragement they may find in its pursuit. The fisheries may occasionally fail, and the consequent decline of trade would materially prejudice the district, unless it contain within itself sufficient resources for its own subsistence. For the establishment of emigrants, no part in

Canada offers such immediate resources of livelihood as may be derived from the fisheries. It is a fact worthy of notice, that in the year 1816, when the lower parts of the province were afflicted with a famine from the destruction of the harvest with frost, no such inconvenience was experienced at *Paspebiac*, nor at any other place within the level tract above-mentioned *."

The Magdalen islands †, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, are annexed to the district and county of Gaspé. They contain a population of nearly 1,000 souls, chiefly French Accadians and Catholics. Eleven English and five Irish families are settled among them, all of whom derive their principal subsistence from the fisheries. Beyond the cultivation of potatoe gardens, agriculture seems wholly unknown on the islands; but natural meadows and pasturing grounds are common, and afford wholesome sustenance to a tolerable proportion of live stock. The inhabitants are in general remarkably hale and healthy, light in complexion, with flaxen hair. They are cheerful in character, and the females remarkably modest and ingenuous. The highest range of Fahrenheit's thermometer has been marked at 76°. It has been also observed that the islands are devoid of reptiles of any description; and that besides the fox, already noticed as inhabiting the islands, rabbits are likewise to be found‡. There are two churches on the islands and a parsonage-house for the resident missionary.

The fisheries of these islands are of considerable importance, but they could no doubt be rendered of much greater moment by judicious encouragement, inasmuch as their situation and locality materially favour their increase. An extensive description of fishery formerly carried on was that of the sea cow, an unwieldy fish, resembling the toad in form and colour, with a head something like an ox. They were generally taken in great numbers, sometimes 300 at a time, in large *echouries* or strands, where they used to collect on the various islands; but they have

* Commissioners' Report, 1821.

† For their number and geographical position, &c. vide *Topographical Dictionary.*

‡ For these interesting particulars we are indebted to the Reverend Messire Béland, a gentleman of the Roman catholic clergy, who has resided there as missionary for some time.

deserted these places of resort, owing, as is supposed, from the well-known timidity of the animal, to the incautiousness of unskilful fishermen, the too frequent approach of boats, or the indiscreet use of fire-arms in shooting them in their strands, where they were generally surprised whilst asleep. The immense produce of the sea cow fishery rendered it an object of considerable interest and profit; and it is much to be lamented that so valuable a branch of the St. Lawrence fisheries should have been neglected and discontinued.

CHAPTER XI.

Climate of the Canadas.

AMERICA possesses a climate peculiar to itself. The temperature of its atmosphere, under the different degrees of latitude, from the equator towards the poles, is not to be deduced from the atmospheric temperature of places situated under the analagous circles of latitude on the ancient continent; and it would, therefore, be very fallacious to judge of the climate of Quebec or that of York, the capitals of Lower and Upper Canada, by those of Poictiers and Florence, although the latter places are situated in the same average latitude as the former. But what are the immediate or remote causes of the peculiarities of the American climate has not yet, we believe, been very satisfactorily demonstrated, though the subject has led to much philosophical speculation, and formed the ground-work of certain meteorological theories.

Hence it is supposed *, that the poles of the globe and the isothermal poles † are by no means coincident, and that, on the contrary, there exist two different points, within a few degrees of the poles, where the cold is greatest in both hemispheres. These points are believed by Dr. Brewster to be situated about the 80th parallel of latitude, and in the meridians of 95° east and 100° west longitude. The meridians of these isothermal poles he considers as lying nearly at right angles to the parallels of what might be called the meteorological latitudes, which, according to his theory, appear to have an obliquity of direction, as regards the equator,

* Dr. Brewster.

† These poles appear to approximate very near to the magnetic poles of the earth, and this near coincidence led Dr. Brewster to suppose that they might have some other connexion besides their accidental locality. "If so—if the centres of greatest cold be also precisely the centres of magnetic attraction, and if, from some unknown but necessary connexion, they are always coincident, then *we derive, from the known motion of the magnetic poles*, an explanation of some of the most remarkable revolutions that have taken place on the surface of the earth."—*Edinburgh Encyclopædia, article Polar Regions.*

something like the zodiac. Thus the cold circle of latitude that passes through Siberia would be the same that traverses the frigid atmosphere of Canada. This theory, which appears to us extremely rational and strongly supported by facts, would go some length towards explaining the causes of the gradual decrease of the severity of cold in the south of Europe, and lead us to the conclusion, that eventually the cold meridian of Canada may work its way westward, and leave that part of America to an enjoyment of the same temperature as those European countries situated in corresponding latitudes.

That the temperature of the air is modified by agricultural operations cannot be denied, but that these operations should of themselves be capable of producing the changes that are known to have taken place in the course of ages in Europe,—where formerly the Tyber used to be often frozen, and snow was by no means uncommon at Rome; when the Euxine Sea, the Rhone, and the Rhine were almost every year covered with ice, of sufficient thickness to bear considerable burthens,—it is scarcely possible rationally to admit: and, indeed, the meteorological observations, as far as they go in Canada, serve rather to disprove than to establish the fact.

The rigour of the cold in North America has also been ascribed to the vast extent of the continent towards the arctic pole, to the superior elevation of the land, to the immense height and continuity of its mountains, the vastness of its forests, &c.; but we believe, that although these causes, admitting the facts to be all true *, might tend to augment the frigor of the atmosphere, they seem insufficient of themselves to produce the wide discrepancy that marks the temperature of corresponding latitudes in Europe and in America.

The inhabited parts of the two Canadas lie between the 42d and 48th degrees of north latitude, and if not influenced by other considerations than their distance from the equator and the pole, should enjoy the climate of central and southern Europe. But it is otherwise: and

* The stated fact, however, that the American continent stretches farther north than Europe and Asia is incorrect; Captain Franklin, in his polar expedition, having coasted the arctic seas upwards of 600 miles, and established that continental America does not much overreach the 70th degree of north latitude.

however the beautiful skies of that portion of America may be salubrious, the atmosphere is impregnated with a considerable degree of cold in winter, and its frigidity is of much longer prevalence than would naturally be inferred from the geographical position of the country. The summers are likewise warmer; and it is perhaps correct to say, that generally, the maximum of heat, and the maximum of cold, are both greater than in European countries in the same latitude. The range of temperature is, nevertheless, very sensibly felt between the two points we have mentioned; for, in proceeding up the St. Lawrence, whose course is nearly N.E. and S.W., the climate becomes considerably milder, and adapted by degrees to the growth of fruits that thrive but in warmer atmospheres. For instance, at Quebec, in latitude 46° 48′ 49″ north, apples are produced in plenty, but the peach and the grape are not cultivated with any success; at Montreal, latitude 45° 30′ north, the orchards yield apples and pears of very superior flavour; grapes are matured to great excellence, and peaches with care also arrive at perfection: at York, latitude 43° 43′ north, and in the Niagara and western districts of Upper Canada, still further south, all these fruits are found in the greatest luxuriance, and attain the highest perfection: the peach, the nectarine, and the grape seem here to have found their native soil, and are produced in the richest profusion. Wheat, barley, rye, maize, oats, and in fact almost every species of grain are cultivated in both Canadas with every possible success, the climate being well calculated to bring them to maturity. In cold countries vegetation is necessarily rapid, and in Lower Canada it is not unusual to see the fervor of a vernal sun unfold the foliage of the forest in great luxuriance, in the short space of a fortnight; indeed 24 hours are known to have produced astonishing changes in the appearance of the woods. In Upper Canada, where the suddenness of the transition from winter to summer is not so great, the budding and blowing are rather more gradual than in the lower province, and the summers are there several weeks longer, and the winters consequently shorter. The relative temperatures of both provinces will best be seen by the following table, which is calculated from meteorological observations, taken simultaneously in Lower and Upper Canada, nearly at the most southern points of either province.

No. I.

Table showing the Highest, Lowest, and Mean Temperature of each Month, in Upper and Lower Canada, during the year 1820. *Latitude about* 42° *north in Upper Canada, and latitude* 45° *north, or thereabouts, in Lower Canada.*

1820.	THERMOMETER—FAHRENHEIT.						WEATHER.					
	Upper Canada			Lower Canada.			Upper Canada.			Lower Canada.		
	Maximum.	Minimum	Mean.	Maximum	Minimum.	Mean.	Clear	Rain or snow	Cloudy.	Clear.	Snow or Rain	Cloudy.
							days	days	days	days	days	days
January	48	−20	18.17	33	−23	11.14	13	8	9	23	4	4
February .	50	8	23.87	40	−29	10 69	11	10	7	21	3	5
March . .	52	0	26.94	47	−26	12 13	21	8	2	25	3	3
April . .	83	40	59 70	81	9	48 91	23	3	4	25	3	3
May . .	92	40	67.32	92	30	67.84	22	5	4	23	4	4
June .	97	57	77.51	95	55	76 34	22	8		26	2	2
July . . .	103	60	81.37	103	62	82 23	25	3	3	26	3	2
August . .	99	55	73 24	100	58	74 7	21	5	5	16	12	2
September .	92	33	64.45	90	30	59.16	21	5	4	18	8	5
October .	74	28	48.	55	9	32 24	13	8	9	16	5	8
November .	54	10	34.53	40	−13	17 44	11	14	7	14	7	10
December .	41	−2	25.43	43	−21	11 94	11	12	8	23	2	5
For the year	73 8	25 72	48 37	68 25	11.75	42.1	214	89	62	256	56	53
For the summer months, June, July, August	99.66	57 33	77 37	99 33	58 33	77 54		34 snow			21 snow	
Winter months	46.33	−4 67	22.49	38 66	−24 33	11 25		55 rain			35 rain	

From the preceding table a tolerably correct idea may be formed of the comparative merits of both climates, but it is to be regretted that we are not in possession of a complete series of similar observations anterior to 1820, and from that period up to the present time. Whether such observations exist we are not aware, but of their importance, in an agricultural as well as philosophical point of view, there can be no doubt, since the labours of the husbandman are in a great measure governed by aerial phenomena, whilst the inquiries of the meteorologist proceed upon the authority of recorded facts; and inasmuch as there are peculiarities in the climate of America, whose causes are not fully investigated, the great utility of accurate meteorological journals becomes manifest.

We are not, however, wholly without data, relative to the climate of the Canadas, for a period of upwards of 30 years back, and although they are furnished from partial observations, they serve to show, that the progressive opening of the country has not so powerful an influence upon the temperature of the atmosphere as is generally supposed, but that its chief tendency is to lengthen the summer, and thus abridge the duration of winter. That the gradual removal of the forests, to make room for open fields, contributes to augment the summer temperature is undeniably true, since it is well known, that the atmosphere itself is not heated by the direct rays of the sun, but that its warmth springs from the earth, and that the degree of this warmth is entirely governed by the quantum of heat absorbed through the earth's surface. The progressive settlement of the country may then be expected to benefit the climate, by its throwing open to the direct action of the sun a more extended surface of territory; and this benefit, it may be observed, will be the more sensibly felt at night, from the earth's having imbibed a sufficient quantity of caloric to temper the coolness of the air between the setting and rising of the sun. In an agricultural point of view, such an improvement in the climate of Canada will be of great moment, as the coldness of the nights is generally the cause of blight in tender fruits and plants; and from its equalizing the temperature, probably render the climate capable of maturing fruits that are indigenous to warm countries.

No. II.

Mean of the Thermometer at 8 *A. M. for the month of July, during twenty years, from* 1799 *to* 1818, *as observed by the late Rev. A. Spark, D. D.*

July, 1799	66.87	July, 1804	72.19	July, 1809	60.00	July, 1814	60.45
— 1800	66.70	— 1805	67.93	— 1810	59.16	— 1815	65.87
— 1801	66.51	— 1806	65.96	— 1811	65.32	— 1816	58.65
— 1802	68.35	— 1807	75.18	— 1812	62 16	— 1817	62.19
— 1803	69.38	— 1808	73.35	— 1813	51.41	— 1818	64.00

Hence the warmest of these years, during the month of July, was 1807, the coldest 1813.

No. III.

A View of the extremes of Heat and Cold at Quebec, for ten years, beginning with the year 1800 *.

Extreme Cold.				Extreme Heat.			
			°				°
1800—January	29	.....	6	... July	6	.....	96
—	30	.....	4	... —	8	... ..	92
1801—January	4	.....	10	... July	31	.....	89
February	13	. ....	10	. . August	9	.....	89
1802—January	23	.....	15	... July	27	.....	86
February	6	.....	20	... August	10	....	84
1803—January	4	.....	18	... July	8	.....	93
February	1	. .. .	14	... —	9	.....	97
1804—January	20	.... .	17	. . June	22	.....	90
—	21	.....	22	. —	23	.....	90
1805—January	3	... .	18	. July	14	. ....	89
—	5	.... .	20	. —	15	.....	91
1806—January	17	... ..	8	. . July	14	.....	84
February	6	.....	8	.. —	15	.....	85
1807—January	22	.....	15	... July	12	. ....	96
—	26	.....	20	... —	27	.....	95
1808—January	3	.....	12	... June	23	.....	91
—	16	. ...	13	. July	16	.....	96
1809—January	14	.....	26	... June	27	. ....	92
February	4	.....	23	... July	9	.....	90
1810—January	20	. .	26	... June	18	.....	90
February	10	. .	22	... —	19	.....	90

These observations would evidently tend to show, that no amelioration has taken place in the rigour of the climate; but it appears, on the contrary, that in the later years (No. III.), 1809 and 1810, the mercury fell lower than in any of the preceding years, as far back as 1800, and even more, for we find that, in that year, the degree of cold was the least of any of the following, up to 1810 inclusive. We also find that, in 1810, the temperature of the summer was rather less than in several years preceding, and that the thermometer did not rise, by six degrees, so high as it did ten years previously. Notwithstanding these facts, we have the assertion of some of the oldest inhabitants of the country, that the climate of Canada has become perceptibly milder within

* Taken from the Observations of Dr. Sparks.

their recollection; and we are thus left to conciliate this traditional record with contradictory facts, and the only mode of doing so, appears to be the application of their remarks, more to the duration of the mild seasons than the degrees of cold, that were indicated by the thermometer in the course of the year.

In giving the following meteorological tables for January and July, 1828, it should be observed, that they ought not to be taken as a fair criterion of the climate of Quebec during those months, inasmuch as the weather was unusually bad and boisterous during most of that year: but from the scientific accuracy with which they were compiled on Cape Diamond, the most elevated point of the Quebec rock, they will show the meteoric phenomena that sometimes affect the skies of Lower Canada, and of the capital in particular; and for this purpose they are laid before the reader.

No. IV.

JANUARY, 1828.

DAYS OF THE MONTH.	BAROMETER. Morning at 7½ o'clock.	BAROMETER. Afternoon at 3 o'clock.	THERMOMETER. Morning at 7½ o'clock.	THERMOMETER. Afternoon at 3 o'clock.	THERMOMETER. Highest day.	THERMOMETER. Lowest night.	WIND. Direction and Force. Noon.	WEATHER. Noon.	METEORS.	Age of the Moon.
			°	°	°					
Tuesday 1	29 80	29 78	-10	11	13		None	clear		15
Wednesday 2	57	32	20	31	36		N E. fair	ditto		16
Thursday 3	28 75	20	34	32	36		S.W. by W. moderate	ditto		17
Friday 4	29 65	62	7	22	22		None	gloomy		18
Saturday 5	30	16	26	32	35		N.E. moderate	snowing		19
Sunday 6	45	47	24	28	32		W. zephyr	cloudy	set for a storm	20
Monday 7	28 97	28 54	8	15	16		N.E. by E a gale	stormy	snowing	21
Tuesday 8	29 61	29 80	-12	-0	-0		W.S.W. almost ditto	clear		22
Wednesday 9	30 00	30 21	-5	6	10		W. by S. moderate	ditto		23
Thursday 10	29 92	29 85	5	10	14		N.E. a gale almost	ditto		24
Friday 11	93	86	13	23	24		ditto, moderate	dim clear		25
Saturday 12	75	75	31	35	36		None	gloomy	a thick fog	26
Sunday 13	25	28	36	34	34		W. moderate	drizzling	ditto	27
Monday 14	94	55	0	11	13		E. breeze	gloomy	snowing	28
Tuesday 15	03	41	12	10	15		S.W. by W. a gale	stormy		29
Wednesd. 16	30 05	90	-12	1	6		W.S W. moderate	dim clear		1
Thursday 17	28 85	28 95	10	11	18		ditto, stronger	clear		2
Friday 18	29 72	29 52	-5	4	10		ditto, moderate	ditto	aurora borealis	3
Saturday 19	55	31	2	11	11		N.E. by E. a gale	clouded	(wind S.W. a	4
Sunday 20	28 75	28 96	16	2	16		S.W. strong breeze	clear	[gale in the air	5
Monday 21	29 00	29 21	-20	15	12		ditto, ditto	ditto	clouding little.	6
Tuesday 22	70	83	-24	-4	-4		ditto, moderate	ditto	halo, sun 4° 4½	7
Wednesd. 23	85	87	-16	4	4		ditto, ditto	ditto	[dia. halo ☽ of	8
Thursday 24	30 11	30 31	-12	6	6		ditto, ditto	very clear	[47° dia sun i.	9
Friday 25	29 90	29 48	-3	22	25		N.E. ditto	clear	sun, halo 46° dia.	10
Saturday 26	24	45	31	30	37		W.S.W. ditto	clearing	from fogs	11
Sunday 27	30 00	85	0	2	8		E.N.E. stronger	gloomy	set for a storm	12
Monday 28	28 42	28 37	-10	20	22		None	snowing	(inglobed ditto.	13
Tuesday 29	29 25	29 62	1	-4	1		W. moderate	very clear		14
Wednesd. 30	30 00	91	-20	4	7		W.S.W. ditto	ditto		15
Thursday 31	29 20	42	6	21	21		S.W. by W. ditto	gloomy		16

No. V.

JULY, 1828.

Days of the Month	Barometer. Morning at 6 o'clock.	Barometer. Afternoon at 3 o'clock.	Thermometer. Morning at 6 o'clock.	Thermometer. Afternoon at 3 o'clock.	Thermometer. Highest day.	Thermometer. Lowest night.	Wind. Direction and Force. Noon.	Weather. Noon	Meteors, &c.	Moon's Age.
Tuesday 1	29 19	29 12	53°	57°	66°		s.w. gale, N.E. moderate	showery	cloudy, black	20
Wednesd. 2	12	14	54	56	58		w.e. both a gale almost	ditto	*gloomy*	21
Thursday 3	17	20	51	52	53		s.w. by w., N. by E. gale	heavy rain	cloudy	22
Friday 4	35	47	52	60	64		*various*	clearing	*fogs* and gloomy to noon, clear after	23
Saturday 5	55	46	52	70	76		None	clear	set for thunder, aur. bor. show. far off	24
Sunday 6	16	01	56	72	76		w. by N. a gale	ditto but	thund. & rain came on soon af. noon	25
Monday 7	12	17	63	63	67		w. by s. faint	raining	cloudy, showery	26
Tuesday 8	36	48	56	60	64		E.N.E. almost a gale	cloudy	showery and black after noon	27
Wednesd. 9	22	28 89	53	59	59		ditto, a strong gale	drizzling rain	cloudy and showery	28
Thursday 10	28 88	29 19	55	58	60		s.w. by w. a breeze	clearing from	black till noon nearly	29
Friday 11	29 31	16	57	62	68		s.s.w., N.E., moderate	a turbulent sky & rain	squally, &c.	30
Saturday 12	18	26	49	62	63		w.n.w. a gale	clear lately	thundering and showery	1
Sunday 13	37	42	49	64	70		s.w. stiff breeze	clear only	a few clouds in the horizon	2
Monday 14	38	27	58	58	64		s.high, mod. N.E. by E. gale	black, dry	showery	3
Tuesday 15	32	35	56	58	58		ditto, both ditto	showery	a turbulent sky	4
Wednesd. 16	41	46	55	62	62		s.w. by s. clouds, mod.	raining	fogs, gloomy, showery	5
Thursday 17	41	33	59	69	69		w. ditto	clearing	ditto, showery, thunder	6
Friday 18	32	21	56	76	76		s.w. a gale	clear	cloudy black at 6 o'clock, p.m.	7
Saturday 19	06	28 94	62	70	74		ditto, moderate	clearing	unsettled, gloomy, showers, &c.	8
Sunday 20	03	29 06	58	78	78		s.w. by s. a breeze	clear	gloomy morning, aur. bor. at night	9
Monday 21	26	28	56	81	81		s. moderate	dim-clear	thunder shower, far away, N.N.W.	10
Tuesday 22	23	11	62	76	77		N.E. breeze	clear, but soon	squally, with thunder and rain	11
Wednesd. 23	14	12	63	76	76		w. by s. moderate	ditto	thunder and showery	12
Thursday 24	06	28 94	64	76	77		w.s.w. ditto	showery, with dist. thu.	halo on sun and moon	13
Friday 25	28 95	87	62	75	76		s. ditto	clear, unsettled	thunder and showery	14
Saturday 26	93	96	62	71	71		s.w. by s. ditto	ditto ditto	fog and rain in the morning	15
Sunday 27	97	94	65	74	74		s.w. by w., N.E. by E. do.	showery	cloudy	16
Monday 28	29 05	29 16	55	65	66		s.w. by w. moderate	thu. cloud over a cl. sky	showery far off N.W.	17
Tuesday 29	37	50	54	69	70		ditto, ditto	ditto	ditto	18
Wednesd. 30	60	52	52	70	74		s.s.w. faint	clear	ditto	19
Thursday 31	35	24	60	64	67		s. by w. moderate	showery, unsettled	thunder and squally, &c.	20

The prevailing winds, both in Upper and Lower Canada, are the north-east, north-west, and south-west, which all have a considerable influence on the temperature of the atmosphere, and the state of the weather. The south-west wind is the most prevalent, but it is generally moderate, and accompanied by clear skies; and the north-east and easterly winds usually bring with them continued rain in summer and snow in winter; the north-west is remarkable for its dryness and elasticity, and from its gathering an intense degree of frigor, as it sweeps over the frozen plains and ice-bound hills in that quarter of the continent, invariably brings with it a perceptible degree of cold. Winds from due-north, south, or west are not frequent. At Quebec, the direction of the wind often changes with the tide, which is felt for nearly 60 miles higher up the stream of the St. Lawrence.

The azure of Canadian skies is beautifully transparent and pure, and the starry constellations are remarkably luminous and bright. The northern region of the heavens is very frequently glowing with the vivid coruscations of the evanescent aurora borealis, whose vertical irradiations are often of sufficient brilliancy to dispel the darker shades of night. This aërial phenomenon is sometimes so beautiful and sublime at Quebec, that it not unfrequently attracts considerable crowds on the ramparts and elevated public walks, to admire its waving and shooting splendours.

Fogs are almost unknown in Canada, but the morning dew sometimes rises in a light vapoury cloud, which is almost suddenly dispelled by the first solar rays that gild the horizon. In winter, however, when the cold is intense, a thick vapour is frequently seen on the unfrozen surface of the St. Lawrence, driving heavily before the wind, amidst masses of floating ice. In Lower Canada the winter commences about the 25th of November, in the regions about Quebec, and it may be said to last until the 25th of April, when agricultural operations are resumed. In the district of Montreal the permanent cold sets in generally a fortnight or three weeks later, and the spring is probably as much earlier, although these advantages are subject to frequent vicissitudes. It may therefore be said, that the field labours of husbandry are interrupted in the lower province for five months in the year, during which period the

farmer is employed in threshing his corn, manufacturing his domestic woollens and linens, cutting and drawing his wood for fuel, preparing materials for repairing fences, &c. In Upper Canada, the winter is considerably shorter, and the sledge or *sleighing* season, which, in Lower Canada, generally continues for five months together, scarcely lasts two in the upper province. The average depth of snow that falls in the course of the winter is about 30 inches; but it is frequently accumulated to far greater depths during snow storms and drifts that sweep the minute particles onward in violent tornados, until they are repelled by some opposing object, and there collect into high banks. The month of February is in general the most boisterous of the season, and most liable to these drifts.

In summer the electric phenomena of the atmosphere, as displayed in the vividness of lightning and the burst of loud thunders, are sometimes appalling in the extreme, and have in numerous instances been attended with very serious consequences. The destruction of extensive barns and hay stacks, and in several cases the loss of human life, are among the disasters that on some occasions result from the violence of thunder-storms in Canada, and particularly in the neighbourhood of Quebec, where it is probable the electric matter is more powerfully attracted by the elevation of the mountains, and the magnetic properties it is likely they possess.

In point of salubrity no climate in the world can perhaps be found to exceed that of Canada, which is not only a stranger naturally to contagious disorders or fatal epidemics, but extremely conducive to longevity. In the early periods of the settlement of the upper province, the fever and ague were indeed very prevalent; but as the cause of this local affection was gradually removed by the draining of marshes in the progress of cultivation, it has almost entirely disappeared. It is impossible, however, to guard on all occasions against the introduction of infectious diseases into the towns; and we therefore find that malignant fevers have in some cases crept into hospitals; but these cannot affect the general character of the climate, and the healthfulness and invigorating elasticity of the atmosphere.

As regards the relative temperature of different parts of Lower

Canada, we find from thermometrical observations taken by us in various parts of the province, and a comparison of these with remarks almost simultaneously made at Quebec, that the degree of heat during the months of August and September is pretty equable throughout the settlements along the St. Lawrence, making allowances for the southern exposure of particular spots and the local elevation of others. But these meteorological remarks being in themselves too desultory and incomplete to form a satisfactory tabular exhibit of comparative temperatures, we have merely noticed the general result to which they seem to lead.

In thus adverting to the distribution of heat and cold in various parts of Lower Canada, it may not be uninteresting to know the temperature of the air in the more northern sections of the British dominions in America, and we therefore insert the following table, framed from the thermometrical notes of Captain Franklin, R. N.

Table of the Atmospheric Temperature during the undermentioned months, at Fort Enterprise, latitude 64° 28′ *N., longitude* 113° 2′ 39″ *W.*

Months.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
1820	° ′	° ′	°
September	53	16	33 7
October	37	−*5	23 0
November	25	−31	− 0 7
December	6	−57	−29 7
1821.			
January	20	−49	−15 6
February	1	−51	−25 3
March	24	−49	−11 5
April	40	−32	4 6
May	68	8	32
Mean of 9 months	30 3	−27 8	0

* −5° below zero.

The temperature of the waters in the northern latitudes appears invariably to be higher than that of the air, and Sir John Franklin thus finds that the extremes of temperature of the polar sea, observed by him in August, are 53° and 35°; the general temperature 43°; whilst that of the atmosphere did not exceed an average of 37°.

It is worthy of remark that the great lakes of Upper Canada are liable to the formation of the prester or water-spout, and that several instances are recorded of the occurrence of that truly extraordinary meteoric phenomenon, the theory of which, however, is well known. Whether electricity be a cause or a consequence of this formidable meteor, appears nevertheless to be a question of some doubt among natural philosophers, Gassendi being disposed to favour the former opinion, whilst Cavallo espouses the latter.

CHAPTER XII.

Statistics of Lower Canada—Population, &c.

As far as partial enumerations go, as taken from time to time since the first settlement of the country, we find that the population of the province has gone on increasing in a various ratio, doubling itself at some periods every 25 years, and at others every 29 and 31 years, but more recently in a far greater ratio. In 1622, which is the earliest date at which any computation appears to have been made of the number of inhabitants in any section of Canada, we find that Quebec was then but a small village, and did not contain more than 50 persons * altogether; and in 1720, this number had increased to 7,000, and must therefore have doubled itself about every 14 years, admitting the augmentation to have been regular. The population of the town of Montreal in the latter year was 3,000.

The first general capitation that we find recorded is one taken in 1676†; and the following table is calculated to show the population as it was subsequently determined at different periods, and also the increase between those periods.

Population of Lower Canada, at various times, from the year 1676 *to* 1825 *inclusive, as taken from the authority of Charlevoix, La Potheraye, and of public documents.*

Year	1676	1688	Increase in 12 yrs.	1700	Increase in 12 yrs.	1706	Increase in 6 yrs	1714	Increase in 8 yrs.	1759	Increase in 45 yrs.	1784	Increase in 25 yrs.	1825	Increase in 41 years.
Souls.	8,415	11,249	2,834	15,000	3,751	20,000	5,000	26,904	6,904	65,000	38,096	113,000	48,000	450,000 ‡	337,000

* Charlevoix, vol. i. p. 158. † Idem.

‡ The census shows only 423,630, but it is obviously low; and the committee of the assembly in 1826 considered the population of Lower Canada to be 500,000 souls. This again, we believe, was rather high for the time, and have therefore taken what appears to us as being a correct mean.

Thus we have a total increase in the space of a century and a quarter (computing only from the year 1700) of 435,000 souls, growing out of a population of 15,000, which, dividing the whole period into four parts, gives an increase every year during the first 14 years, nearly in the ratio of 5.66 per cent.; during the ensuing 45 years, from 1714 to 1759, of about 3.15 per cent.; from 1759 to 1784, 25 years, rather less than 3 per cent.; and in the last period, from 1784 to 1825, a term of 41 years, in the proportion of 7¼ per cent. annually. The augmented ratio of increase during the last epoch is ascribable to the accession of inhabitants arising from emigration to the country, or to use a convenient modern word, immigration, which commenced about the year 1820, and has since that date progressively added considerable numbers to the population of the province.

The progress of the colony was decidedly languid under the French government, and the destructive warfare that was for many years waged by the Aborigines against the colonized Europeans was such as to impair its advancement in an eminent degree and check the increase of its population; and hence we derive some explanation why the usual periodical duplication of the population, as fixed by statists at 12 and 14 years for early colonies, did not take place in Canada anteriorly to the conquest. Subsequently to that event, the ratio of increase appears to have become gradually greater, until it rose at once to a very high degree, by the annual accession of large families emigrating to the country from England, Scotland, and Ireland, and also from the United States of America: Ireland, however, being that part of the United Kingdom whence they chiefly proceeded. The continuance of this emigration, and its tendency to increase rather than diminish, must, in a comparatively few years, give the Canadas a population of several millions, and inconceivably augment their importance as appendages to the British empire.

A collective and general view of the statistics of Lower Canada is exhibited in the following tabular statement; wherein the population, churches, mills, &c. in the province, are particularly enumerated, by counties and districts. From the extent of the country over which the population is spread, and the multitude and variety of the objects em-

braced in the table, it is very possible that some omissions may occasionally be found to have taken place in some one or other of the columns; but we have reason to believe, from the high respectability and authority of the sources * whence we have derived the materials for its composition, and the assiduity, laboriousness, and attention with which they were reduced to their tabular form, that these omissions are not of sufficient moment to impair the general accuracy of the statement; and we are sustained in this conviction by a personal knowledge of its correctness in numerous instances.

* The seigneurs and curates of the province, by the general readiness and intelligence of their replies to printed queries submitted to their consideration, have afforded a considerable portion of the information that has enabled me to compile the statistical table. The answers of the curates to the circulars of the assembly have also aided in the compilation, as regards the seigniories; whilst the principal landholders and intelligent inhabitants of the townships have been the sources of much information relative to the statistics of the soccage settlements of the province. To these were added the advantage of access to authentic documents of importance, and lastly the extensive personal knowledge of facts, relative to the statistical and agricultural state of the province, I had the means of acquiring in the course of several tours, embracing the extremities of the province, and performed in the discharge of official duties, avowedly with a view of ascertaining the resources of the colony.

Statistical Statement of the province of Lower Canada, calculated for December, 1827, and and Counties, pursuant to an Act of the Provincial Legislature, dated 14th of March, 1829 mation of His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir James Kempt, K. G. C., Administrato

Districts.	No.	Counties.	Population.	Church of England.	Church of Scotland.	Parsonage Houses.	Wesleyan Chapels.	Church of Rome. Churches.	Curés.	Presbyteries.	Convents.	Colleges.	Towns.	Villages.	Total number of Houses in Towns and Villages.	Court Houses.	Gaols.	Schools.	Mills. Corn.	Saw.	Carding.	Fulling.	Paper.	Distilleries.	Breweries.	Foundries.	Tanneries.	Hat Manufactories.	Potteries.
Montreal.	1	Acadie	11,470	1	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	60	...	...	4	2	7	2	2	...	2	1	...	2	...	2
	2	Beauharnois	14,264	3	1	...	...	4	3	4	..	...	...	5	349	...	...	2	8	17	2	2	...	4	...	...	1	...	...
	3	Berthier	17,795	...	..	..		7	6	6	...	..		4	223	..	...	7	6	6	2	2	..	...	..	...	1	1	1
	4	Chambly	12,982	2	..	1	1	6	6	6	1	1	1	4	526	...	1	3	15	5	4	3	...	1	2	1	2	...	1
	5	La Chenaye	14,975	1	..		...	4	4	4	...		...	3	108	...	...	5	6	9	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	6	La Prairie	16,621	...	...	...	.	5	5	5	2	...	...	3	255	...	...	3	7	4	3	3	...	1	..	...	2	...	2
	7	L'Assomption	10,246		...	..	..	3	3	3	...	..	...	2	190	...	...	7	4	5	4	2	...	1	1	...	1	...	1
	8	Missisqui	7,766	3	..	2	1	.	...	..	...	...	.	5	166	...	...	7	12	20	5	5	..	3	3	...	2	1	2
	9	Montreal	39,521	1	1	...	1	16	10	10	5	3	1	8	6,456	1	1	33	6	2	2	2	...	1	4	...	4	..	7
	10	Ottawa	2,488	2	..	...	...	1	1	1	..	...	...	1	30	...	...	3	5	11	1	...	...	2	1	...	2	...	2
	11	Richelieu	16,967	1	...	1	..	5	5	5	...	...	1	3	395	1	1	8	23	7	1	1	...	...	..	...	2	2	13
	12	Rouville	16,159	2	.	1	.	4	4	4	...	..	...	3	110	...	...	15	11	6	2	1	...	...	...	...	3	2	2
	13	St. Hyacinthe	12,846	1	...	..		5	4	5	1	1	...	1	150	...	..	4	6	12	1	1	..	...	...	...	1	...	...
	14	Shefford	4,467	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	3	53	..	...	17	6	17	2	2	..	3	..	...	...	...	...
	15	Stanstead	8,272	4		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	3	98	.		32	21	33	12	11	1	4	1	1	3	1	3
	16	Terrebonne	16,905		...		...	3	3	3		..	...	4	345	..	..	5	6	12	5	5	...	2	1	...	4	.	...
	17	Two Mountains	18,245	1	1	1	...	4	4	4	1		...	7	392	...	...	12	8	13	2	2	1	2	...	...	3	1	2
	18	Vaudreuil	13,897	.	...	.	.	5	5	5		.	...	4	188	.	...	4	7	6	3	3	...	...	...	...	6	..	..
	19	Vercheres	12,695	..	...	...	..	6	6	6	..	1	...	4	136	...	...	7	26	8	2	1	...	...	...	...	7	...	...
	19	Totals	268,681	23	3	7	4	78	68	71	10	6	3	68	10230	2	3	178	185	200	58	51	2	26	14	2	46	8	38
Quebec.	1	Beauce	10,765	.	...	...	...	5	5	5	1	...	...	1	39		...	5	8	39	4	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
	2	Bellechasse	15,065	..	...	...	...	7	6	7	1	...	...	4	160	...	...	6	7	30	2	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
	3	Dorchester	11,258	1	...	1	...	4	3	4	...	...	1	3	190	...	...	3	5	7	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	4	Islet	12,777	...	.	...	...	6	5	6	...	...	...	3	125	...	...	5	6	29	3	2	...	...	...	..	2	...	...
	5	Kamouraska	13,844	..	...	...	...	4	4	4	1	1	...	2	78	...	.	6	7	22	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	6	Lotbiniere	7,762	...	...	...	...	5	4	4	...	...	...	1	27	...	.	3	6	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	7	Megantic	626	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	2	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	8	Montmorenci	3,788	...	...	...	...	5	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	9	Orleans	4,128	...	..	...	...	5	4	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	10	Portneuf	16,542	...	...	...	...	6	6	6	1	...	...	4	149	...	...	11	14	43	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	11	Quebec	30,954	2	1	..	1	14	8	6	4	2	1	3	2,420	1	1	25	7	15	4	2	...	2	4	...	3	1	2
	12	Rimouski	7,935	...	...	...	...	6	3	6	...	..	...	4	105	...	...	1	9	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	13	Saguenay	8,416	...	...	...	...	6	4	6	...	...	...	3	97	...	...	1	11	60	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	13	Totals	143,761	3	1	1	1	73	57	64	9	3	2	28	3,290	1	1	70	89	288	23	18	...	2	4		11	1	5

ubsequently reorganized to meet the New Civil Division and Subdivision thereof, into Districts nd which received his Majesty's assent the 17th of August following, promulgated by the procla- of the Government, on the 5th October, 1829.

Potash Factories.	Pearlash Factories.	Justices of the Peace.	Medical Men.	Notaries.	Shopkeepers.	Taverns.	Artisans.	Shipyards.	River Craft.	Tonnage.	Keel Boats.	REMARKS.
3	3				5	4	35	...	...	...	2	Comprehends Isle aux Noix, a military post, and fortifications, also the site and remains of the American fort at Rouse's Point.
14	11				11	10	63	...	...	...	...	Comprehends the Indian village of St. Regis, 721 souls, of which 369 were within the state of New York, by the old line, but are now comprised within the limits of the province by the new one, latitude 45° north.
5	5				25	22	158	...	2	36	5	Extensive village, population 850 souls.
	...				22	25	190	2	4	21	5	Comprehends the fort and village of Chambly and town of Dorchester, a port of entry. The American steam boats ply between this place and Whitehall, Burlington, and Platsburgh.
4	4				14	18	100	...	...	...	...	United States
4	3				17	22	75	1	...	...	...	Comprehends the noted village of that name, two steam-boats ply between this place and Montreal.
15	7				13	21	54	...	...	...	3	Several wind-mills.
7	7				23	15	90	.	...	...	...	
3	2				240	233	1,395	5	9	350	15	Comprehends the city of Montreal and fortified Island of St. Helens. The population of the city is 32,000 souls, it is the last sea port town on the St. Lawrence; comprehends also the La Chine Canal.
7	3				6	7	60		...	...	...	Comprehends the Union Bridge across the Ottawa at Hull and By-Town.
3	2				27	22	58	...	3	50	4	Includes the town of William Henry, situated at the entrance of the Richelieu, or Sorel River, population 2,000 souls. There are in this county a number of wind-mills.
7	7				16	20	104	...	1	15	1	Comprehends the conspicuous mountains of Rouville and Mount Johnson.
3	3				11	15	59	...	...	...	...	Includes the noted village of that name, and mountains Yamaska and Rougemont.
7	6				6	6	36	.	...	...	...	
23	21				17	13	80	...	...	...	...	Comprehends the handsome village of that name near the province line.
5	4				22	23	101	1	...	...	...	Includes the large village of that name; population 800 souls.
18	11				21	34	232	..	...	...	.	Comprehends the Grenville Military Canal and the Indian village of the Lake of the Two Mountains. Several boats ply on the Ottawa, between Hull, By-Town, and Grenville.
23	9				29	20	93	...	...	...	...	Comprehends the military canal at the Cascades, several locks above, also the locks and port of entry at Coteau du Lac.
..	...				15	11	93	1	1	18	1	Has about twenty windmills.
148	106	69	178	96	540	541	2,916	10	20	490	36	
4	2				14	11	99	...	...	...	...	Port of entry at St. Mary's.
...	...				23	21	130	2	4	66	9	The greater number of the mills in this county stop working in the summer, owing to a deficiency of water. This observation applies to several parts of the south side of the St. Lawrence.
...	...				12	13	87	5	5	83	11	Comprehends the town of Aubigny, opposite to Quebec.
..	..				37	25	107	2	12	193	30	Eight wind-mills.
...	...				11	12	95	3	14	377	21	Village of Kamouaska, noted for sea-bathing.
...	...				6	6	86	...	11	200	13	
...	...				2	1	5	...	2	27	2	
..	...				5	4	30	...	5	69	7	The priests, farm, and establishment at L'Joachim, calculated for the reception of the seminary of Quebec students, during the summer vacations.
...	...				9	8	47	2	2	28	13	The spot, or ship-yard, in the parish of St. Laurent, where the two large timber ships, the Columbus and the Baron of Renfrew, were built and launched.
2	...				27	25	147	4	16	504	5	The Richelieu Rapid, opposite to the church of Deschambault.
..	...				216	176	1,250	7	40	2,020	66	The capital of Lower Canada, chief sea-port, and fortified town; contains a population of 38 000 souls, including the Banlieue residence of the governor-general. Steam-boats ply from this place to Montreal; there are two steam-boats and several team-boats plying across the river to Point Levy.
...	...				9	5	87	3	9	313	41	Comprehends Temiscouata portage, the route to New Brunswick, Green Island and light-house, and the Island of Bic. This county is the chief residence of pilots.
...	...				11	15	59	2	21	690	59	Comprehends the Saguenay River and the conspicuous, high, and diversified country of Bay St. Paul and Murray Bay, and the villages of that name.
6	2	57	171	60	382	322	2,229	30	141	4,570	277	

Districts.	No.	Counties.	Population.	Church England.	Church Scotland.	Parsonage Houses.	Wesleyan Chapels.	Church of Rome. Churches	Curés.	Presbyteries.	Convents	Colleges	Towns.	Villages.	Total Number of Houses in Towns & Villages.	Court Houses.	Gaols.	Schools.	Mills. Corn.	Saw.	Carding.	Fulling	Paper.	Distilleries.	Breweries.	Foundries.	Tanneries.	Hat Manufactories.	Potteries.
Three Rivers.	1	Champlain	7,350		.		.	5	4	5		.	.	2	70	..	..	3	4	9	.	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	.
	2	Drummond	1,907	1		1	.	1	..	..	..		.	1	25	..	..	2	4	7	1	1	1	..	..	..	4	.	
	3	Nicolet	12,693	1	.		.	5	5	5		1	..	2	89	.	.	..	6	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	1		
	4	St. Maurice	15,389	2	.		.	6	5	5	1	.	1	6	627	1	1	6	11	17	4	4	..	1	1	2	4		
	5	Sherbrooke	5,471	5	..	2	.	1	..	1			..	3	110	1	1	9	16	30	4	4	..	2	..	..	2		
	6	Yamaska	8,847	.	.			3	3	3				1	36			3	3	4	.	.	..	..	..				
	6	Totals	51,657	9		3		21	17	19	1	1	1	15	957	2	2	23	44	72	10	10	1	3	1	2	17		
Gaspé	1	Bonaventure	5,160	2				10	1	.				2	138	1	1	1	1	2	.		..	.	..	.			
	2	Gaspé	2,617	2				9	1	.	..		..	1	60	1	1	1	5	3		..		.	..	.	.	.		
	2	Totals	7,777	4				19	2					3	198	2	2	2	6	5									
	40	Grand totals	471,876	39	4	11	5	191	144	154	20	10	6	114	14,775	7	8	273	324	565	91	79	3	31	19	4	74	9	4

The District of St. Francis comprehends the whole of the city of Sherbrooke, and a great part of the counties of Stanstead and in the statements o

OBSERVATIONS.

1st. The columns which have chiefly occupied our attention and time, as being a most important branch of the statistics of the province, are those of population, the clergy establishments, corn and saw-mills, factories and villages. The other columns are calculated partly from personal knowledge and partly from various sources of information that may be depended upon, and may be fairly considered as giving a correct general *aperçu* of the number of river craft, boats, artisans, &c. in the province

2d. Of the 39 protestant churches enumerated not above 25 are attached to parishes. The parishes that may hereafter be attached to the remainder are not at present laid out or defined.

3d. Of the 191 Roman Catholic churches 4 are missionary churches; to which may be added 7 presbyteries used as chapels in as many parishes, and making up the complement of parishes in the province equal to 196, besides a few other projected parishes within the seigniories, and the site of churches fixed upon.

4th. Of the 20 convents, 6 only are extensive nunnery establishments in the towns. The remaining 14 are dispersed over the province for the education of females, and are generally governed by 2 or 3 nuns of the congregation.

5th. In the 10 enumerated colleges are comprised the extensive seminaries of Quebec, Montreal, Nicolet, M'Gill college, St. Hyacinthe, Chambly, and St. Anne's in the county of Kamouraska.

6th. With the exception of 3 breweries and 1 distillery in Quebec, 4 breweries and 1 distillery in Montreal, and a brewery at La Prairie, the others are minor establishments The distilleries are chiefly for whiskey, and are most frequent in the townships.

7th The number of ship yards will not appear surprising, when it is recollected that 39,900 tons of shipping were built in 1827.

8th. About 65 of the enumerated river craft navigate between Quebec and Montreal, 59 between Matane and Quebec, and about 113 are employed in the St. Lawrence and Gulf fisheries Of the keel-boats, about 713 may be employed in the fisheries of the river and gulf; 150 are pilot boats. The number of flat boats, batteaux and canoes, is not estimated, but it is known to be considerable.

9th. Exclusive of the pot and pearlash factories enumerated, many of the inhabitants of the townships keep potash kettles for making salts: their number may average 150.

10th. With few exceptions, the Roman catholic parish churches are built of stone, averaging in length from 100 to 140 feet by 50 to 60 feet in breadth. The roofs are generally covered with tin, and surmounted by spires, many of them 2 and several 3. The new cathedral church of Montreal measures 255 feet in length by 134 in width within the walls. Its estimated cost exceeds 96,000*l*. The presbyteries are chiefly stone, and generally large and commodious. Two chapels, called Chapelles du Reposoir, are frequently appendages to the churches in the country. About one half of them are built of stone. Their total number exceeds 300.

11th. Of the number of schools enumerated, 74 are supported under the act of the 41st Geo. III., and 50 are parish schools under the superintendence of the curés.

12th. Branch pilots for and below the harbour of Quebec, 126. Branch pilots for and above the harbour of Quebec, 39.

	Pearlash Factories.	Justice of the Peace.	Medical Men.	Notaries.	Shopkeepers.	Taverns.	Artisans.	Shipyards.	River Craft.	Tonnage.	Keel Boats.	REMARKS.
1	1				5	9	45	1	5	73	6	
4	4				2	2	10	..	..	..	..	
.	..				8	6	90	..	1	15	1	Comprehends the Old and New College of Nicolet.
3	3				40	30	119	3	6	203	7	Comprehends the town of Three Rivers, population souls, also the forges of St. Maurice. Steam-boats, plying on the St. Lawrence, stop at this place.
2	11				9	9	83	..	..	..	..	Comprehends the village of Sherbrooke, the district town of St. Francis.
	..				2	5	54	..	..	..	..	Indian village of St. Francis
19	19	17	80	11	66	61	401	4	12	291	14	
	..				19	5	34	3	49	3,675	297	Both these counties are noted for the fisheries
..	..				9	6	7	4	15	1,125	441	The Magdalen Island is annexed to the county of Gaspe.
		2	32	1	28	11	41	7	64	4,800	738	
73	127	145	461	168	1,016	935	5,587	51	237	10,151	1,065	This column of grand totals is calculated up to December, 1827.

rummond, containing in all 39 townships, and a part of the township of Bolton. The statistics of this district are comprised e superior districts.

RECAPITULATION OF POPULATION, &c.

	Souls.
Population of the province, as stated above	471,876
Magdalen Islands	900
Number of men employed in the king's posts and Mingan within the province	400
Voyageurs employed in the Indian trade, sometimes sojourning in the Indian countries	300
	473,476
Average number of emigrants remaining in the province, out of the total emigration to the Canadas in the ars 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, and 1831	28,000
Natural increase, since 1827, about	59,575
Grand Total	561,051

Exclusive of the military forces of the country and the aborigines wandering in the interior.

From the foregoing table the statist will be able to form a competent idea of the religious and moral state of the inhabitants of the province, at least as far as inferences can be drawn from the existence of numerous houses of public worship, and of schools for the education of youth. He will also have, in some degree, the means of discovering the channels into which the industry of the people is chiefly directed, and will be enabled to form some estimate of the resources and domestic trade of the colony.

With respect to the relative proportions of the Roman catholic and the protestant population, the columns of churches do not afford a very correct criterion to judge by, inasmuch as the number of protestant churches, including presbyterian and Wesleyan, is in a far higher ratio with regard to the number of Roman catholic churches, than the whole protestant population of the province bears to the catholic; the former being about as one to three, when the latter is scarcely in the ratio of one to eight. Nor does it appear that any just inference can be drawn from the columns distinguishing the church of England from that of Scotland, as to what proportion of the protestants belongs to the one persuasion and what to the other. From documents of very respectable authority *, we are enabled to arrive at something like accuracy on this subject, and find that, although the number of episcopal churches much exceeds that of the Scottish church, the members of the latter are at least as numerous, if indeed they are not more so, than those of the former. Taking an approximate view of the proportion which the catholic, the episcopalian, the presbyterian, and dissenting population respectively bear to the whole population of the province, we shall have nearly the following result: it is, however, proper to remark, that, out of the catholic population, about 20,000 may be said to be Irish emigrants, whilst 470,917 are native Canadians:—

* MS. statement of facts in regard to religious matters in Canada, by the Reverend Dr. Harkness. 1828.

Population, Anno 1831.	Proportion of the whole Population.			
	Catholics.	Episcopalians.	Presbyterians.	Dissenters or Denominations.
561,051	7/8	1/21	1/21	1/32

To ascertain what numerical proportion the males bear to the females in Lower Canada, and what portion of the inhabitants is aged, whereby some light may be thrown upon the health and salubrity of the climate, we are left to resort, in the absence of any better source of information, to the imperfect census of 1825, and below will be found a recapitulation of its grand totals. It can, however, only be considered as a mere approximation to the truth, sufficiently accurate for all general purposes, though perhaps not fully satisfactory to the statist.

Totals of the Census of Lower Canada, 1825.

	Total of Inmates in each Family	Number belonging to each Family absent from the Province.	Number of the Family under six years of age.	Number of the Family of more than six and under fourteen years of age.	Number of the Family of more than fourteen & under eighteen years of age.	Males.								Under 14 years of age.	Females.			
						Eighteen and not twenty-five.		Twenty-five and not forty.		Forty and not sixty.		Sixty and upwards.			Fourteen and not forty-five.		Forty-five and upwards.	
						Single.	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	Married.		Single.	Married.	Single.	Married.
Total	423,630	1,450	8,2870	7,4429	2,8935	23,3785	5,293	7,899	31,783	2,664	23,419	1,994	9,443	68,731	39,518	52,864	6,682	1,860

The following statement, taken from returns of baptisms, marriages, and deaths, made to the house of assembly in 1825, will show the natural annual increase of the population in the districts of Quebec and Three Rivers, during a period, in the one district, of 28 years, and in the other of 32 years.

DISTRICT OF QUEBEC.

Returns of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials in the City and the different Parishes of the District of Quebec from the year 1794 *to* 1821.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.	Increase *.
1794	2,792	624	1,291	1,501
1795	2,933	541	1,438	1,495
1796	3,150	528	1,400	1,750
1797	2,892	543	1,472	1,420
1798	2,389	529	1,452	937
1799	3,069	472	1,309	1,760
1800	3,292	562	1,438	1,854
1801	3,287	647	1,725	1,562
1802	3,554	655	1,697	1,857
1803	3,435	712	1,830	1,605
1804	3,531	681	1,682	1,849
1805	3,627	603	1,544	2,083
1806	3,648	680	1,428	2,220
1807	3,850	744	1,530	2,320
1808	4,435	771	1,895	2,540
1809	4,054	942	2,208	1,846
1810	4,916	759	1,964	2,952
1811	4,337	766	2,209	2,128
1812	4,595	1,003	2,348	2,247
1813	4,465	762	2,222	2,243
1814	4,429	739	2,089	2,340
1815	4,554	852	2,322	2,232
1816	4,824	741	1,928	2,896
1817	4,466	784	2,418	2,048
1818	5,051	815	2,310	2,741
1819	5,188	1,002	2,635	2,553
1820	5,371	994	3,488	1,893
1821	5,675	1,081	3,162	2,513

Annual average of 28 years.

Baptisms	1944
Burials	3993·18
Increase	2049·18

or about 51.31 per cent.

DISTRICT OF THREE RIVERS

Returns of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials in the District of Three Rivers from the year 1791 *to* 1822.

Years.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.	Increase *.
1791	835	151	436	399
1792	887	170	409	478
1793	866	151	468	398
1794	929	209	381	548
1795	966	173	401	565
1796	954	153	435	519
1797	964	180	548	416
1798	1,018	182	457	561
1799	1,064	175	431	633
1800	1,121	199	468	653
1801	1,083	208	540	543
1802	1,170	256	600	570
1803	1,211	238	597	614
1804	1,311	201	626	685
1805	1,357	197	512	845
1806	1,342	232	575	767
1807	1,485	252	602	883
1808	1,541	274	515	1,026
1809	1,456	236	605	851
1810	1,549	226	1,072	477
1811	1,461	272	621	840
1812	1,556	311	552	1,004
1813	1,639	258	731	908
1814	1,567	253	943	624
1815	1,663	314	772	891
1816	1,646	285	636	1,010
1817	1,675	301	781	894
1818	1,827	352	623	1,204
1819	1,936	359	770	1,165
1820	1,951	388	1,065	886
1821	2,106	376	898	1,206
1822	2,109	401	884	1,225

Annual average of 32 years.

Baptisms	1,382
Burials	623
Increase	759

or near 55 per cent.

* Being the difference between the baptisms and burials for each year.

In the district of Montreal, for which no returns were yet received, the average number of births over deaths may be about the same as in the other districts.

Viewing the vast superficial extent of the province, and its comparatively small population when considered with relation to its capabilities of supporting numbers infinitely greater, we shall perceive that the number of souls to each square mile scarcely amounts to two and a half, whilst it exceeds 102½ souls when viewed with reference to each square mile of cultivated land; thus showing, on the one hand, the density of the population compared with the lands under tillage, and, on the other, the susceptibility of the country to sustain hereafter a very considerable augmentation of inhabitants. In the following table, the contrast that is exhibited between the density of the population in the district of Three Rivers and that of the district of Gaspé stands explained by the fact that in the former are principally situated the township lands of the province, which in general are laid under cultivation in a greater ratio of increase than the population. The farms are seldom less than 100 acres, they are usually 200, and proprietors of 500 acres are common. Hence large tracts are brought under agricultural improvement by individuals, and the relative proportion of inhabitants to the square mile, becomes less than in the other districts. The remarkable density of population represented in the district of Gaspé is ascribable to the pursuits of the inhabitants, most of whom derive their subsistence less from the produce of the soil than the products of the fisheries. Some there are, however, who consider agriculture a primary object, and have good farms; but by far the greater number confine themselves to the cultivation of a few acres, chiefly devoted to the growth of roots and vegetables.

Table showing the Density of the Population of Lower Canada in the Four Districts, both with relation to the total Superficies of each District, and to the Quantum of Lands under Cultivation. 1827.

Districts.	Population.	Total superficies.	Land in culture.	Density as regards total superficies.	Density as regards lands in culture.
	Souls.	Square miles.	Square miles.	Souls per squ. mile.	Souls per squ. mile.
Quebec .	143,761	125,717	1,412	1,14	101,81
Montreal .	268,631	49,769	2,597	5,39	103,40
Three Rivers	51,657	15,811	579	3,33	89,20
Gaspé . .	7,777	7,389	15½	1,05	501,74
Total	471,876	198,686	4,603½	2,39	102,50

Lower Canada is not only the most important of the British North American provinces, from its situation and extent, but the most populous, its inhabitants being to those of the sister provinces of Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, in the respective ratio of 8.11 and 19 to 3, or, in other terms, nearly in the proportion of the numbers 32, 11, 8, 5; whereby we see that the population of Lower Canada alone constitutes about 4-7ths of the total population of the four provinces, and about 2-5ths of that of the whole of the dominions of Great Britain in North America.

We have not the means of establishing with precision how much of the increase of the population of the province arises from births, and how much is to be attributed to emigration. The number of families, and even the number of souls, landed at the various ports of the colonies, are indeed easily ascertained from the custom-house returns; but what is the distribution of these emigrants subsequently to their arrival, what part of them remains in the province, and what part merely passes through it, to settle eventually in Upper Canada, or in the United States, is not so satisfactorily known. That the adjunction which annually

takes place by the influx of emigration is considerable, there can be no doubt, admitting even that one-third only of the emigrants landed on the wharfs at Quebec permanently settle in Lower Canada.

Taking as data for the natural increase of the population the returns contained in the letters of the curates in reply to the circular queries of the house of assembly, it appears that the average of this increase is about 3 per cent., and that in this proportion the population of the province would double itself in about 26¼ years; but if the adventitious increase arising from emigration, and also the natural increase growing out of it, be taken into consideration, and if we suppose the latter to be in the same ratio of 3 per cent., though it is probably more, we shall then find that the population of the province doubles itself in almost a double ratio, that is, in 14 or 15 years instead of 26 or 27. It may therefore be said, taking a mean of the increase represented in all the province, that the population of the British dominions in North America increases in a geometrical ratio every 16 years; and hence, supposing emigration from the mother country to the colonies to continue to its present extent, the number of inhabitants in that section of the empire would in 1847 exceed 2,400,000 souls. It is sometimes useful thus to look prospectively at the increase of population, from its extending our views not only to the bare contemplation of the numerical strength of the country hereafter, but to its physical capabilities; and viewing as we now do at a glance the vast superficies of the British transatlantic possessions, their surface, soil, and climate, and the great and important advantages they enjoy from grand internal communication by navigable waters, we are forcibly struck with a conviction of the immense resources of British America to maintain millions of inhabitants from the produce of the soil, and to become eventually distinguished for the scope of its commerce.

The geographical position and the superficies of each county and district of the province are exhibited in the following table, with which we shall conclude this chapter.

Statement of the New Subdivision of Lower Canada into Counties, showing their Geographical Position and Superficial Extent, and what proportion thereof consists of Seigniories, Fiefs, Townships, and Waste Lands respectively, also the comparative rank of each County, in Population, Territorial Extent, and Agricultural Produce, &c.

	No.	Counties.	Latitude of the centre of each county.	Longitude of the centre of each county.	Territorial extent.	Proportion thereof laid out in Seigniories and Fiefs.	Proportion in Townships surveyed in whole or part.	Waste Lands.	Rank of each County in Population.	Rank of each County in Territorial Extent.	Rank of each County in Agricultural Produce.	Members of assembly sent by each County.	Places of Election.
					sq. miles.	sq. miles.	sq. miles.	sq. miles.					
DISTRICT OF MONTREAL.	1	Acadie	45° 9′ 0″ N	73° 27′ 0″ w.	250	185	65 Including the St. Regis India	...	21st	35th	20th	2	St. Marguerite de Blair Findie.
	2	Beauharnois	45 10 0	74 5 0	717	325	392	...	13th	22nd	16th	2	St. Clement.
			St. Lawrence.										
	3	Berthier	46 2 0	73 9 0	8,410	451	120	7,839	4th	7th	3rd	2	Berthier.
	4	Chambly	45 29 30	73 17 30	211	211	...	...	16th	37th	5th	2	Longueuil.
	5	La Chenaye	45 43 0	73 30 0	299	216	83	...	12th	27th	26th	2	St. Roch.
	6	La Prairie	45 19 36	73 36 30	238	238	...	...	7th	36th	1st	2	St. Constant.
			On river St. Lawrence.										
	7	L'Assomption, vacant tract in rear of do.	45 47 0	73 23 0	208	108	100	...	24th	33rd	28th	2	St. Pierre de L'Assomption.
		and co. of La Chenaye	...	...	4,800	...	...	4,800					
	8	Missisqui	45 6 30	72 43 15	360	72	288	...	30th	30th	4th	2	Vs. of Dunham & Freighleisburg.
	9	Montreal	45 31 0	73 40 0	197	197	...	...	1st	38th	6th	6	St. Laurent.
			West Bds. L. Temiscaming.										
	10	Ottawa	47 54 0	80 6 10	31,669	220	868	30,581	38th	2nd	32nd	1	Hull.
			Ottawa River.										
			45 34 30	74 47 30									
	11	Richelieu	45 50 15	72 58 0	373	373	...	...	5th	29th	13th	3	St. Ours.
			River Richelieu.										
	12	Rouville	45 18 30	73 15 0	429	429	...	...	9th	28th	8th	2	St. Marie de Monnoir.
			Village St. Hyacinthe, R. Richelieu.										
	13	St. Hyacinthe	45 37 15	72 55 0	477	477	...	...	17th	25th	9th	2	St Hyacinthe.
			In T. of Shefford.										
	14	Shefford	45 22 18	72 32 0	749	...	749	...	34th	17th	22nd	1	Frost Village Tn. of Shefford.
	15	Stanstead	45 9 0	72 4 0	632	...	632	...	27th	23rd	10th	2	Copps Ferry and V. of Charlston, T. of Hatley.
			River Jesus.										
	16	Terrebonne, including Isle Jesus	45 39 20	73 20 0	3,169	205	114	2,850	6th	12th	19th	2	St. Rose and St. Anne des Plaines
			Ottawa River.										
	17	Two Mountains, including I. Berard	45 31 0	74 21 30	1,086	302	341	443	3rd	18th	4th	2	St. André and St. Eustache.
	18	Vaudreuil, including Isle Perlot	45 21 15	74 16 0	330	288	22	...	14th	32nd	18th	2	Vaudreuil and Cedres.
	19	Vercheres	45 42 30	73 16 0	198	198	...	...	19th	39th	2nd	2	Vercheres.
		Total	...	...	54,802	4,515	3,774	46,513	1st	2nd	1st	41	

DISTRICT OF QUEBEC.	2 Bellechasse	46 27	70 25	1,775	278	295	1,202	11th	24th	31st	2	St. Valier and St. Gervais
	3 Dorchester	46 38	71 11 30	348	348	..	..	22nd	31st	25th	2	R. Etchemin and St. Nicolas.
	4 Islet	46 40 30	69 52	3,044	239	197	2,608	18th	13th	15th	2	Islet.
	5 Kamouraska	47 3	69 12	4,320	247	182	3,891	15th	9th	11th	2	Kamouraska.
	6 Lotbiniere	46 28	71 37 30	735	735	..	..	29th	21st	29th	2	St. Croix.
	7 Megantic	46 5 30	71 12 5	1,465	..	328	1,137	40th	19th	39th	1	Leeds.
		On the St. Lawrence.										
	8 Montmorenci	47 10	70 53 10	7,396	576	..	6,820	36th	8th	36th	2	St. Anne.
	9 Orleans	46 56	70 57 30	69	69	..	..	35th	40th	35th	1	St. Jean.
		On the St. Lawrence.										
	10 Portneuf	46 41	71 47 0w	8,640	572	..	8,068	8th	5th	12th	2	Des Chambault & St. Augustin.
		Eastern Exty. St. Lawrence.										
	11 Quebec	46 46 30	71 18	14,240	246	214	13,780	2nd	3rd	7th	6	Charlesbourg.
	12 Rimouski	48 1	67 51 30	8,840	1,073	213	7,554	28th	6th	34th	2	Rimouski and Isle Verte.
		Cap Abatis Wn. Exty.										
	13 Saguenay, including Isle aux Coudre & Anticosti	47 12 30	70 24 30	72,700	535	42	72,123	26th	1st	33rd	2	Bay St. Paul and Murray Bay.
		AnceSablon	En. Exty.									
		51 30	55 20 0	2,390	2,390	..	..	Rank of	the District.			
	Totals	..	..	127,949	7,815	1,882	118,220	2nd	1st	2nd	28	
D. of THREE RIVERS.		On the St. Lawrence.										
	1 Champlain	46 28	72 14	783	633	150	..	31st	20th	27th	2	Ferry Nr. R. St. Lawrence and Batiscan River.
	2 Drummond	46 0 0	72 0 0	1,674	..	1,604	70	39th	16th	37th	1	Drummondville.
	3 Nicolet	46 20 0	72 17 30	487	275	212	..	20th	26th	21st	2	Gentilly and St. Gregoire.
		On Lake St. Peter.										
	4 St. Maurice	46 17 30	72 42 30	9,810	244	180	9,386	10th	4th	14th	4	Yamachiche.
		On River St. Francis T. Westbury.										
	5 Sherbrooke	45 30 15	71 35 15	2,786	..	2,080	706	32nd	14th	17th	2	Sherbrooke and Richmond.
	6 Yamaska	46 4 0	72 41 30	283	283	..	..	25th	34th	30th	2	Vil. St. François.
								Rank of	the District.			
	Totals	..	..	15,923	1,435	4,226	10,162	3rd	3rd	3rd	13	
D. of GASPE.		On River Ristigouche										
	1 Bonaventure	48 2 25	66 34 0	4,108	..	..	..	33rd	10th	38th	1	Richmond & Hope
	2 Gaspé	48 39 30	65 32	3,188	..	..	..	37th	11th	40th	1	Point Peter.
	3 Magdalen Islds.	..	..	93	..	93	..	Rank of	the District.			
	Totals	..	..	7,389	..	..	..	4th	4th	4th	2	
	Grand Totals	..	..	205,863								

Inferior District of St. Francis — This inferior district is composed of 38 townships and a part of Bolton; it comprehends the whole of the county of Sherbrooke, and a part of the county of Drummond, in the District of Three Rivers, and all Stanstead, except a part of Bolton, in the District of Montreal, covering the greater part of the above named superior districts, and is included in the General Tables and in the Statistical Tables; its superficies and produce, &c. are comprised within, and form part of the above-named Superior Districts.

CHAPTER XIII.

Agriculture—Manufactures—Lands in Cultivation.

THAT agriculture is the primary source of public wealth has become an axiom in political economy, and the history of civilization serves to illustrate its truth, by showing that in all countries, first agriculture flourished, and then manufactures and commerce; but that these should be as permanent a benefit to the community appears to be doubtful, since they are considered as indicative of the decline of a state *. The agricultural age of a country may probably be considered, therefore, the most happy period of its history, and that age seems to be that of Canada just now. In stating so, we do not mean to refer to the degree of perfection attained in the agricultural arts in the colony, but to the extent and broad diffusion of husbandry, the number of inhabitants that are agriculturists, that draw from the bosom of the earth every thing necessary to supply their wants, food, raiment, and shelter, and, in fact, the absolute reliance of 7-8ths of the whole population for their sustenance and comfort upon the produce of the soil, which they industriously cultivate. The improvements that have been introduced in the European systems of agriculture are unknown in Canada, or at least have never been adopted, and the Canadian farmer is still seen guiding the old-fashioned plough used by his forefathers, unconscious or heedless of the "march of intellect" abroad, which has not only led to the invention of novel and improved implements of husbandry, but to considerable and beneficial changes in the process of cultivating the earth. The improvements in agriculture in England and elsewhere are to be ascribed to an increased density of population, which rendered it necessary to enhance, by artificial means, the fertility of the soil, that

* "In the youth of a state *arms* do flourish; in the middle age of a state, *learning*; and then both of them together for a time; in the declining age of a state, *mechanical arts* and *merchandise*."—BACON.

its produce might be adequate to the subsistence of augmented numbers; but in Canada, where lands are abundant and farms generally large, this necessity does not exist, and the agriculturist is satisfied with a process of tillage rude, when compared with its ameliorated condition in older countries, yet sufficiently perfect to correspond with his views, and capable of gratifying his wants.

The first striking peculiarity that presents itself in Canadian farms is their elongated shape, each farm or land called, in the language of the country, *terre*, being, in nine cases out of ten, 3 arpents wide by 30 arpents in depth. This width is often again subdivided into two or three and sometimes more sections, the divisions always running longitudinally, and forming so many elongated parallelograms, one extremity of which, called the front, generally abuts upon the public road, whilst the other terminates at what is termed the *cordon*, or division-line between one range of *concessions* or farms, and another. The farmers, —*censitaires* (for we are now speaking of the feudal lands of the province), usually build their houses at 100 or 200 yards distance from the road, and sometimes nearer; and as the farms are, as we have just stated, very narrow, the settlements are close, and in most parts have the appearance of a continued village. The origin of this injudicious distribution of the land is no doubt to be traced to the social character of the Canadian peasant, who is singularly fond of neighbourhood, though it is also referrible to the expediency which formerly existed of concentrating as much as possible the moral and physical energies of the colony, not only with a view of mutual aid in the formation of settlements, but in order the better to be able to repel the attacks of the aborigines, who are well known to have waged a severe war against the first European settlers that established themselves in Canada. Long after the cause of the adoption of such a plan had ceased to exist, the lands continued to be parceled out in the same inconvenient manner, and a considerable degree of otherwise unnecessary labour was thus thrown upon the hands of the agriculturist. His house being in the front part of his farm, and his land all longitude, he is not only incapable, in most instances, of commanding over it that constant supervision, which is so desirable in rural economy, but is obliged to devote more of his time to its tillage, owing to the remoteness of some of his fields from his dwelling, and to

employ much labour and more materials in fencing his farm and enclosures. It is not uncommon to meet with lands in the seigniories, whose dimensions are half an arpent in front by thirty in depth, forming a rectangular farm, whose breadth is to its length in the relative proportion of 1 to 60. Nevertheless the Canadian husbandman toils with cheerfulness, and, when cultivating the remoter parts of his land, carries with him his homely fare, and only returns to his roof, after the close of his labours, at night-fall.

The scientific rotation of crops is unknown to the Canadian agriculturist; he steadily pursues the systems handed down to him by his ancestors, and nothing but the influence of example, very generally diffused, will gradually remove prejudices that are too natural not to meet with apologists, and alter usages that have been sanctioned by generations. The consequence of this desultory mode of tillage, unguided by those rules of art that renovate the vigour of the soil, has been, in some cases, a considerable diminution, and an exhaustion of the productive properties of the land. The returns of produce are nevertheless amply adequate to the wants of the inhabitants, that which is deficient in fertility being frequently made up by superficies; thus the Canadian farmer cultivates two acres, and probably three, to obtain the same amount of corn, &c. that one acre of a good English farm would be expected to yield. But this should by no means be assumed as a criterion of the productive ability of lands in Canada, the returns being in the ratio of the labour and not of the improvable fertility of the soil, it being well known, from experience, that any given quantum of land in England and in Canada, if cultivated to an equally high degree, will yield returns nearly similar.

The most usual period for sowing in spring is the end of April, in the district of Quebec, and the middle of that month in the district of Montreal; the harvesting season commences about the middle of August, and continues until the beginning of September, but these periods are liable to fluctuation, both later and earlier. Much ploughing is generally done in the autumn; its extent, however, being governed by the rigour of the weather, the operation having been sometimes arrested from that cause, early in October, when, at others, it has continued until the middle, and even to the end of November. Haymaking usually begins between the 10th and 12th of July, and lasts till the commencement of August.

The aggregate amount of the produce of the province will be seen by the following table, calculated from data, which may be relied upon, as leading at least to a very near approximation of the truth, if not to results unimpeachably correct. The mode adopted in obtaining the information necessary for the construction of such a statement, was not unlike that followed by Mr. Gourlay in the statistics of Upper Canada; but it should be remarked, that facilities exist in Lower Canada in the means of collecting authentic facts, which the nature of things in the upper province does not allow. In the lower province, the seignorial lands compose the mass of the settled parts of the country, and in each seigniory are to be found two or three heads or sources, where centres every requisite information relative to the agricultural and statistical resources of the feudal settlements; these heads being usually the seigneur. the curate, and the notary, or some of the more intelligent inhabitants of the different seigniories, or parishes, who form so many different *points d'appui*, upon which much reliance may obviously be placed, from the close and immediate relation that necessarily subsists between the seigneur and his vassals, the curate and his parishioners, and the notary (who is generally considered one of the notables of the place) and the inhabitants, who very frequently resort to him. Captains of militia, and other intelligent individuals in the country, have also been consulted as to the agricultural state of the province, and we have not unfrequently, in the course of upwards of 3,000 miles of travel, in all parts of Lower Canada, entered the labourer's humble dwelling, when his family were engaged at the spinning-wheel and the loom, to ascertain the exact state of the domestic manufactures of the country. Such of the seigniories as we did not personally traverse, and these are few in number, we became almost equally well acquainted with, through the circumstantial and intelligent replies of the seigneurs and reverend curates, to circular queries transmitted to them, embracing in their purport all the objects mentioned in the agricultural statement, and also many of those comprised in the columns of the statistical table. As regards the townships, the same means, modified by circumstances, were resorted to for information, much was obtained by personal inspection in the progress of official tours, whilst the official returns of township agents, made quarterly to us, were likewise sources of the most correct and circumstantial facts, relative to the state of the new settlements of the colony.

STATEMENT, BY DISTRICTS AND COUNTIES, OF THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, LIVE STOCK, DO

PRODUCE OF EACH COUNTY UPON AN AVERAGE OF THREE YEARS.

	No.	Counties.	Wheat. Bushels.	Oats. Bushels.	Barley. Bushels.	Peas. Bushels.	Rye. Bushels.	Buck Wheat. Bushels.	Indian Corn. Bushels.	Mixed Grain. Bushels.	Maple Sugar. Cwts.	Potatoes. Bushels.	Hay. Tons.
District of Montreal.	1	Acadie	62,000	59,000	7,900	23,020	7,244	2,000	5,180	3,800	1,062	169,500	29,100
	2	Beauharnois	61,805	46,660	14,000	41,800	11,550	5,400	20,950	5,374	1,326	195,400	25,300
	3	Berthier	117,636	159,632	14,981	38,959	5,375	2,500	3,296	4,085	1,064	470,913	64,111
	4	Chambly	136,166	90,440	12,910	28,685	14,508	2,500	1,985	4,115	195	247,157	38,229
	5	La Chenaye	48,100	43,950	6,130	21,588	3,910	700	9,000	4,900	491	201,579	33,100
	6	La Prairie	151,800	111,600	9,900	58,260	21,900	1,000	20,910	4,910	1,054	153,500	54,567
	7	L'Assomption	56,780	39,330	1,117	15,335	3,000	500	5,600	5,200	362	161,000	25,900
	8	Missisqui	86,833	93,700	12,000	35,700	6,000	20,300	36,706	4,000	581	252,000	28,200
	9	Montreal	126,000	93,860	13,120	17,066		2,500	1,456	15,150	98	495,857	42,27
	10	Ottawa	22,846	24,760	1,250	6,810	8,166	7,000	31,833	4,200	500	42,805	6,537
	11	Richelieu	92,300	83,419	4,341	24,600	5,490	3,000	3,260	5,800	554	156,790	43,200
	12	Rouville	167,216	89,740	28,200	39,900	8,220	3,020	16,975	4,910	642	140,300	45,600
	13	St. Hyacinthe	114,771	95,400	13,706	17,072	3,220	5,107	1,844	5,250	610	69,110	50,600
	14	Shefford	36,568	51,543	6,950	21,608	2,200	9,796	17,915	2,500	384	70,800	15,516
	15	Stanstead	90,020	85,700	14,000	18,850	1,944	2,780	25,332	2,600	531	136,100	34,100
	16	Terrebonne	75,764	60,442	4,772	22,170	2,312	3,000	3,284	3,990	312	305,702	53,103
	17	Two Mountains	91,350	75,880	19,275	38,100	29,750	11,000	53,760	3,750	857	167,000	37,300
	18	Vaudreuil	68,900	60,200	5,830	20,860		10,000	5,000	5,008	679	326,701	31,300
	19	Vercheres	145,531	114,600	23,290	56,400	9,020	2,500	4,880	5,610	187	359,507	34,950
		Total	1,752,386	1,379,856	213,672	546,783	134,809	94,603	272,266	95,152	11,489	4,121,721	692,988
District of Quebec.	1	Beauce	56,430	38,100	23,500	22,361	510	600	2,010	1,050	160	111,300	22,300
	2	Bellechasse	100,848	82,300	11,720	17,530	2,585	2,500	910	3,105	568	235,534	46,500
	3	Dorchester	55,000	43,500	6,450	19,000	4,058	145	7,040	5,500	1,810	93,100	29,100
	4	Islet	93,806	73,500	5,714	15,824	8,669	2,100	4,550	6,568	982	247,137	41,033
	5	Kamouraska	109,191	41,400	32,675	22,840	10,275	1,200	5,060	12,100	1,211	241,050	32,914
	6	Lotbinière	59,700	42,250	1,991	11,000	2,490	1,000	1,885	4,350	647	30,440	22,218
	7	Megantic	3,695	1,575	595	240	940	518	122	1,200	175	8,117	270
	8	Montmorenci	38,448	14,982	1,156	2,586	1,300		5,800	1,000	187	21,380	13,650
	9	Orleans	31,924	20,896	2,605	16,500	3,165	2,500	315	2,195	162	106,065	16,122
	10	Portneuf	94,354	84,740	6,829	28,605	4,500	4,060	2,730	3,150	1,053	340,458	42,205
	11	Quebec	59,214	152,615	14,240	25,775	4,851	2,450	3,198	2,465	354	331,627	34,598
	12	Remouski	34,528	14,460	10,793	6,073	6,110	1,000	60	15,864	726	19,460	16,457
	13	Saguenay	56,734	16,735	5,336	4,135	3,480	2,000	3,297	3,200	296	62,736	26,500
		Total	793,872	627,053	123,604	192,469	52,933	20,073	36,977	61,747	8,331	1,848,404	348,875
District of 3 Rivers.	1	Champlain	41,773	68,300	608	10,390	1,100	1,760	640	4,380	386	238,516	21,177
	2	Drummond	18,080	14,503	1,994	2,931	1,230	170	8,331	5,100	306	27,330	17,900
	3	Nicolet	76,350	47,109	3,200	17,620	4,283		310	3,500	936	66,620	38,100
	4	Saint Maurice	89,600	85,900	13,030	14,640	3,130	2 500	330	4,280	648	129,880	32,660
	5	Sherbrooke	80,871	62,910	3,619	18,280	19,043	2,291	13,260	3,180	709	103,119	30,500
	6	Yamaska	56,300	39,000	3,340	17,400	1,015		638	6,150	743	40,900	29,000
		Total	362,974	317,722	25,841	81,261	29,801	6,721	23,509	26,590	3,728	606,365	169,337
Gaspe.	1	Bonaventure	11,130	13,095		1,600			200	650	521	57,210	4,067
	2	Gaspé	878	3,803		1,205			198	520	260	162,610	6,800
		Total	12,008	16,898		2,805			398	1,170	781	219,820	10,867
		Grand Total	2,931,240	2,341,529	363,117	823,318	217,543	121,397	333,150	184,659	24,329	6,796,310	1,228,067

MESTIC MANUFACTURES, AND QUANTUM OF LAND UNDER CULTIVATION IN LOWER CANADA, 1827.

		LIVE STOCK.					DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES.			LAND IN CULTIVATION.			
Flax. Cwts.	Butter. Cwts.	Horses.	Oxen.	Cows.	Sheep.	Swine.	Cloth (Etoffe du Pays). French ells.	Flannel and Home-spun (Petite Etoffe). French ells.	Linen. French ells.	Looms.	Under Crop. Acres.	Fallow and Meadow Land. Acres.	Total Quantum in Culture. Acres.
343	3,685	3,850	4,368	6,435	23,883	3,085	40,210	30,000	49,666	390	21,166	39,334	60,500
277	5,080	2,076	3,916	5,678	17,599	6,838	20,040	23,000	25,833	208	31,466	62,034	93,500
498	5,902	5,822	5,172	10,756	38,068	9,236	59,995	41,945	45,925	579	38,260	97,978	136,238
345	3,986	4,492	2,852	6,466	21,872	2,760	38,872	24,600	31,100	307	30,925	60,580	91,505
243	4,398	4,815	5,580	8,255	20,500	8,550	26,330	18,321	20,600	305	26,150	49,300	75,450
741	5,910	5,963	6,902	12,329	40,369	9,639	61,250	53,000	72,500	598	37,734	72,466	110,200
347	3,073	3,643	4,160	7,961	22,485	9,739	30,010	24,009	30,177	415	21,033	39,066	60,099
251	3,831	3,266	5,151	7,140	21,705	4,600	32,240	23,780	20,684	360	16,834	32,466	49,300
225	4,610	5,869	4,949	9,727	18,850	7,520	31,740	23,805	28,676	294	67,500	71,975	139,475
97	1,218	569	848	1,983	5,320	1,455	5,550	6,828	7,960	86	5,234	10,166	15,400
287	6,457	5,363	4,521	9,736	34,410	7,899	35,850	19,315	25,070	307	38,733	70,476	109,209
443	6,500	5,787	7,965	11,115	45,505	9,652	52,230	43,800	40 686	556	36 633	67,266	103,899
310	4,372	7,042	6,215	10,135	32,828	7,351	33,950	16,111	24,000	298	35,834	68,666	104,500
148	2,208	1,724	2,242	3,019	8,486	2,424	12,740	9,509	13,160	102	11,050	19,100	30,150
201	3,010	3,505	4,470	6,200	13,835	4,395	16,860	11,305	17,090	123	14,434	25,866	40,300
320	5,985	5,677	5,998	8,947	37,455	7,570	45,410	24,740	28,394	370	27,287	73,295	100.582
516	6,962	4,811	5,498	8,116	26,130	6,628	30,650	16,280	40,680	580	37,668	72,332	110,000
346	3,797	3,603	4,614	6,146	22,910	5,995	34,651	12,826	31,260	390	31,400	59,800	91,200
495	4,598	5,322	3,210	7,180	30,600	5,570	49,590	33,060	41,500	488	50,665	89,800	140,465
6,533	85,582	81,199	88,631	147,324	482,810	120,906	658,168	456,234	594,961	6,756	580,006	1,081,966	1,661,972
347	3,108	3,225	2,171	5,662	19,808	5,972	25,100	13,900	21,560	398	24,734	46,466	71,200
391	4,787	5,394	4,202	8,552	41,786	17,354	50,150	40,000	36,060	601	28,567	68,339	96,906
355	3,331	3,709	2,925	6,795	21,902	7,756	30,900	19,700	27,500	419	28,368	53,732	82,100
343	3,965	3,201	2,910	7,855	30,805	9,990	34,080	27,560	30,670	372	25,500	59,999	85,499
379	6,980	3,658	2,852	8,955	26,490	4,558	43,000	26,035	35,000	403	33,833	66,066	99,899
353	2,855	2,802	1,694	5,684	17,452	6,555	33,331	27,340	32,150	416	22,440	39,810	62,250
7	228	51	116	185	196	266	933	780	408	31	694	1,086	1,780
156	1,709	1,232	3,033	4,275	9,934	4,834	13,140	10,930	14,425	206	11,217	22,134	33,351
115	1,420	1,044	1,690	2,098	6,905	4,810	11,200	8,400	10,080	90	11,939	27,061	39,000
385	4,569	5,016	5,354	11,425	23,631	7,373	38,850	31,080	34,665	518	30,910	67,500	98,410
160	3,204	4,941	3,291	7,513	19,700	5,272	23,340	11,970	14,840	252	31,904	78,950	110,854
211	2,900	2,601	2,098	4,655	12,127	3,751	23,140	14,655	15,120	204	21,367	42,034	63,401
312	3,040	2,148	3,162	5,143	17,306	8,105	25,100	20,900	28,415	405	19,930	39,266	59,196
3,422	42,096	39,022	35,498	78,797	248,042	86,596	352,264	253,250	300,893	4,315	291,403	612,443	903,846
79	2,432	2,353	2,422	5,749	10,948	3,482	7,040	5,443	6,446	136	19,766	38,334	58,100
52	827	716	912	1,286	3,362	1,375	4,755	3,200	4 300	98	4,090	5,180	9,270
307	5,297	5,250	2,628	7,490	25,500	7,155	47,661	27,340	57,100	595	32,600	65,200	97,800
221	3,390	4,401	4,550	7,565	29,580	6,720	24,120	16,328	19 386	418	34,100	64 900	99,000
381	2,009	3,161	3,872	5,408	11,836	4,995	24,233	20,100	35,400	395	10,180	19,940	30,120
422	3,398	2,941	4,960	4,720	12,448	6,501	27,434	22 335	39,300	431	25,166	51,334	76,500
1,762	17,353	18,822	19,344	32,218	93,674	30,228	135,243	94,746	161,932	2,073	125,902	244,878	370,780
8	323	427	943	1,076	3,442	3,220	5,232	3,000	608	67	3,258	3,400	6,658
4	610	962	596	600	1,154	785	2,766	1,010	302	32	1,629	1,700	3,329
12	933	1,389	1,539	1,676	4,596	4,005	7,998	4,010	910	99	4,887	5,100	9,987
1,729	145,964	140,432	145,012	260,015	829,122	241,735	1,153,673	808,240	1,058,696	13,243	1,002,198	1,944,387	2,946,565

By the column of land under culture we find that there are nearly 3,000,000 of acres of improved lands in the province, and that of this quantum about 1-3rd is actually under crop, and the remaining 2-3rds are partly left fallow, and partly cultivated as meadow land. We have, therefore, rather upwards of 1,000,000, viz. 1,002,198 acres, that yield the grain of the country, besides roots and vegetables, which may be considered as absorbing about 250,000 acres of that quantum. Hence it appears that the whole aggregate amount in bushels of wheat, oats, barley, pease, &c., raised in the county, i. e. 7,295,963, is the produce of 752,198 acres of tillage lands, yielding an average of $9\frac{1}{2}$ bushels per acre; and this average, although higher than an estimate given by a very intelligent citizen * of Quebec, in his evidence before a committee of the assembly, is probably low, when it is considered that instances are not rare of one acre producing 20 bushels of wheat, and considerably more oats, maize, &c. But the apparent discrepancy can be easily conciliated by a very judicious remark of the gentleman alluded to, who considers the population of the province as having increased in a much more rapid ratio than the cultivation, which not only diminished the amount of the export of bread stuffs, but, owing to the advanced demand for them by the native population of the country, has rendered additional diligence necessary in the process of tillage, and, in some measure, forced the inhabitants, though almost imperceptibly, into agricultural improvements.

As a proof of the fact above stated, the following statements, taken from the printed reports of the crown lands committee of the house of assembly, will show that, with few exceptions, the export amount of bread stuffs from the province has considerably diminished since the year 1793.

* William Meiklejohn, Esq.

Export of Bread Stuffs from the Port of Quebec from 1793 *to* 1802 *inclusive*.*

	1793.	1794.	1795.	1796.	1797.	1798.	1799.	1800.	1801.	1802.
Wheat . . .	487,000	414,000	395,000	3,106	31,000	92,000	129,000	217,000	473,000	1010,033
Flour (bbls.)	10,900	13,700	18,000	4,300	14,000	9,500	14,400	20,000	38,000	28,300
Biscuit (cwt.)	9,800	15,000	20,000	3,800	8,000	12,000	21,500	25,000	32,300	22,051

	Bush. Wheat,	Bbls. Flour,	Cwt. Biscuit,
Amounting to	3,251,139	171,100	169,451
Annual average	325,114	17,100	16,945
Do. of Flax seed	7,500 bushels, and of Pease, Oats, and Barley		4,000

The Exports of Bread Stuffs from the Port of Quebec for seven years, 1816 *to* 1822 *inclusive, in something near round numbers, is as follows* :*

	1816.	1817 & 1818.	1819.	1820.	1821.	1822.
Wheat (bush.)		546,500	37,800	320,000	318,400	145,000
Flour (bbls.)	1,137	69,100	12,100	45,000	22,600	47,700
Biscuit (cwt.)	456	22,700	11,200	8,800	11,200	13,500

	Bush. Wheat,	Bbls. Flour,	Cwt. Biscuit,
Amounting to	1,367,700	197,637	67,856
Annual average	195,386	28,233	9,694

Wheat is the chief article cultivated by the Canadian farmer; yet it is not raised in much greater quantities than would be requisite for the consumption of the inhabitants, were not the import of Upper Canada flour into the lower province so extensive as to make up the deficiency that would arise by the export of corn from the port of Quebec to the British markets. The great and increasing tide of emigration to the country augments the demand for bread stuffs in a much larger ratio than their production, and it cannot therefore be expected that a dense population, under the Canadian system of husbandry, can both supply their own wants and have at the same time the means of exportation. However, as the township lands will progressively be thrown open, and

* Evidence of William Meiklejohn, Esq.

new farms are brought under cultivation, the produce will gradually assume a greater proportion to the population. And should the distillation of whiskey and beer be eventually introduced into the country, there is no doubt that the increased demand for barley and wheat, consequent upon this event, would give a new impulse to the culture of those species of grain, and render the province, in a measure, independent of foreign markets, for the disposition of its surplus corn. The cheapness of whiskey and beer, that would naturally follow the general introduction of distilleries of this description, must be considered by moralists as leading to excesses in drinking, but admitting its tendency, we cannot forget that the adulterated and deleterious beverage the people now universally drink, in the shape of rum, is not only cheap but far more pernicious than would be either whiskey or beer, and it is also without the redeeming advantage possessed by the latter, that of affording a market to the wheat of the country, and thus encouraging its cultivation.

The extent of the domestic manufactures of the province, exhibited by the table, will probably excite some surprise, but it serves to demonstrate, in a forcible manner, the resources of the country, and the independent condition of its inhabitants, as regards all the necessaries of life. Some counties are rather more manufacturing than others, and not only weave woollens and linens for their own use but also for sale; generally speaking, however, the peasantry of the different parishes are satisfied with clothing themselves from the produce of their own looms, the operation of weaving universally devolving upon the female branches of the family, who are thus employed during the late autumnal and the winter months. Few farmers cultivate more than half an acre in flax-seed, the growth of which supplies them with ample materials to manufacture their house linen, and only a few articles of wearing apparel, most of these being made of flannel. Flax grows with great luxuriance in Canada, and hemp has, in all cases in which it was fairly tried, succeeded equally well. It is particularly adapted as a first crop after the clearing of new lands, the soil being generally too rich in the outset for the production of grain, and there is no doubt, that in a country where the forests are daily making way for cultivation, a considerable portion of the new lands would be appropriated to the growth of hemp, if a