

1813

Geographical View of the Province of Upper Canada 1813

M. Smith

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Russell's Boon
GEOGRAPHICAL VIEW

OF THE

PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA

AND

PROMISCUOUS REMARKS ON THE GOVERNMENT.

IN TWO PARTS,

WITH AN APPENDIX:

CONTAINING A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE

NIAGARA FALLS.

AND REMARKS RELATIVE TO THE

SITUATION OF THE INHABITANTS RESPECTING THE WAR,

AND A CONCISE HISTORY OF ITS PROGRESS, TO

THE PRESENT DATE.

BY M. SMITH.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY PELSUE & GOULD.

August, 1813.

Price 50 Cents.

SPECIAL
COLLECTION

DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, TO WIT:

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the twenty-fourth day [L.S.] of April, in the thirty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America, MICHAEL SMITH, of the said District, hath deposited in this office, the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as author, in the words following, to wit:

"A Geographical View of the Province of Upper Canada, and promiscuous Remarks upon the Government. In two parts. With an Appendix, containing a complete description of the Niagara Falls, and remarks relative to the situation of the inhabitants respecting the war. By M. SMITH."

In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned."

H. W. EDWARDS,

Clerk of the District of Connecticut.

A true copy examined and sealed by me,

H. W. EDWARDS,

Clerk of the District of Connecticut.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IT is proper here to inform the public, and particularly those who subscribed for this work more than a year ago, that more than two years since, I made application to the then governor of Upper Canada, Francis Gore, esq. for liberty to take and print a Geographical and Political View of the province, and obtained his approbation. In June, 1812, I agreed with the printers in Buffaloe, for the publication of the work, and sent them part of the manuscript before the declaration of war, which event prevented the publication. In December, by virtue of a proclamation of the governor, in favor of citizens belonging to the United States, I obtained a passport to leave the province with others. I have now published a complete Geographical View of the province, but have left out the Political View, instead of which, I have subjoined remarks respecting the war while I was in the province; and also, a concise account of it to the present date of this second edition.

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PREFACE.

IT is a common practice among authors, to beg an introduction of their works to the public, by making an humble apology for the crime of writing: but I cannot conceive that I have done wrong in publishing this work, but rather lament that it has not appeared sooner and better executed. However, it may not be amiss to inform the public that I was induced to this business about three years ago, while in Canada, from a belief that a full and impartial account of the province would be acceptable and useful to my fellow-citizens, as of late years many have been in the habit of moving there. And I also knew that a correct geographical account of the province of Upper Canada had never been published; whatever had been, was brief and defective. I may add, that the mildness of the climate, fertility of the soil, benefit of trade, cheapness of the land, and morals of the inhabitants, so far exceeded my expectations and the apprehensions of the public in general; I deemed it my duty to make known the same.

I will also observe, that I have wrote from experimental knowledge, and not merely from what has been suggested by others. Some may imagine, because I write thus, that I have a partiality for the English—but this I solemnly deny; I only describe things in their true characters, with the impartiality of an historian. I began this work before the war; I undertook it with an earnest desire to benefit some, I care not who; if any are benefitted I shall be gratified: in short, I write this *Pro Bono Publico*.

Winchester, April, 16, 1813.

PART I.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT OF LONDON, (UPPER CANADA.)

THIS district is bounded east by Indian land, on Grand River, north by the wilderness, west by the western district at Detroit, and south by Lake Erie, along the north shore of which it extends about 90 miles. The district of London is certainly much the best part of Canada. It is sufficiently level, very rich, and beautifully variegated with small hills and fertile vallies, through which flow a number of pearly streams of almost the best water in the world.

In this district there is a large quantity of natural plains, though not in very large bodies, and not entirely clear of timber. This land has a handsome appearance, and affords fine roads and pasture in summer. Here the farmer has but little to do only to fence his land, and put in the plough, which indeed requires a strong team at first, but afterwards may be tilled with one horse. These plains are mostly in the highest part of the ground, are very rich and well adapted for wheat and clover. The surface of

the earth in this district is almost entirely clear of stone; it is of a sandy quality, (especially the plains) which renders it very easy for cultivation.

This district is situated in the 41st degree and 40 minutes of north lat. and is favoured with a temperate climate. The summers are sufficiently long, to bring all the crops to perfection, if planted in season: indeed there is hardly ever any kind of produce injured by the frost.

This is the best part of Canada for wheat, and I believe of any part of the world: from 20 to 35 bushels are commonly gathered from one acre of ground, perfectly sound and clear from smut. Corn thrives exceedingly well, as also all other kinds of grain. Apples, peaches, cherries, and all kinds of fruit common to the United States, flourish very well here. Wood-land sells from two to five dollars an acre. The timber of this district consists of almost all kinds common to the United States.

The inhabitants of this district enjoy a greater degree of health, than is common to observe in most places: but doubtless there are reasons for this, founded on natural principles and among which are the following:

1st. The inhabitants are from their prosperous situation, exempt from the necessity of labouring too hard, and at the same time are called to a moderate share of industry, which promotes the health of the body and mind.

2d. The most of the people were poor when they first came to the province: of course had been accustomed to live on the simple necessities of life, and yet retain a wise moderation in eating and drinking, which also very much prevents the introduction of disease.

3d. The climate is quite temperate, and according to the observation of many who have lived in the place 16 years, sudden changes from hot to cold, or cold to hot, is not so common as in most places in the United States, or Europe. The winter commences gradually, and goes off in like manner. The snow in this district has never been known to be more than 20 inches deep, and generally not more than 12.

4th. All the water in this district is clear from any foreign body, is pure, and of the lightest order; the most of people make use of springs or brooks, which are in great plenty, and are clear and cool nine months in the year: neither are they very often made muddy by rain, the land through which they run being of a sandy quality.

5th. The soil being of a sandy quality, as observed above, naturally produces sound and sweet grain, and vegetables: the using of which very much promotes the health of the consumer.

6th. The people of this Canadian paradise are more contented in their situation of life, than is common to observe in most places, which also

very much preserves the health of man, while a contrary disposition tends to destroy it.

This District is divided into three counties, viz. Norfolk, Middlesex, and Oxford, and twenty five townships, all of which I will describe in a brief manner.

OF NORFOLK COUNTY.

This County lies in the south east part of the district, joining the shore of Lake Erie, and is divided into nine townships, generally nine miles wide, where they join on the lake shore, and twelve miles in length towards the north.

WALPOLE.

This township lies in the south east corner of the county, joining the Indian land on the Grand River, and the lake shore. It is tolerably well supplied with timber of various kinds. The ground is level and very rich; though thinly settled, in consequence of large bodies of land together being owned by people in England.

It contains 1 gun-smith, 1 store, 1 school, 1 saw-mill, 1 tanner, 2 shoe-makers, and 1 tailor.

RAINHAM.

This lies joining and west of Walpole, on the lake shore, and is also thinly inhabited; yet it is very rich land, finely timbered, and clear from stone, though some parts are overflowed with shallow ponds of water. There are also large bodies of land in this township, owned by

the rich of England and other countries, which very much prevents the population of the town.

It contains two large streams of water, viz. Stony Creek and Nanticoke, with several smaller ones—1 blacksmith, 1 tailor, 1 mason, 1 tanner, 2 shoe-makers, 1 joiner, 1 grist-mill, 2 saw-mills, 1 distillery, 1 store, 1 school, one religious society (Dutch Lutherans) and 1 divine.

WOODHOUSE.

Is thickly inhabited by rich farmers; and is well supplied with timber of various kinds, three miles from the lake shore; after which it is chiefly plains, beautifully interspersed with fine groves of timber. The soil of this township is of a sandy quality, almost entirely free from stone, and of course very easily cultivated. This kind of sandy land is very rich, not only on the surface, but far beneath. I have seen corn and other things planted on sand that was thrown up from 5 to 20 feet deep, which grew to great perfection; nor will it wear out in a short time. I have known land of this kind in the township under cultivation 16 years, without ever being manured, to produce 25 bushels of wheat per acre.

This township has been settled 20 years, with people from New-Jersey, New-York and Pennsylvania; and is famous for apples and peaches. It is watered with three large streams, which afford many fine falls for water-works, viz.

Young's, Patterson's, and Black Creeks; together with several other smaller ones, and one sulphurous spring. It contains two blacksmiths, six grist mills, (in two places,) seven saw-mills, one fulling mill, one carding mill, 6 distilleries, seven stores, two masons, three joiners, two tailors, 4 shoe-makers, 3 weavers, 1 hatter, 2 religious societies (Methodist,) 1 Divine, (M.) 1 meeting house (M.) 1 village (Dover,) 1 philosophical society, 3 schools, 3 physicans, 1 attorney, and 1 masonic society.

CHARLOTTEVILLE.

This township lies still west of Woodhouse, and will bear nearly the same description, although (if possible) better watered. It has been settled about seventeen years, by people from the United States.

It contains four grist mills, 3 saw-mills, 3 distilleries, 3 tanners, 4 shoe-makers, 2 tailors, 3 blacksmiths, 4 carpenters, 2 stores, 2 hatters, 1 potter, 1 physician, 2 religious societies (1 Methodist and 1 Baptist) 1 meeting house (B.) 2 public buildings, (a court house, and jail) 1 singing-school, and 3 reading schools. There is a mine of excellent iron ore lately discovered. There are also some large though shallow marshes, or natural meadows, from which there is annually taken a large quantity of hay.

WALSINGHAM,*

Lies directly west or rather south-west of Charlotteville, on the lake shore. The soil is very rich and level, and better timbered than Charlotteville, though not quite so well watered, nor so thickly settled. The greater part of the inhabitants are Dutch.

It contains one grist-mill, 1 saw-mill, 2 distilleries, 1 tanner, 2 shoe-makers, 2 blacksmiths, 1 tailor, 2 weavers, 3 joiners, 2 masons, 1 hatter, 1 religious society (Methodist) and 2 schools.

HOUGHTON,

Is directly south-west of Walsingham, on the lake shore, and will bear nearly the same description, though it is thinly settled, except on the east side, the land being chiefly owned by gentlemen in England.

It is watered with 1 fine stream, called Big Creek.

MIDDLETON,

Lies north or back of Houghton and Walsingham. In this township there are many plains and natural meadows—well watered, rich and clear of stone, though as yet without improvement. Big Creek flows through the township, on the banks of which is a sulphurous spring of great strength.

WINDHAM,

Joins Middleton on the east, and Charlotte-

* From this township, extends Long-Point, 18 miles into the lake. No one lives on it.

ville and Woodhouse on the north. It is partly plain and partly timber land, very rich, clear of stone, well watered, and tolerably thick settled with a civil and industrious people from the United States.

Unimproved land sells cheap here—from one and a half to three dollars an acre.

It contains 2 shoe-makers, 2 tailors, 3 weavers, 2 joiners, 1 mason, 1 tanner, 1 hatter, 1 store, 2 schools, 2 religious societies (one Congregationalist and one Methodist) one circulating library, and one divine (Congregationalist.)

TOWNSEND.

This township joins Windham on the east, and Woodhouse and Rainham on the north, is chiefly rich natural plains, which are beautifully interspersed with groves of timber, level, well watered and clear of stone. It is thickly settled with rich farmers, who raise great quantities of grain and cattle.

Townsend contains 4 grist mills in 2 places, 3 saw mills, 3 blacksmiths, 3 distilleries, 2 tanners, 4 shoe-makers, 2 weavers, 4 joiners, 1 hatter, 1 mason, 3 physicians, 4 stores, 1 mine of red clay nearly equal to Spanish brown, 2 divines (one Baptist and one Methodist) 2 meeting-houses (one Congregationalist and one Baptist) and 4 schools.

OF OXFORD COUNTY.

This county is situated north of Norfolk and Middlesex, towards the heads of the Thames

and Grand Rivers, and is divided into six townships, about twelve miles square.

BURFORD.

Lies north of Townsend, joining the Indian land on the east. It is partly plains, level, rich, sandy, well watered, and pretty thickly settled.

It contains 2 tailors, 1 hatter, 1 tanner, 3 shoe-makers, 2 blacksmiths, 2 joiners, 1 grist-mill, 2 saw-mills, 1 distillery, 1 fulling-mill, 3 physicians, 2 religious societies (Methodists) and 3 schools.

BLENHIEM,

Lies north west of Burford. It consists of plains and timbered land, rich, well watered, and tolerably thick settled.

It contains 2 grist-mills, 2 saw-mills, 1 tanner, 2 shoemakers, 2 blacksmiths, 1 distillery, 2 weavers, and 2 joiners.

OXFORD.

This township lies west of Blenheim and Burford, is rich, well watered, thickly timbered, settled and well improved by industrious people, from the states of New-York and Vermont. The people in this town are famous for making butter and cheese.

It contains 2 grist mills, 2 saw mills, 2 distilleries, 2 tanners, 3 shoemakers, 2 masons, 2 hatters, 2 carpenters, 3 blacksmiths, 2 tailors, 1 fulling-mill, 2 physicians, 1 divine (Baptist)

3 religious societies (2 Methodists and 1 Baptist) 1 court-house and a jail.

NORWICH,

Lies west of Oxford on the beautiful river Thames, is very rich and exceeding well watered though tolerably thick set with timber.

This township has not been settled more than seven years, yet it contains a considerable number of inhabitants, chiefly from the state of New York. They are mostly Quakers or Friends, and have a decent meeting house for the worship of God.

It contains 1 gristmill, 2 sawmills, 1 tanner, 2 shoemakers, 1 tailor, 2 blacksmiths, 2 carpenters, 3 weavers, 1 hatter, 1 potter, 1 physician, and 2 schools.

DIERHAM.

Is good land, well watered, though but thinly settled. It is thick set with timber.

It contains 1 blacksmith, 2 shoemakers, 1 joiner, 1 religious society (Methodist.)

BLENFORD,

Is nearly like Dierham, and contains one saw-mill, one black-smith, two schools, one tanner, two shoe-makers, one joiner, and one religious society, (Methodist.)

OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY.

This county lies directly south-west of Norfolk, joining the lake shore, and is exceeding rich, well watered with a number of fine streams,

is level, and almost entirely clear of stone. The common growth of timber is bass, black and white walnut, with hickory, maple, and oak.

It is not more than two years from the time I write, April 1812, since this county has been open for settlement, of course it cannot be expected that there are many water works, mechanics, or the like; I therefore shall omit naming the number in any Township, but proceed to name the Townships, and on what terms this excellent land may be obtained.*

This County is divided into ten Townships: those lying on the lake shore are Malahide, Bayham, Southhold, Yarmouth, and Dunwich: Those on the north part are Dorchester Westminster, Delaware, Yarmouth, and Marlborough.

The land is exceeding rich in these Townships and the surface more level than is common, there being no signs of trees having been formerly turned up by the roots here or any where the west side of the Grand River.

Some few years ago there was a road opened by the government 8 miles from the shore of Lake Erie, parallel with the same, about 50 miles long, as also one on the lake shore and another from the middle to the north. On both sides of these roads lots of 200 acres of land

* These remarks were written before the declaration of war.

have been given to settlers by the King, and now may be obtained by any person on the following terms.

First. Every person that wants a lot of 200 acres (for no one person can get more from the King) must take the oath of allegiance to his majesty before some of his majesty's justices of the peace, a certificate of which he must procure.

Secondly, he must then go to Col. Thomas Talbert, now agent for the King respecting the land, who lives on the place, and shew him the certificate of the oath, and inform him of the wish to obtain a lot for settlement, who will point out those that are not engaged; they may then take their choice.

Thirdly. They must then pay to Col. Talbert, or some other proper person, 37 dollars and a half, for which a receipt is given.

Fourthly. They then must within the term of 2 years, clear fit for cultivation, and fence, 10 acres of the lot obtained and built a house 16 by 20 feet of logs (or frame) with a shingle roof, and all the timber in front of, and the whole width of the lot, (which is 20 chains) 133 feet wide, 33 feet of which must be cleared smooth and left for half of the public road*.

Fifthly. They must, with or without a family,

* The cutting of the timber for 133 feet is omitted as a settling duty on lots which lie off from the main road.

be actual settlers on the said lot, within and at the end of 2 years.

When all the things are done (no matter how soon) Col. Talbert will give them a certificate of the same, which they must take to the Land Office in York, upon which they will get a deed for the said lot, which is a deed of gift from the King. The 37 1-2 dollars called the fees is what necessarily arises as an expense from the surveying and giving it out.

In the spring of 1812 there were 600 lots taken up for settlement and was then 400 more to be disposed of by government, besides about 300 in the possession of Col. Talbert to be sold at private sale.

The settlers of these lots are almost altogether natives of the United States.

PART II.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL STATE
OF THE WHOLE PROVINCE.

Situation and extent.—The Province of Upper Canada lies between 41° and 40 minutes and 47 degrees north latitude, and extends along the northern banks of the river St. Lawrence, the Lakes Ontario and Erie, and the water communication from Lake Superior about 700 miles, and is 500 miles wide, according to an imaginary line that divides it from New-Britain on the north. The line that divides it from the lower province begins in latitude 45° at Lake Francisco, and takes a north west course by Lake Tomis, canting until it meets the imaginary line just mentioned.

The line that divides the upper province from the United States commences near the above lake, and is a ground line a considerable distance, some distance above the St. Regis village of Indians: then through the middle of the river St. Lawrence to the beginning of Lake Ontario, thence through the middle of it to the outlet of Lake Erie, then through the middle of the outlet to the beginning of the said Lake, then through the middle of it to the head near Detroit, so through the middle of the water communications and Lakes St. Clair, Huron, Superi-

or, Long-Lake, and Lake of the woods: thence a due west course to the head waters of the river Mississippi.

In these bounds there is a very large quantity of exceeding fertile land uninhabited, particularly in the south western parts. Here nature blooms, untrod by man and smiles with virgin charms to draw him hence.

Nor do I doubt but that the time is near when settlements will be made in these regions, especially if his Majesty's successors to the British throne should possess such a benevolent disposition as George III. who has always been willing to give any one land in the province without money or price. Should this be the case, the wilderness will soon become a fruitful field, and the desert like the garden of Eden.†

Soil and Surface.—There are no mountains in the province of Upper Canada, and but very few hills of any considerable height: yet the country is not of a clear level but affords enough of small hills and high bodies of ground to render it agreeable to the eye, and convenient for cultivation, buildings, water works, &c. &c.

The mountain, slope, or sudden rise of ground, which divides the waters of Lake Erie from Lake

* These remarks were wrote before the declaration of war by the American government against England or the invasion of Canada: yet should it fall into the possession of the United States, this remark would be equally true.

Ontario, begins (I know not how far) northwest from the head of Lake Ontario, or what is called Burlington Bay, it extends around the head of the Bay a southeast course, then an easterly course near the south shore of Lake Ontario, (one or two miles) till near and where it crosses the outlet of Lake Erie, where it is fifteen miles to the south of Ontario. This rise, towers in some places five hundred feet high, almost perpendicular; abounding with craggy rocks: but in general, is not more than two hundred and fifty or three hundred feet, and then the ascent is very gradual, mostly in the form of an English summer garden, with natural offsets about five hundred yards wide: there are commonly two of these offsets. On these offsets are plantations with inhabitants who have very extensive and beautiful prospects, especially these who reside on the top.

Here the eye can gaze with pleasure on all the fertile fields below, and has an unbounded view of the Lake Ontario, to the north east and some of the northern shore. On the top of this rise of ground, the whole country is level, fertile and beautiful, no hill to descend or rise. Nearly all the waters on the south side of this slope run into Lake Erie; though there are a few that find their way through the slope, and afford fine falls for water works.

What is called the 20 the 30 and 40 mile creeks go through the slope and afford excel-

ent falls, on which there are famous water works at present. A considerable part of this slope is composed of craggy limestone rock, particularly the steep parts, and from which flow a great number of fine springs and brooks, which water the fertile plains below.

Southwest of the Niagara falls about 30 miles, and not far from the close of Lake Erie, there are what are called the short hills. Some of these have the form of little mountains, though none of them are high or hard of ascent, and may be cultivated nearly all over. These hills are quite rich.

All along and not far from the north shore of Lake Ontario the ground rises tolerably sudden and considerably high, after which the country to the north is level enough. There are few stones on the surface of the ground, in any part of the province, and on the west side of the Grand River there is no stone at all, worth naming, yet there are stone enough beneath the surface almost every where and in many places limestone is plenty.

The soil of the province of Upper Canada is exceeding good in every part, yet if possible it is the best in the upper part west and southwest of the head of the Bay Quantie around the north shore and head of Lake Ontario, and the west side of the Grand River, in the London district already described. The lower part of the Prov-

ince is sand and clay, mixed; from the head of the Bay Quantie to the head of Lake Ontario, is altogether a black light rich mould, in most places 7 inches deep, after which it is brown clay. On the Grand River or Indian Land and in the London District, the soil is sand, brown loam and clay.

Natural Production. The timber of the lower part of the Province, is chiefly hemlock, birch, and beach. That of the middle part, or from the beginning of Lake Ontario to the head is chiefly beach sugar maple, and white pine. On and west of the Grand River the chief of the timber is white pine. Elm, bass, black walnut, and the different oaks, chesnut and the like, indeed in this part of the province are found all the varieties in the United States also some of the trees of the balm of Gilead, one of a majestic appearance stands 24 miles west of Niagara on the main road. In the lower part of the province there is but little of any kind of wild fruit, but in the middle part there are several sorts, particularly huckleberries and rice.* In the western part there are a great

* This rice grows in the bottom of several shallow lakes; the stalk is nearly like the stalk of oats. The grain is larger than common rice, but not so white, but rather a better taste and not so hard to clean. The Indians collect it with their canoes, and bring large quantities of it among the inhabitants, which they sell very cheap.

variety of wild fruits, and are the following: Cranberries, raspberries, blackberries, grapes, arvesberries, wild potatoes, which were exceedingly useful to the first inhabitants, strawberries, plums of a very good sort, as also a great quantity of the best crab apples I ever saw, which the inhabitants of new settlements use by preserving with the molasses of pumpkins.

Agriculture.—In the lower part of the province, there are considerable quantities of wheat, oats, and peas raised. In the middle part, wheat, rye, oats, peas, hemp, flax, and some corn. In the western parts the product is wheat, which thrives better here than in other parts; rye, oats, and corn, come to great perfection as also buck-wheat. All kinds of roots and vegetables flourish well in any part of the province, but especially in the west. Apples come to perfection in any part of the province, though peaches cannot be raised in the lower part, but do exceeding well within 300 miles of the west end of the province, as also cherries, pears, plums, apricots, and the like.

All kinds of tame cattle do well in any part of the province, but especially horned cattle and sheep thrive here, and are exceeding healthy. Bees do exceeding well on Lake Erie and are plenty in the woods.

Climate.—The climate of the Upper Province is temperate, especially near the head of

Lake Ontario and on west joining the shore of Lake Erie. All this part of the province lies in the same latitude as from New-York to Springfield in Connecticut, yet as it is several degrees to the west, it is warmer than the weather in the same latitude east. It is also evident from the experience and journals of several discerning persons, that have lived nearly 20 years in this part of Canada, that the weather does not change so often and suddenly from heat to cold and cold to heat as in most other places; nor are the seasons of wet and dry so extreme as they are in the United (especially the southern) States. The showers and rain are moderate and plentiful owing perhaps to the bounty of heaven, and the multitude of fine lakes of water with which the province abounds.

The air of the lower part of the province is rather too sharp in the winter, yet truly salubrious and healthy; the air in the upper part 4 or 500 miles to the southwest, is quite pleasant. What is a little remarkable, but which is true according to a diary of the weather which I kept for 2 years, the wind blew more than 2 thirds of the winter or for 4 months from the west, but hardly ever from the north or northwest; yet in the summer it blew almost constantly from the north. All the snow storms in Canada come from the north-east

and the coldest winds from the south east and south. Rain storms come from the north and north-west.

When the western part of the horizon is red, at the setting of the sun, it forbodes foul weather for the next day. In the upper part of this province, in the summer time, there is a continual though moderate gale of wind, similar to that in the State of Georgia; occasioned, perhaps, by the many lakes of water. This being the case, the hottest days are rendered pleasant. Hurricanes or tornadoes have not been seen in Canada since it has been settled by white people. Yet there is every appearance of them on all the north shore of Lake Ontario; having once raged with great fury as all the timber has been torn up by the roots, from supposition about 600 years ago.

Commerce.—The commerce of the upper province has of late years been considerable, and of great benefit to the inhabitants, as well as to Great Britain. Within 8 years, the exports of both provinces have amounted to about 2 millions and a half of dollars, though the greatest part of these exports belong to the upper province.

It appears that there were exported from both provinces, in the years 1802-3-4-5, 1,012,000 bushels of wheat each year, on an average,

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40,000 barrels of flour, and 34,000 weight of biscuit, besides much potash, timber, fur, &c.

In the years 1809—10—11, there has been timber for vessels and casks taken to England, to the amount of 200,000 pounds sterling.

In these years, there were 320 vessels employed in taking away this produce, amounting to 4500 tons. The common price of wheat is 1 dollar per bushel, and sometimes 1 dollar and 25 cents—corn 50 cents, and rye, 75 cents—pork 6 dollars per cwt.—These prices are common in every part of the province.

Dry goods and groceries are brought to Canada, in great quantities, from England and the United States, which, considering the great distance they come, are sold very cheap. At Niagara and other places, green tea is sold for 1 dollar per pound, molasses 10 shillings per gallon, and brown sugar 1 shilling per pound or 8 pounds for a dollar, but since the war it can be had for 8 cents per pound.

Tolerably fine calicoes are often bought for 25 cents per yard, and salt has been generally sold at 1 dollar per bushel, but since the war it has sold at 4.*

Animals.—I believe that all the variety of animals common to most places in the United

* Gold is the current coin of Canada, and is quite plenty of late years, since there has been so good a market for timber.

States are found here, except rats, which are not to be found in the province of Upper Canada.

A few years ago, there was a she bear caught near York, and dissected by a surgeon of the place, which was found to be with young; and which is the only instance, I believe, that has occurred of the like in North America. Bears are plenty in all parts of the province, but more abundant in the south-west part. It is very remarkable, that bears do not often destroy hogs, in Canada; however, they are troublesome to the inhabitants in the fall, by infesting their corn fields, yet the people loose but little by them, as they kill many for food.

There are also an abundance of hedge-hogs in the province, and which the Indians eat counting them good. In the south-west parts there are plenty of deer, an abundance of which are taken every winter by the Indians.

There are also a plenty of all kinds of birds which are found in the United States, except turkey-buzzards, which are very scarce. There is also a kind of bird found here about the size, and has the same motion and voice as the parikite, so plenty in the state of Kentucky, yet not of the same colour, but is grey; it is called by some the frolic. Wild ducks are found in great plenty in and around the shores of all the

Lakes. Geese are not plenty in the waters of Lakes Ontario and Erie at present, but used to be before the country was settled by white people, yet they are plenty enough in all the lakes north of the settlements.

In the north end of the province there are no snakes of any kind to be found, but different sorts are found plenty enough in the south-west end. A number of years ago there were several people of respectability, who reported that they saw in Lake Ontario several large snakes, about 20 yards in length. In June, 1811, a snake was seen in this lake near the mouth of the river Credit, 16 miles above York. I was acquainted with some who saw it, and believe them to be people of truth. It came within 7 yards of the boat that they were in, and played about it, and was judged to be 30 feet in length and 3 in circumference.* There are seals in this lake, some of which have been caught.

Fish.—Lake Ontario abounds with fish of almost every kind, but the salmon and salmon-trout are the most and far the best. The sal-

* From the head of the Bay Quantie to a little lake that empties into Lake Ontario, it is not more than a mile and three quarters. It is very smooth; at different times the inhabitants have in the morning seen tracks, as if a large log had been drawn along from the bay to the lake; this has been done by snakes.

mon appear in very large quantities in the fall of the year and penetrate up all the waters that run into the lake, so high that they are often thrown out with the hand, but they are commonly taken near the mouth of the rivers by the Indians in the night, by means of spears. They commonly weigh from 10 to 20 pounds, and may be purchased of the Indians at 1 shilling each, or for a gill of whisky, a cake of bread, or the like trifle. They are of great benefit to the inhabitants, especially the poorer class.

The salmon-trout appear in the spring, though not in so great plenty, but are larger, weighing from 15 to 30 pounds, and are much fatter than salmon.

There are several other fish of an excellent quality, and plenty, particularly bass and herring: the latter very much resemble the sea herring, though they are not so full of small bones. In the month of November they are taken in great abundance from the water communication between the main Lake and the little Lake, otherwise called Burlington Bay, at the head of Lake Ontario. They are taken with the net, the channel of water between the two lakes being not more than 8 feet deep and about 60 wide and 300 yards long.

Very good and large eels are also taken out of the lake, yet they are but little valued, except by the Indians.

There are a great number of fish in Lake Erie some of which are very valuable, particularly what is called the white fish.

There are not many eels in this lake; what few there are have multiplied from 20 which a British officer put into it from Lake Ontario 37 years ago.

Mine and Minerals.—In the Johnstown district there is an iron mine of considerable value, from which iron has been made for many years.

In the district of London, Charlotteville township, there was a large and rich body of iron ore discovered in the year 1810, and from which there has been a little iron made of an excellent quality. There are several more mines or bodies of iron ore found in different parts of the province, yet there is but little attention paid to them, though they might be valuable, should they fall into the possession of men of an enterprising spirit. There are also some lead mines that are said to be very rich and good.

In the forks of Grand River which empties into Lake Erie, and about 50 miles from the same, on the land owned by the Six Nations of Indians, there has lately been discovered a body of plaister, or what is called plaister of Paris. It lays in the bowels of a large hill, but how much it contains is not known. This

plaister has been used in different parts of the country adjacent, and answers every valuable purpose, as well as that which is brought from France or Nova-Scotia does in the United States. No soil can be better adapted to the use of plaister, than that of the district of London, which joins on the Grand River.

In the Township of Townsend, there is a clay that paints nearly as well as Spanish brown, and many people use it instead thereof. Also in some other parts there are clays that paint very well.

There is a number of salt springs in almost every part of Canada, although there has not been much salt made in the province hitherto, it having been brought from the different salt-works in the State of New-York, in great abundance. However there has been salt made from some, of an excellent quality, particularly in Lincoln county, near Niagara, in the township of Percy, Newcastle district.

There is a number of medical springs in the province of an excellent quality. One in the township of Woodhouse, is of a sulphurous nature: a quart will purge well, and of the same sort is the one in Middleton on Big Creek. 2 miles east of York there is a spring of great medical virtue.

Lakes.—There are 7 lakes of considerable size in the inhabited part of the province, and

many more in the wilderness. Lake Ontario is about 230 miles long, from north-east to south-west, and 80 wide: about the middle, being of an oval form, it is exceeding deep, and in most places it appears to be without bottom, as there has been great length of cord let down without finding any. The water is very clear and cold at all times of the year, having the appearance of a large spring. This lake never freezes except near the shore where it is shallow: nowhere does it freeze there only a few weeks in the most severe weather. It is pretty certain that there is more water runs out of this lake than runs in, and when we consider its very extensive surface, it is also certain that there is much of its water evaporated by the sun: of course it must hide many exceeding large springs.

Lake Ontario has sunk within its banks since the notice of its present inhabitants, say years, and some Indians inform that their forefathers say that it was once as high as the height of the Niagara Fall, and that the waters of lakes Ontario and Erie joined in most places, but as to the truth of this assertion I will not pretend to say; yet I am of the opinion that the water of Lake Ontario once reached the foot of the mountain or slope of ground ready named, and I am led to this belief from the circumstance of pebble stones being dug from every part of the surface, and underneath

the same, between it and the shore. The foot of the mountain is 20 feet higher than the lake.

There are not many islands in this lake, except near the lower end, where they are plenty.

In many places the ground descends to the water very gradually, and there is no bank at all, except a sandy or gravelly beach; but in other places the banks are 15 feet high.*

The wind has a great effect upon this lake, and the waves sometimes run high; yet it is tolerably safe for navigation, there being but few shoals or rocks at any distance from the shore.

There are a number of vessels on this lake, and some of considerable size. The sight of so great a body of water in the midst of the wilderness, enriched with ships sailing and colors flying, is truly pleasing and romantic.†

The Little Lake, or Burlington Bay, lies at the south west end of this lake, and is divided from it by a causeway, 5 miles long, and in most places 300 yards wide, the surface of this causeway is completely level, of a light sand, matted over with grass, and beautifully decorated with groves of timber, chiefly oak of a middle size, but of an endless variety of curious forms—some 6 feet in cir-

* Almost all the north shore has high banks.

† There are many prospective situations on the banks of this lake.

cumference at the butt, yet not more than 10 feet high, with extensive limbs, crooking and turning in all directions. A great number of these trees are entirely encircled with grape vines, and produce great quantities of grapes of an excellent quantity. The former residence of the noted Col. Brandt is near this place. The causeway is broken off in one place, as already noted, about a mile from the north-west shore and is about 5 feet higher than the water. It is a beautiful place for a summer seat.* Little Lake to the west of this causeway is about 20 miles in circumference, and is generally shallow, although deep in some places.

It is thought that there are salt springs in the bottom of this lake, because the herring chiefly reside in it. It is famous for ducks and eels.

There are a considerable number of harbours in Lake Ontario, but the most noted and curious is that of Presqu'isle, in the district of New castle, Cramaghe township, on the lake shore about 75 miles south west of Kingston. There are two points of land, about 4 miles apart, which extend out from the main shore, but draw nearer each other as they extend into the lake, and finally meet in a rounding form

* Not far from the middle there are a number of Indians buried. In the winter of 1810, this causeway was shook in a violent manner by an earthquake.

† Not far from this bay there is a volcano of some no

about 5 miles from the shore. These arms of land are level on the top, and are about 5 or 8 feet above the water. About 3 miles from the shore, there is a channel of water which runs through the east point of land, about 150 yards wide, and 30 feet deep. This channel lets in the vessels, which can sail all over the harbor with safety, and in going up to the top, or where the two arms meet, which is in form like a horse-shoe, the largest ships may come close up to the banks, which are perpendicular of solid rock. A plank is put from the shore to the vessel, when it is to be loaded.

The Bay Quantie connects with Lake Ontario, a small distance west of Kingston, and extends 70 miles up towards the south west, parallel with it. It is 1 mile wide in some places and 6 in others. There are a considerable number of arms, or smaller bays, which put out from it, some 10 miles long. This bay is very safe for navigation, being very deep, and secure from the effect of high winds. Most of the traders, with small vessels who go from Kingston to York, Niagara, or Detroit, pass up this bay to the head, which is only 1 mile and 3 quarters from a small lake called Willow's Lake that puts into lake Ontario, and here the vessels are carried across by means of wheels and oxen. The road is quite level and sandy. Those traders which come down Lake Ontario

generally cross this carrying place into the bay although the Bay Quantie, and the Lake Ontario are so near here, yet they are 30 miles apart in some places, owing to an extensive projection of some points of land into the lake, and no doubt their being so near at the head of the bay, is a divine interposition of providence for the benefit of the inhabitants.

There are several small lakes in the peninsula between the lake and bay, which abound with fish, 1 of which deserves particular notice called the Mountain Lake. This lake is situated in Hallowell township, Prince Edward county, Midland district, 34 miles from Kingston, on the bay shore. It lies on the top of a mountain judged to be 200 feet high: but in the month of December, 1812, I stood on the ice in the Bay, in front of it, and after taking the height, I found it to be only 100 and 60 feet. This lake is about 3 miles in circumference and very deep in most places, abounding with fish of different sorts. How fish could get in this lake, is a matter of deep speculation, as it has no connexion with the bay or lake, only by the small stream that flows from it into the bay by a fall of 160 feet nearly perpendicular.

Under these falls there is now a grist mill near the bay shore, in the possession of M. Valastine.

Near the head of the Bay Quantie, on the north side, there is a lake of considerable size

called the Hog Lake, as also several others not far distant. About 20 miles west of the head of the Bay Quantie, and 15 miles north of the shore of Lake Ontario is situated what is called the Rice Lake, on account of the great quantity of rice which grow in it. This lake is from 3 to 9 miles wide, and 36 in length, though not very deep. Its course is from east to west, the west end is not far from Lake Simcoe. At the east end there is a fall of 18 feet perpendicular, in the form of a half moon.* Below the falls, begins what is called the river Trent, which is tolerable large, and affords many falls fit for water works: it empties in the Bay Quantie at the head. This lake communicates with a chain of small lakes called the shallow lakes which afford rice also, and extends near the north end of Lake Simcoe: Lake Simcoe lies still west of rice lake, and is some larger. It communicates with Lake Huron to the south-west by the river Severn.

Lake Erie which lies 30 miles from any part of Lake Ontario, on the south-west is nearly 300 miles long from north-east to south-west,

* The land around these falls is very rich, well watered, clear of stone on the surface, light timbered, lays handsome and prospective, though a barren wilderness now. Should some enterprising gentlemen establish themselves here and erect water-works this would soon be a valuable place.

and from 20 to 40 miles wide. This lake lies nearly 300 feet higher than Lake Ontario which is the reason of the Niagara falls. It is also pure and clear water, though not so deep as Lake Ontario, nor is it so safe for navigation, or afford so many fine harbors. There are some Islands near the west end of this lake that contain many bad snakes. The shore of this lake in most places is nearly level with the land, and very smooth and sandy. It is thought that full as much water runs out of this Lake as runs in.*

There are other Lakes in Canada. The Lake St. Clair lies in a north-westerly course from Lake Erie. Still farther to the north-west is Lake Huron, 100 miles in circumference, in latitude 42. From Lake Huron, through the straits of Marie, it is 40 miles to Lake Superior, which lies between 49 and 50 degrees north latitude, and between 84 and 90 degrees west longitude from London. The Isle Royal, which is near the middle of this Lake, is 100 miles long and 40 wide. In the middle of this Island is the line between the United States and Great-Britain.

* Lake Erie extends 60 miles north-east of the head, or west end of Lake Ontario. To draw a line due south, from the west end of Lake Ontario to Lake Erie, it would strike it 60 miles from the east end.

Rivers.—Although Canada is a level country, yet is not so low and flat as not to afford any streams of water, but on the contrary has many which run clear and afford excellent falls for water works, the principal of which are the following:—

The Ottawa river is a large stream that rises out of Lake Temiscaming and runs a south-east course through Upper Canada, and crosses the line into the lower province, and empties into the river St. Lawrence above and below Montreal. The spring floods in this river rise in the month of June; it inundates its banks and often spoils the farmer's young crop. The reason of this is because the river extends so great a distance to the northwest, where the spring does not begin until the last of May, and by the time the snow is thawed, and the ice in the lake broken up, the water descends to the settled parts of the province near the mouth of the river, it is the middle of June. There are a great number of fish of various sorts in this river. There are considerable falls in this river, though none of a perpendicular descent.

There are several more rivers in the lower part of the province which empty into the river St. Lawrence, and abound with fish. The river Cananocqua, which empties into the river 14 miles below Kingston, is of considerable size.

What is called Myres' Creek, which empties

into the Bay Quantie, from the north, 50 miles from Kingston, is considerable large, very clear and pure, and runs near the surface of the ground, affords fine falls for water works, and abounds with fish.

The river Trent, already named, empties into the head of the Bay Quantie from the Rice Lake, is large and abounds with fish.

Many hundred barrels of excellent salmon are taken out of this river every fall.

From the head of the Bay Quaintie, for 70 miles towards the southwest, up the lake Ontario, there are no rivers of a considerable size that empty into the lake; yet there is an abundance of small and pearly creeks and brooks—indeed it is the best watered part in Canada. Smith's Creek and Lion's Creek, are streams of some note.

What is now called Duffen's Creek, is a fine stream, abounding with fish; it empties into Lake Ontario, 30 miles below, or northeast of York.

The river Rush empties into the lake 18 miles below York; it is tolerably large, and navigable for boats 20 miles up.

From this river there is an abundance of salmon taken every fall. Still up towards the head of Lake Ontario, there are a number more of fine streams.

Sixteen miles above York, empties into the lake, the river Credit. This is one of the best

rivers in Canada for salmon; it is tolerably large. The salmon are taken out of this and other rivers in the night by means of spears. The fishermen have an iron frame fixed in the fore part of their canoes, in which they place pine knots and fire for light. They then paddle along in the river, and see the salmon floating near the surface of the water, where they come by the influence of the light. They are quite tame and are struck with ease. The salmon come up the rivers in large quantities together on purpose to spawn.

Ten miles still farther up the lake, empties in what is called the 16 mile Creek, which is tolerably large and famous for fish. Five miles farther is what is called the 12 mile Creek, a beautiful stream, abounding with fish and many fine falls for water works.

There are several fine streams that run into the head of Lake Ontario and Burlington Bay.

The Chippeway river runs into the Niagara river 3 miles above the falls, and is tolerably large and long. What is called the 20 mile Creek, rises near the head of the Chippeway, from a large pond, flows a northeast course and plunges down the slope of ground already described by several perpendicular pitches in different places, affording excellent seats for water works. It empties into Lake Ontario 16 miles west of Niagara.

The 15, 16, 17, 30 and 40 mile Creeks all run into Lake Ontario and plunge over the slope and afford fine falls.

The river Niagara, or outlet of Lake Erie, is very large before it empties into Lake Ontario, but is still larger after it leaves the lake, or river St. Lawrence. This river will be fully described in the Appendix.

There are several considerable streams that run into Lake Erie.

The Grand river is a considerable large stream of exceeding clear water rising from the small Lake St. Clie. It is navigable for vessels of considerable size for 50 miles from its mouth. It empties into Lake Erie 60 miles from the east end, and contains many fine fish.* This river is in the possession of the Six Nations of Indians; they own 6 miles of land each side of it from the mouth to the head.

The Thames is large and beautiful, rising near the head of the Grand river, and runs nearly a south course into the waters that come from Lake Superior into the head of Lake Erie. It empties 30 miles above Sandwich. There are a number more fine streams that run into Lake Erie; such as Big Creek passing through

* I think it proper to rectify a mistake which somehow got into Morse's Geography, printed in Boston, 1811, where this grand river is represented as "passing through Rice Lake, and mingling with the waters of Ontario."

Middleton and Houghton townships, as also Kettle and Outer Creeks in Middlesex county.

Indians.—There are seven distinct nations of Indians in the inhabited part of Canada; six of these nations live on the Grand river already noted, viz. the Mohawks, the Chippeways, the Delawares, the Massasaugas, the Tuscaroras, and Senacas. Each of these nations have their king or chief, and their village and council house. They also speak a different language, yet understand each other very well. These six nations of Indians on the Grand river, in number 1976, have attained to a tolerable degree of civilization. They speak the English language with some propriety, and have schools and the gospel continually among them. The school teachers are paid by the king, and also their Preacher. A number of these Indians have very good English learning, and are very industrious: some of the families have raised in one year 300 bushels of wheat. They are very kind to strangers, and will give the best of their food or drink to them. They are all firmly attached to the interest of the British government, and are exercised in the military use of arms, several times in the year. They can muster 600 warriors; though the Massasaugas are not good to fight, nor for any thing else. There are a considerable number of this tribe residing in other parts of the province, some on

the 16 mile Creek above York, already named, and others on the bank of the Lake Simcoe, and others on the Rice Lake.

Besides those of the Mohawks on the Grand river, there are a considerable number living near the Bay Quantie, on the north side, about the middle. They own a tract of land 12 miles square, and have schools and the gospel among them also.

There are a small tribe of Indians called the St. Regis Indians, living on the river St. Regis, near the lower part of the province. There is also a small tribe called the Moravian Indians, living in the western district; they have the gospel preached to them by the Dutch Moravians among whom they live: they are of the Delaware tribe. On some islands near and in Lake Huron, there are a considerable number of Indians called the Huron Indians, and are great warriors.

Near the head of the Ottaway river, there is a small tribe of Indians, called the Nepisingui Indians: they live on a lake of the same name, and were once converted to the Roman Catholic religion, at which time they were a numerous tribe. They are of the Algonquin nation, some of which now reside about Lake Superior.

There are a number of Indians of different nations besides those that I have named, though they have but little intercourse with the British,

except that they trade with them by the agents, and make them yearly presents of a great amount.

There are various accounts respecting the number of Indians in Canada, some suppose that there is 100,000, and out of these there may be raised 30,000 warriors, yet I think this is not correct; indeed I believe that the British government do not know the number of all that consider themselves connected with it, as all the different nations never meet together at once.*

The Canadian Indians cost the British Crown about 3,000% sterling each year. This sum is expended in furnishing them with fire-arms and ammunition, by means of which they kill their game, also in blankets and clothes to cover their nakedness, as also bread, meat, and tobacco. These things are called gifts, from the King, but are chiefly the interest of money in England belonging to the six nations, for and sold to the King. However, I am of opinion that those things which they get from the king's stores do them more harm than good, as thereby they are encouraged to live in idleness.

* I am of opinion that at present, Sept. 1812, which is since the invasion of Canada, that the British have now their interest, including the prophet Tecumseh, Splitleg, and Walk-in-the-water, with their people, nearly 10,000 warriors.

ness, depending on those gifts which they receive twice a year.

Should part of this amount be given to the Indians in horses, cows, sheep and hogs, as also farming utensils, and the rest to all such that at the end of each year had raised more produce than they needed; this would be a discouragement to idleness, and a stimulus to industry.

The most of the Indians in the province of Upper Canada have been converted from Idolatry, to the belief of the Christian religion, by the labor of the Roman Catholic priests, who formerly belonged to the French; but ever since the province has fell into the hands of the British, there has not been so much attention to the religious instruction of the Indians as formerly. What are taught in the Christian faith are of the Protestant cast, yet the young Indians do not know or care any thing about any kind of religion.

Notwithstanding the Indians have formerly been taught by the catholics in the principles of the Christian faith, and at present the protestants preach among them, as do some other sects, they still hold some of those traditional notions relative to God and the soul, which are very curious.

In the summer they lay about the lakes, and now and then catch sturgeon and eels.

These Indians are considerably troublesome to the white people, especially the tribe of Ma-

saugas, as they are wandering through the country almost continually, and begging something to eat, when they get drunk, which is as often as they can get a chance, they are quarrelsome and many times dangerous.

The armor of the Indians in time of war, are a rifle, a spear about 18 inches long with a handle 8 feet, a tomahawk, and scalping knife, all of which they use as instruments of death.

The Indians in Canada, like all other Indians, dress very indifferently, though they get much fine cloth from the king's store, which they only throw over their dirty bodies, and in little time all is filthy together. In the summer, they are chiefly naked, except a little covering around the waist. The women are particularly careful of their legs below their knees, all other parts are naked.

Villages.—There are not many villages, in the province of Upper Canada of much note, the inhabitants finding their greatest advantage in agriculture, as the land is very cheap and fertile.

CORNWALL,

Is situated about 100 miles down the river St. Lawrence, is handsome but not large.

PRESCOTT,

Is 70 miles down the same river, and stands opposite to Ogdensburgh on the United States side, it is small. There is a fort and garrison kept here.

BROCKVILLE,

Lies 12 miles higher up the river, and is handsomely situated, containing about 60 houses.

KINGSTON,

Stands a few miles below the head of the St. Lawrence, opposite to an island which is the means of forming a safe and commodious harbor. It contains about 150 houses, a court house, jail, and 2 houses for public worship. The fort in this place is strong, though most of the cannon are small. It is a place of much trade. There are several more small villages on the banks of the bay of Quantie, and are places of some trade, all of which increase and flourish rapidly.

YORK,

Is situated 170 miles south-west of Kingston on the north shore of Lake Ontario, and is something larger than the former. This village is laid out after the form of Philadelphia, the streets crossing each other at right angles, though the ground on which it stands is not so suitable for building. This at present is the seat of government, and the residence of a number of English gentlemen. It contains some fine buildings, though they stand scattered among which are a court-house, council house, a large brick building in which the King's store for the place is kept, and a meeting-house for Episcopalians. This city lies in north lat-

tude 43 degrees and some minutes. The harbor in front of the city is commodious, safe and beautiful, and is formed after a curious manner. About 3 miles below, or east of the city, there extends out from the main shore an arm or neck of land about 100 yards wide, nearly in the form of a rainbow, until it connects with the main shore again, about a mile above, or west of the city, between it and where the fort stands. About 300 yards from the shore, and as many from the fort, there is a channel through this circular island merely sufficient for the passage of large vessels. This bason, which in the middle is 2 miles wide, is very deep and without rocks, or any thing of the kind. While the water of the main lake which is 30 miles wide in this place is tossed as the waves of the sea, this bason remains smooth. The fort in this place is not strong, but the British began to build a very strong one in the year 1811.

NIAGARA,

Is situated nearly opposite York, on the south side of the lake, at the point of land formed by the conjunction of the outlet of Lake Erie and Ontario. It is a beautiful and prospective place, being surrounded on two sides by water, the lake on the north, and the Niagara river on the east, and which affords a fine harbour for shipping.

Fort George of this place stands about a mile from the mouth of this river, near bank where it is 34 feet above the surface the water; it is nearly square, enclosing space of about 150 yards long and 100 broad. The pickets are high and strong, defended a ditch on the out side, and breast-works the inside. It is well provided with cannon ammunition, water, provision and the like. This village is a place of much trade, and inhabited by a civil and industrious people. It contains a council-house, court-house, a jail,* and 2 houses for public worship. There are several squares of ground in this village adorned with almost every kind of precious fruit. The front part of the village, on the east, looks towards the fort over a beautiful plain of nearly 1 mile wide.

QUEENSTON,†

Is situated 7 miles further up the Niagara river, close by the foot of the mountain, slope of ground already noted at what is called the landing. It is a small, but handsome village: the most of the houses are built with stone or brick, large, and well finished. It

* On the 13th of October, 1812, these were burnt by the Americans with hot balls from the east side as well as some other buildings.

† It was at this place the Americans crossed on the 13th of October.

also a place of considerable trade, and inhabited by a civil and rich people.

CHIPPEWAY,

Lies 10 miles above Queenston and 3 above the Niagara falls: is a small village at the mouth of the Chippeway creek. It has some handsome buildings, and is a place of considerable trade.

FORT ERIE.

There is a small village at this place of some beauty, the inhabitants of which carry on a considerable trade from the Lake.

TURKEY-POINT,

Is situated about 60 miles south-west of Fort Erie, on the lake shore in the district of London, a little east of Long Point. It stands in a beautiful place adjoining an excellent country of land, and has a handsome court house and jail.

PORT-TALBERT,

Lies 64 miles farther to the south-west on the lake shore. It has been laid out about 3 years, and bids fair for a considerable village. It has a fine harbor for shipping.

MALDEN.

This fort and village is situated at the south-west end or head of Lake Erie, 14 miles south of Detroit. It is a pleasant place though not large. The fort here is strong.

SANDWICH,

Is situated still up the river, opposite Detroit, and is a handsome village of considerable age,

inhabited principally by French, who settled this country 103 years ago.

There are several other villages in the province not immediately on the water, which are of considerable size and beauty; but the already named are the principal.

Settlements.—In the lower part of this province, the settlements do not extend back north from the river St. Lawrence. Above Kingston, the settlements extend from Lake Ontario, (counting the peninsula between the lake and the Bay Quantie, which in some places is 10, and in others 30 miles wide) 50 miles. Above the head of the bay, on the lake shore for about 100 miles, the settlements do not extend more than 6 miles from the lake. North from York, the settlements extend farther back, particularly on what is called Yonge Street, which runs a due north course to Lake Simcoe. On both sides of this street, the farms are thick and well improved, the soil being very good, although the climate is not so favorable as it is farther to the southwest. From York west, along the lake shore, there are but small settlements on the shore for 20 miles; after which, what is called Dundas-street, 4 miles from the shore, is thickly settled on both sides for 20 miles; as also between this and the lake it is thinly inhabited, although this has not been settled more than 6 years from the present date.

(1812) Above 10 or 15 miles, at the head of Burlington Bay, is what is called Goot's Paradise. It is fine rich sandy plains, thickly settled 7 miles from the shore, to the foot of the slope already named; and on the top, west and north-west for 15 miles, there are fine settlements in two townships—East and West Flamborough. Farther south, around the head of lake Ontario, or more particularly Burlington Bay, the settlements are thick, extending west 16 miles. About 40 miles up the Grand river, is a thick settlement of Dutch, in Brant's township. Still to the east, as the roads lead to Niagara, the settlements are thick near the shore of Lake Ontario. After one gets 30 miles east of the head of Burlington Bay, and 20 from Niagara, settlements of an old date are made, and pretty thick, all the way across from lake to lake, which is more than 30 miles. From the thick settlement west of the head of Lake Ontario, towards the London district, the inhabitants are thin for 20 miles, through the tract of land belonging to the six nations of Indians. The settlements in the London district have already been described. The settlements in the west end of the province are chiefly on the St. Lawrence, on its course through Huron and St. Clair.

Civil Division.—The province of Upper Canada is divided into 8 districts, 24 counties, and

156 townships, generally about 12 miles square. The *District of Johnstown* lies up farther on the river St. Lawrence, and will bear nearly the same description as the other, but is something lake, and one mile and a quarter wide back better.

from the lake to the north, but in some places. The *Midland District* lies from a little below Kingston up west to the head of Bay Quantie, wide. Each township is divided into 14 concisions, the whole of which make 2184. These concisions are subdivided into 24 lots of 20 acres each, the whole of which amounts to 32,416, which number multiplied by 200, will produce 10,483,200, the number of acres surveyed in the province, besides considerable of fish.

called broken fronts, not yet surveyed, granted to those who owned land in rear thereof. The *Newcastle District*, extends from the head of the Bay Quantie, 50 miles to the southwest, may not be amiss to remark here, that in every direction from the lands now surveyed, there are great quantities of wild or unsurveyed land which is equally as good as that now improved. This district is well watered, rich, though a little hilly, and more stony than any other. Between every concision there are 4 rods left for the public road, and also between every lot, which is one quarter of a mile wide. It is large and tolerably thick settled; it has an abundance of white pine upon it, and a number of beautiful streams of water.

Districts.—Of these there are 8, as already noted. The *Eastern District* is situated at the northeast end of the province, joining the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers. It is in the coldest and most unpleasant part of the province, the land being sandy, cold and stony, in general producing peas, potatoes, oats and some wheat. The most of the inhabitants are Scotch and French. The *Home District*, is still farther up the lake, and is divided into two counties, York and Simcoe. It is large and tolerably thick settled; it has an abundance of white pine upon it, and a number of beautiful streams of water. The *Niagara District*, is situated south of Home and the lake, in the peninsula between the two lakes. It is very large, and divided into two counties, Lincoln and Halderman. The latter is on the Grand river, in possession of the six nations of Indians, already named.

The county of Lincoln lies in the east part of the peninsula, joining on the outlet of Lake Erie, and is divided into 25 townships, all which are tolerably thick settled, and well improved though not so well watered as other districts.

London District has been already described.

Western District is situated at the west end of the province, joining the river St. Lawrence as it comes from Lake Superior to the head of Lake Erie; it is large and rich, and some parts tolerable well improved: it affords fine plain and has been settled by the French more than 100 years. It is divided into two counties, Essex and Kent.

King's Roads.—When the upper province was first settled, the people labored under considerable disadvantages for the want of roads; nor could it be expected that the inhabitants could open any of great extent, as the timber in most places is heavy, and they had as much as they could do to clear land to raise enough produce to support their families. Yet the opening of roads was necessary, and the king knew this could not be effected by the people without his assistance. He therefore gave large sums of money to be laid out for that purpose, and for a number of years past, nearly the whole amount of the revenue of the province which is the king's money, amounting to 50,000 has been laid out in opening and repairing

the public highways. This with the statute labor which the inhabitants of every township perform is the means of making tolerably good roads in almost every part of the province. There is no toll taken for passing on any road or bridge in the province.

What is called the King's roads or high ways are 4 rods wide, and lead in the directions now to be described: there is one road that leads from Montreal, which is in the lower province, up the river St. Lawrence, near the bank on the north side, through Cornwall village to Prescott, so on to Brockville and Kingston; from here there are several roads which lead

different ways, though they are opened by the inhabitants, except one which is the king's and extends up towards the south-west about 20 miles, when it divides into two. One crosses the Bay Quantie, and extends nearly through the middle of the peninsula to the head.* The other turns to the right, and extends up the bay on the north side, through the Mohawk's or Indian land, crosses Myers Creek and the river Trent, where it empties into the Bay Quantie, extends a few miles to the south, and joins with the other on the carrying place. From hence it leads on through wood land (thinly settled) by Presquile harbour, for about

* This is the best road.

15 miles, when the country appears more improved, and the road tolerably good. With about 60 miles of York, the road is bad, as the ground is very rich and soft, and but thinly settled; and about 46 miles from York, there are two roads—one extends along the lake shore and is the best—the other leads about 8 miles to the north; but they meet again at what is called Lion's Creek and Tavern. From nearly 30 miles to York, there is but one road (and that quite bad) till within 9 miles of the city. From York, there is one road which extends 40 miles a due north course, to Lake Simcoe. This road, in most places, is tolerably good. The other road extends up the lake shore 16 miles to the river Credit, where it leaves the shore a little to the north, and extends to the head of the lake; this road is very good. Two miles from York, on the road which leads to Simcoe, called Yonge's street, another road leads out, extending to the head of the lake called Dundas street, which is completely straight for 260 miles to the river Thames, near Detroit. Although it is not passable in all places, yet where it is not open there are other roads near by, which lead the same way, and enter it again. Where it crosses the Grand River, over which there is a good bridge,* three miles above the Mohave

village of Indians, there is another road turns to the south, through beautiful and sandy dry plains, to Turkey-Point, near Long Point, in Lake Erie, which is 35 miles. This road extends up the lake shore to Port-Talbert, although it is not passable the whole way. From Fort Erie, two miles below the ferry at Black-rock, there extends a road up the shore of Lake Erie more than 20 miles, and another 18 miles down to the Niagara falls, here it divides: one extends to the west through the Beaver dams towards the head of Ontario, up the stream of the twenty mile creek to a little village called Aswago, and on the main road from Niagara to Grand River. This is a tolerable good road. From the falls another extends down the Niagara river by Queenston to Fort George: from hence there is a good road up and near the Lake shore for 45 miles, when it turns to the south over the mountain, and connects with the one just noticed. 40 miles from Niagara, at what is called the fifty mile creek, one road turns to the right and crosses the beach already mentioned between the lake and Burlington Bay, towards York. There is also a road that extends from Queenston towards the head of the lake through what is called the black swamp, and joins with the one from Niagara, about 10 miles from it a little short of the twelve mile creek at Shipman's tavern.

* This bridge is not quite finished.

These are all the king's roads or public highways : yet there are many more roads throughout all the province, which lead in every direction, and many of them are very good and convenient.

Bearing and distances of places.—The village and fort of Prescott are on the north bank of the St. Lawrence, opposite to the river Oswegatchie, or the old garrison at Ogdensburgh. The St. Lawrence is 2 miles wide here and has a small current. Sixty-five miles farther up the river, stands Kingston, near the bottom of Lake Ontario, nearly opposite, (though a little to the east) of Sackett's Harbor. The distance from one to another, on a straight line, is 27 miles though the nearest way that can be passed by land on the road, (and a bad one) is 34 miles and 36 by water or ice.

Seventy-five miles from Kingston is situated Presquile harbor, already noted. It is nearly opposite the mouth of the Oswego river on the United States' side. The lake is 67 miles wide here, but has been crossed in 7 hours.

One hundred miles from this harbor, up the lake, stands York, nearly opposite Niagara though a little to the northwest, on a straight line. The distance from one to the other is 34 miles ; but by land around the head of Lake Ontario, it is 90 miles. Niagara is opposite Niagara Fort, on the United States side. The river is 1200 yards wide here.

In the year 1811, the number of inhabitants in both provinces, was 360,000. In the upper province, there were 136,000, not including Indians in the settled parts of the province.

The number of the militia, or of those who are liable to do duty, from the age of 16 to 60, are 22,660 including Indians on the bounds of the province at that time.

Learning—The greater part of the inhabitants of Canada are not well educated, for as they were poor when they came to the province and the country being but thinly settled for a number of years, they had but little chance for the benefit of schools. But since the country has become more settled, and the inhabitants rich, or in a good way of living, which is almost universally the case, they pay considerable attention to learning.

Ten dollars a year is the common price given for the tuition of each scholar by good teachers.

Until lately, there was no Latin or Greek school kept in the province. Now there are three—one in York, taught by the Episcopal minister of that place—one on the Bay Quanteby by a Mr. Bidwell, from the United States—and the other in Niagara village, by Rev. Burns. Good encouragement would be given in many other parts to teachers of such schools, particularly in the Niagara and London districts.

Notwithstanding I said that the main body of the inhabitants were not well educated, yet there are a number of gentlemen in the province who have the best of learning.

There is a public free school kept in every district, by order of the king, the teachers of which receive annually 100 pounds sterling from the crown.

Morals.—It is an idea entertained by the generality of the people of the United States, that the inhabitants of Canada are some of the worst people in the world, made up of rogues, murderers, and the like mean characters. However, the idea is entirely false. That there has some bad characters escaped from different parts of the United States to Canada, no one will deny; but these cannot be called the inhabitants, but only sojourners. But I may say, whether I am believed or not, that the main body of the people of Canada are peaceable, just, and generous in all their intercourse with each other, and strangers also; they are benevolent, being once poor themselves, they know how to feel for human want and human woe. I have been acquainted with some of the inhabitants of almost every neighbourhood, and have found them to be nearly all alike, except those from England or Ireland. I have also attended a number of the courts of justice, and was surprised to see so little business done at them.

The most of the inhabitants of the western or upper part of the province are from the states of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New-York, and yet retain a considerable degree of that rectitude of conduct and conversation observed among the Quakers and Presbyterians in those States. There is hardly ever an instance of a person stealing in this province, not perhaps because all the inhabitants are too good, but partly from this cause, and partly because the penalty annexed to the crime is death; however, no one has been put to death in the province yet.

Religion.—About one half of the people of Canada that have come to the age of maturity, are professors of religion: however, as in all other places they are of different sentiments and sectaries. The Methodists are the most numerous, and are scattered all over the province. The other sectaries are more local, and are as follows: there are 15 churches of baptists, about 1000 in number, and 11 preachers; 1 church in Bastard township, 1 in Thurlow, 1 in Sidney, 1 in Percy, 1 in Hallowell, 1 in Sufiasburgh, (these 5 last are on the Bay Quantie) 1 in Cramahe, 1 in Hildamin, 1 in Whitby, 1 in Markham, 1 in Townsend, 1 in Oxford, 1 in Charlotteville, 1 in Clinton, and 1 in Niagara. There are 6 Ministers and Congregations of Episcopalians: 1 at Cornwall, 1 at Kingston, 1 at York, 1 at Niagara, 1 at Turkey Point, 1

at Sandwich.* There are 10 congregations of Presbyterians, and 7 Ministers. One in London district (Townsend) a Mr. Colver, Minister, a very old gentleman; 1 in Ancaster, near the head of Ontario, a Mr. Williams, Minister; 1 on the twenty mile creek, 20 miles from Niagara, a Mr. Eastman, Minister; 1 in Niagara village, a Mr. Burns, Minister; 1 in York, no Minister; 1 on the Bay Quantie, 1 in Kingston, and 3 below. There are 5 congregations of Quakers or friends: 1 in Adolphustown, 30 miles west of Kingston on the Bay Quantie, 1 in Roxbridge, 30 miles north east of York, on a new township, 1 on Yonge street near Lake Simcoe, 1 in the township of Norwich, on the river Thames, and 1 at the short hills, not far from Lake Erie, 30 miles south-west of Niagara. There is also a considerable number of the Dutch Mennonists in the province; a large settlement of them reside in Clinton township, not far from Niagara, as also another in Markham, near York, and on Yonge street and some other parts. There is also some Tunkers in the province, and a few Roman Catholics. They have a chapel in Cornwall, and in Kingston and Sandwich. There is also some other sectaries in the province, all of which enjoy

* There is also another congregation and Minister on Yonge street lately become such: a Mr. Joseph Lockwood, once a Methodist, is their Minister.

by full liberty of conscience to worship God as they please, and are protected by law from penalties, impositions, or burthens of any kind relative to religious concerns. The Episcopal clergy are paid by the king. "The one seventh part of all the land in Upper Canada is appropriated, according to the constitution, for the maintenance of a Protestant clergy within the province." This land lies in 200 acre lots, and is leased out for 21 years, at 2 dollars the first 7 years of the lease, 4 dollars the second 7, and six dollars the third 7. The rent of these lots, called Clergy reserves, is given to the Clergy to the amount of 800 dollars a year. The Clergy of the other sectaries are paid according to the will and bounty of their hearers. There has been no general revival of religion of late in Canada, yet the people in general pay a very serious attention to it, and attend to preaching very well. Profane swearing is seldom heard, and the sabbath is regarded with considerable reverence. Bigotry or superstition is not often to be discovered among the inhabitants of Canada, of course they do not persecute each other, but are friendly and loving.

Diversions.—The inhabitants of almost every country have their diversions, which vary according to their notions of pleasure. Of course, the people of Canada have theirs, which however, are of an exercising and innocent nature.

Meeting together at private houses and dancing is a favorite amusement of the young people. This, however, is not carried to excess.

Hunting deer and bears in the winter is also a diversion, and a very profitable one.

Sleighing is another amusement of which the people are very fond, and for which they are well prepared, as it respects horses, sleighs, harness, and furs. They also very much esteem the music of bells, some having at times 40 in the harness of 2 horses. Much produce is taken to market in the winter by sleighs, in which is connected both pleasure and profit. As this is a level country, and the snow lies pretty deep in winter, there is very good sleighing. Most of the people drive Jehu-like, or "furious."

The melody of the human voice is also a favorite amusement of the young people of both sexes. Teachers of this art will meet with good encouragement in almost every part of Canada.

Comparatively speaking, Canada is but a thinly settled country; yet, contrary to the custom of the inhabitants of such places, the people here dress well at all times, but when they go abroad, or on the sabbath, they dress very fine. When I say they dress fine, I do not mean that fancied fineness, studied and practiced in large cities and populous places—such as jewels, rings, ribands, powder, paint, and the like; but with garments of the finest stuffs, with

but few trinkets of any kind. The most of their clothing is of their own manufacturing, particularly the woollen, for which they have plenty of the best of wool.

Horse-racing, card-playing, and the like unprofitable and sinful diversions are very seldom performed in Canada.

Drunkenness and dissipation are seldom seen among the people. As all have to get their living by their labor, there appears to be but little time or temptation to frequent taverns for that purpose.

The people of Canada pay very little attention to any kind of diversion in the summer, except to visit one another in a social manner, and drink tea, of which they are very fond, and a friendly chit-chat. The most of their conversation at these times relate to their former poverty and present plenty, and to which I was happy to listen, whenever it happened in my hearing, as it indicated a contented and thankful mind in their present situation; and could wish and say with propriety—*Esto perpetua*, or, may it last forever.

Manufactures.—It is not to be expected that the manufactories of Canada are many or extensive. There is some iron made in the province, though the quantity is small.

Salt is also made here, though to a small amount, but might be made in great quantities.

Hats, shoes, boots, and tin and crockery ware are manufactured here in great plenty.

Linen and woollen cloths are made in abundance.

Whiskey, and apple and peach brandy are also made in considerable quantities.

PROMISCUOUS REMARKS ON THE GOVERNMENT.

The constitution, laws, and government of Upper Canada are much better than people, unacquainted with them, expect. It is not my intention here to write much respecting the government, though I had taken much pains in studying with an intention of publishing the result of my inquiries on the subject. One year before the declaration of war by the American government against England, while in Canada, I issued proposals for a geographical and political view of the province; but, as it is now generally expected that the province will fall into the hands of the American government I shall make only a few remarks on the subject.

In the year 1791, the then called province of Quebec, was by an act of the British parliament divided into two separate provinces—it may be called the province of Lower Canada, and the province of Upper Canada. By this act, a constitution was formed for each province, each in its nature calculated to suit the situation of their respective inhabitants—one being chiefly settled by the French, and the other by the English.

The constitution put it out of the power of the British parliament to impose any taxes on the people, either upon their property or trade

at what was necessary for the regulation of commerce: but this should be disposed of by the legislature of the province, for the benefit of the same. The constitution also provides for the creation of a legislative council and a legislative assembly. The king also sends a governor who acts in the king's name. The members of the legislative council are selected by the king and governor jointly; these hold their seats during life if they do not forfeit it. The members of the legislative assembly are elected every 4th year by the freemen of the province. Any man of the age of 24, and who is worth property to the amount of 40s. a year, and has been in the province 7 years, may be elected a member of the legislative assembly, or vote for one.* The making of laws for the welfare of the people is the business of the legislative assembly, must be assented to by the legislative council and governor, in the king's name, before they become laws, yet the legislative council, governor, British parliament or king, cannot make any laws for the people of Canada, without the advice and consent of the legislative assembly."

From hence we see that the people have got the means of guarding themselves. About 12 years ago, the assembly passed an act dividing the province into districts or ridings, every one

* The people vote in Canada by word of mouth.

of which sends one member to parliament the assembly. The number of members at present, August, 1812, is 26, two thirds of which are natives of the United States ;* less than a third of the justices of the peace are American the sheriffs are either Europeans or loyal the jury, according to the constitution, must be taken in rotation from each township, as the names stand on the assessment roll or list of names; of course the majority are always Americans. The majority of the courts of common law, probate, surrogate, and court of king's bench, are Europeans; yet the proceedings of those courts are regulated by the orders of the assembly.

In the second session of the first parliament in 1792—3, an act was passed to prevent the further introduction of slaves. The excellent words of that act being thus:—"Whereas it is unjust that a people who enjoy freedom, by which they should encourage slavery—That after the passing of this act, no person brought into the province shall be subject to the condition of a slave." All that were then in the province were free at 25 years of age.

The taxes in Canada are very small, no person is taxed more than one penny upon every pound sterling he is worth, according to the

* No minister of the gospel can get in either house of assembly, of course the people are not afraid of spiritual tyranny.

of property made by act of parliament, and which at present is not more than half of what it would sell for. The taxes so collected are laid out by the judges of the court of quarter sessions, for the benefit of the district from which it is collected, and where the court is— to pay the wages of the members of assembly sent from the district, and half of the salaries of the sheriffs of the same; to build or repair a court-house or jail, and the like. The whole expence of the government of Canada, except what is here noted, is paid by the king, which, together with the Indian department, cost him a million and a half sterling annually, and which is a great burthen on the people.

The Moneasts, Tunkers, and Quakers, are exempted from military duty by paying annually in time of peace 5 dollars, and in time of war 20. The governor of the province has power by law to call out all the militia, and to send them over the line in pursuit of an enemy who has invaded the province, or to destroy a fort or fortification, that may be the means of covering or assisting an invasion, but in no other case.

Stealing exposes a person to death, if the thing stolen is worth 13 pence, yet the plaintiff may value it as low as he pleases, and if below 13 pence, the thief is clear. No one has yet been hanged in Upper Canada for stealing, however people are afraid to venture their lives in the hands of others.

APPENDIX.

DESCRIPTION OF NIAGARA FALLS.

MANY writers have attempted to describe the curiosity of nature; yet all the descriptions that I have read, appear to me not to be sufficiently illustrative or correct: I will therefore describe it myself, in as plain a manner as possible, unadorned with any fanciful story or rhetoric.

In order to have a proper view of the falls and adjacent parts, I will suppose a person to be sailing, in a little boat, out of Lake Ontario up the Niagara river or outlet of Lake Ontario. Soon after you leave the lake, you pass the village of Niagara, on the right hand, and Niagara old fort on the U. S. side. A little farther up, you pass fort George on the right hand; the water is deep and smooth. You still go on a due south course, the water being smooth and the banks about 16 feet high, and in some places perpendicular for 7 miles. Here you come to Queenston on the right hand, and Lewiston on the left, or United States side. This place is called the landing, for here is the landing of vessels destined for the country on the west side of Lake Erie, and the Michigan territory

are taken out and conveyed up the mountain or slope 9 miles to the still water, 2 miles above the falls. The ascent of this slope, though 300 feet high, is very easy. The river here is half a mile wide, and a little above there is a whirl of considerable depth, though not dangerous.* After you pass this place 300 yards, you enter the dismal chime: and instead of the lively prospect of the sailing of ships with flying colours, fruitful fields and pleasant landscapes, you are all at once buried in a grave of at least 300 feet deep. Although it is open at the top, should you look up, the sight is truly gloomy: the banks are perpendicular, and in some places more than perpendicular, abounding with craggy rocks hanging over your head in a frightful manner; near the surface, there is to be seen flat rocks projecting towards each other in a horizontal position.† You still row on a south direction with little variation, the water is considerably rapid, and the banks have nearly the same appearance, until within about a mile of the cataract, where the banks are not quite so

* This place is memorable. Here the Americans crossed on the 13th of October, 1812, to invade Canada.

† This place is also memorable. Down in this dreadful chime, a number of the American soldiers were drove headlong by the Indians, after they had surrendered themselves prisoners of war to the British, on the 13th of October, 1812.

high; but still all is gloomy, as you are buried from the sight of the land of the living, and must be filled with haunted thoughts of the murdered dead, that in one fatal hour, plunged into the mighty grave near which you now are.

As you proceed, the water becomes very rapid, and at length the mighty falls appear, a full tremendous view, and fill the ear with a dismal roar. It is 8 miles from Queenstown. When you arrive within 300 yards of the cataract, you must stop. Here the bed of the river widens, and is not sunk more than half the distance below the surface, as it was at your first entrance of the chime. A view of the horizon is of course more extensive. In sitting in your little bark, the above distance, with your face to the south, before you flows the main body of water, and plunges over with tremendous dash. About 60 yards of the middle of this cataract is much deeper than the rest.

* Some distance below the falls, on the U. S. side, near the chime, there is a hole, called the Devil's Hole, 300 yards in circuit, and 300 feet deep, with trees and craggy rocks sticking to the inner surface. In the French war in this province, in 1759, there was a company of 500 American and British soldiers, with all their baggage waggons, marching by the hole; when they were all driven into it, at the point of the bayonet, by a company of French, who lay in ambush. Only 2 men escaped. One of them now lives 5 miles from the place.

in consequence of a chime sunk in the rock. The water has a bluish green appearance. On your left hand, comes the other part of the river not so large by a sixth part, and falls over also.

This river is divided into two separate pitches, each 400 yards in width.* This division is made by a small island, crowding up to the verge of the rock, near the middle. It extends half a mile up the stream, and terminates in a point, where the water divides to the right and left.

The form of the cataract bends inwards, or is nearly a simicircle. By the striking force of the falling water on that below, wind is pressed under, which rises below in a foaming manner, though not to any height or violence.†

The lime-stone rock, on the U. S. side, over which the water flows, shelves considerably, and leaves a large cavity between the base and falling column of water; and, were it not for the depression of air, a person might walk some distance in it without being wet.

* Great numbers of small eels may be seen on the edge of the beach, below the falls. They are trying to get over; but cannot succeed, unless some one assists them.

† This Mr. Ellicott compares to cocks of hay; but I have never seen any thing of that appearance.

The mighty dash of so great a body of water on the bed below, raises a fog or small rain which mounts up and spreads to a considerable distance, in which, (when the sun shines) may be seen a variety of beautiful rainbows. In the winter, this rain lighting upon the neighboring trees, congeals in a thousand shapes, forming a romantic and pleasing appearance.

About half a mile above the falls, what are called the rapids begin, and descend 50 feet to the cataract.* The water descends below the falls 70 feet. The draft of this rapid is so great that it often reaches ducks and geese, when they appear to be half a mile out of danger, and when once under the influence of the impetuous current, they cannot get on the wing again. Indians with their canoes have been known to be irresistibly carried down the rapid, and have disappeared forever.

Above this rapid, the river spreads to nearly 3 miles wide, and is shallow, with several small islands.

The river now has a southeast course to Grand Island, 9 miles wide, and then south to Lake Erie, where it is only a mile wide. The distance is 20 miles from the falls by water. From this place, you may sail more than 1000 miles if you wish, to the end of Lake Superior, without encountering any more falls.

* The bed of the rapids is very rocky.

If my reader pleases, I will invite him back again, to view and contemplate a little more this awful scene. On both sides of the rapids, above the falls, the banks of the river are quite low, and there are many convenient situations for water works. Several are now erected, yet there is room for more. With a small expence, a large quantity of water can be brought in use to do great execution.

The perpendicular pitch of this vast body of water is 144 feet—add to this 50 feet above and 70 feet below, and we find that the river descends in 8 miles and a half, 264 feet. Some who have never seen this river, suppose it to be much less than it is, while others suppose it to be larger. Indeed it is hard for any one to judge with propriety, that has seen it, as there are but 8 miles in the whole length of the river, between the two lakes where any current can be seen, and that is very rapid.

For the contemplation of the curious, who may perhaps never see these falls, I have made the following calculation, from which they may form some tolerably correct idea of the quantity of water that falls over this cataract.

Say that each of the spaces over which the water pitches, is 400 yards wide, or 1200 feet. The most shallow one of these, or that on the U. S. side, is 3 feet deep, on the verge of the rock over which it falls. Now if we multiply

its depth (3 feet) into its width, (1200 feet) when through by 64, and the square root of the have 3600 cubic or solid feet of water on the product is the velocity required." See *Pike's* verge of the precipice. As there are 62 pounds *Arithmetic*, page 362—5.

avoirdupois in a cubic or solid foot of water. From calculation, we find that the water of (and a little more, which we will leave out this cataract is 3 seconds descending the 144 avoid fractions) so if we multiply 62 (the pound feet and that the velocity acquired in that time in a square foot of water) into 3600 (the number and distance to be 96, which if we multiply in the number of feet of water on the verge) we have 223,200, the number of pounds of water on 223,200 pounds of water on the verge of the precipice. But when we consider the laws of gravity the weight thereof at its lowest point of fall: this respecting spouting fluids and falling bodies is the weight of the water of the smallest part we shall find that the water of this cataract of the cataract, or that on the United States side, receives a vast additional weight by the time it comes to the lowest point of fall. In order to find this additional weight, we must note the following things:—

"Heavy bodies near the surface of the earth fall 1 foot the first quarter of a second, 3 feet the second, 5 feet the third, and 7 feet in the fourth quarter; that is, 16 feet in the first second. Let go three bullets together—stop the first at one second, and it will have fallen 16 feet; stop the next at the end of the second second, and it will have fallen ($2 \times 2 = 4$) 4 times 16, or 64 feet; and stop the last at the end of the third second, and the distance fallen will be ($3 \times 3 = 9$) 9 times 16 or 144 feet, and so on. Now the momentum, or force with which a falling body strikes, is equal to its weight multiplied by its velocity," and in order to find which we must "multiply the perpendicular space fallen

the enormous sum of 128,563,200 pounds of water, which falls on the bed of the river below. No wonder then that the solid rock and distant surface bend beneath the mighty pressure, and that the sound is often heard at the distance of 20, and sometimes 50 miles. However, it must be here noticed that falling bodies meet with resistance from the air through which they pass, which is always in proportion to the distance fallen, the velocity of the motion and dimensions of their surfaces; or in other words, the water of this cataract is considerably resisted by the air through which it falls, from which

circumstance it appears that there ought to be some reduction from its weight or striking force at its lowest point of fall: yet when we observe that fluids act by pressure and gravity both, that every part of this cataract is of some depth and about 60 yards is 18 feet deep, where the pressure is great, of course we may fairly calculate that the pressure outbalances the resistance. But as fluids are non-elastic, they do not produce but half the effect of perfect elastic bodies. Were the water of this cataract a perfect elastic body and fell on a perfect elastic base, its striking force and sound would be just 4 times as great as it now is. Several writers who have written a description of this cataract and the adjacent parts, have stated that the falls were once down at the landing on the north side of the slope or mountain already noted. "That from the great length of time, quantity of water, and distance from which it fell, solid rock is wore away for 7 miles up the stream, to where it is now." To me it is plain that neither of these assertions are true. Who ever will take the pains to view the chasm from the beginning of the slope through which the water now flows up to the falls, must be convinced of the mistake, for the banks are not solid rock but are in some places sand, in others sand and clay, and in others solid rock, as also trees, bushes, loose rocks and stones, but in very few

places are banks of solid rock on both sides.* That the cataract was ever down at the north side of the slope, is a conjecture to me very improbable, for if it was ever there, it must have fallen from those flat and horizontal rocks already named, and which are near the surface of the ground. The surface of the ground, or top of the slope, where the falls are supposed once to have been, is 8 feet higher than the still water above the rapids already noted, according to measurement, and but 1 foot lower than the lower end of lake Erie.

Now as there is a considerable hollow on the United States side, about half way between the falls and the top of the mountain, it is evident the whole river would have found its way into Lake Ontario through this hollow, rather than rise at least 30 feet to flow over the top of the mountain or slope.

From the falls, the ground is level in every direction, and on the Canada side, fields are cultivated to the verge of the bank in some places. The cataract may be seen from some directions, at the distance of 4 miles. A little

* General Lincoln, who viewed the banks of this river in the year 1794, says, "on a careful examination of the banks of the river it was evident that there was no good foundation for this (the above) opinion." See a note in Morse's Gazetteer, printed in Boston, in 1797, under the word Niagara.

above these falls there is a spring emitting a gas or an inflammable air, which if confined in a pipe or tube, and fire set to it, will burn.

It is curious to see all the trees near this cataract cut on the bark for a considerable distance up, all over with the initials or first letters of person's names, with the year in which they were cut: some of these dates are, of considerable age; I discovered 2 that had been made 207 years, or in 1606, which was but 2 years before the province was settled by the French, though it was discovered by the English 30 years ago, or in the year 1497. There is a ladder provided 144 feet long, to go down into the chasm, though but few will venture.*

The Massaugus nation of Indians used to sacrifice to this cataract, before they were visited by the Roman Catholic Priests.

About 2 years ago, some of the island army named fell to the bottom with a great sound.

REMARKS RELATIVE TO THE SITUATION OF THE PEOPLE OF CANADA, RESPECTING THE WAR: AND A CONCISE HISTORY OF ITS PROGRESS TO THE PRESENT DATE.

In writing upon this subject, I feel as if I was treading upon delicate ground. Although

* I am told this ladder was fixed here by the order and at the expence of a lady from Boston; who when it was finished was the first that ventured down. I am sorry that I cannot record her name.

I feel as much neutrality in the contest as perhaps it is possible for any one to feel, except that I have one wish which is that of peace. Yet, no doubt, some of my readers will find, or think they find some partiality in my remarks on the subject.

However, I intend to relate nothing but the truth, the general knowledge of which, I hope will be beneficial.

I have already noted that 6 out of 10 of the inhabitants, were natives of the United States, or their children born in Canada. These people did not move to the province because they preferred the government of Great-Britain to that of the United States, but in order to obtain land upon easy terms, for it must be remembered, that all the land of Canada now inhabited, was given to the people by the king who bought it of the Indians.*

It must here be mentioned also, that in order to obtain this gift, they were under the necessity of taking the oath of allegiance to his Majesty, the King.

While the Congress of the United States, were in debate, relative to the declaration of

* At present there is a small consideration required, and should this land be sold at any time to any person, such person must take the oath of allegiance within 1 year, or the land falls back to the king.

war against England, and all her territories and dependencies, the parliament of Canada passed a law providing for the raising and training 1 third of the militia of the province between the age of 18 and 45, called flank companies. And at the same time passed an act for the formation of a peculiar kind of oath of allegiance, to be administered to the militia, at the discretion of the Governor.

This oath was the subject of great complaint and many refused to take it, insomuch, that the governor thought proper to lay it by.

At this session, there was an attempt made to pass an act to suspend for 18 months, the habeas corpus act, and thereby to deprive the people the process of trial by court and jury in certain cases. However, it did not pass by so close odds.—Had this act passed, there is no doubt but that a rebellion would have taken place.

The act that was passed for the organization of a part of the militia, was carried into effect without any opposition, as but few expected that the declaration of war would take place; indeed, but few knew that such an act was under consideration; the invasion of Canada was contemplated but by few.

When war was declared against England which was the 18th of June, Mr. Foster, Minister from the court of Great Britain, to the United

States, sent an express to Canada from Washington, with great speed.

When the government were informed of the event, the flank companies were ordered to Fort George, and other places on the lines, with great expedition.

They were told that they must go to such places to get their muskets, after which they might return. This order they obeyed with cheerfulness, not knowing that war was declared, or that they should be detained, which however was the case.

Had they known of the declaration of war, and that they were to be detained for that purpose, I am of opinion that but few would have complied with the orders, though most of them were under obligation so to do, having taken an oath to that effect.*

At the same time the regular soldiers were marched from York to Fort George. All the Indian warriors on Grand River were called for, and they went down immediately,—but soon returned. After this the chiefs made an agreement with the governor, and were to have good wages to engage in the war, after which they returned again.

* Upon the declaration of war, the governor issued a proclamation, making it treason for any one to cross the line. Had not this been done, one half of the people would have left the province.

In a little time after this the flank companies raised in different parts of the province some distance from Fort George, were called to it and at the same time Gen. Hull invaded the province at Sandwich, nearly 300 miles west of Fort George. I then lived on the main road that leads to it, on which all the soldiers passed, and conversed with some hundreds of them, respecting their feelings and views, and found that nearly all of them were of the same mind, and that was, if Hull came down to Fort George, (which was the universal expectation) and they were ordered to march against him they would not obey. Such was their dread of war, and partiality to the United States government. But not a man would have joined him and fought against the king, as was the opinion. But the event was, Hull did not come but continued at Sandwich, and sent a proclamation among the people, telling them he would come to deliver them from tyranny, and that he was able to accomplish the task; but, at the same time, he invited them to join him, like true rebels against their king and oaths, or else stay at home and mind their own work; but if any should come against him, and be found fighting by the side of an Indian, they should be murdered without mercy. I believe almost every one that saw or heard of this proclamation, treated its contents with contempt. Per-

ple are hardly ever so willing to do wrong from the advice of others, as of their own accord.

Now to take up arms against their king, whom they had sworn to protect, was too much. They were offended at any man, who could think them capable of such conduct; and as to assisting Hull in freeing them from tyranny, it was a mere notion—for if they had been under any, they could at any time have crossed the line to the United States. But they were told that they might stay at home and mind their business;—this proposal they would willingly have acceded to, for they dreaded the war with their whole souls. Some of them indeed took the friendly advice, for which they were sharply rebuked by their rulers, and in consequence of this some fled to the wilderness, and some remain there until this day for aught I know;* but all of them were much exasperated against Hull, for threatening not to give any one quarters, who should be found fighting by the side of an Indian.

They were well assured that Hull knew every man in Canada to be under the control of the government, and that they were obliged to bear arms, and at least to march where they

* A very few fled to Hull, but when he gave them up they were not hurt, but put in jail. It has been reported that they were hanged; but this is without foundation.

were ordered, and that they could not prevent the Indians from marching with them. They also knew that they must commence an engagement, should they be brought in sight of Hull's army; but in the confusion of a battle, should one take place, many hoped to make their escape to Hull. However, after this dreadful declaration, no one had any such view, believing if they should leave the British army, from among the Indians, and go to Hull, that he would kill them according to his promise. This operated very much in favor of the British cause.

It was generally thought in Canada, that if Hull had marched with haste from Sandwich to Fort George, the province would then have been conquered without the loss of a man; for at that time the British would not have been able to bring more than 1200 men to oppose him, before he could have reached the Niagara river, and co-operated with the army on the east side, who then could have come over with safety, and so there would have been an end of the unhappy war perhaps.

But, contrary to all expectation, Hull remained at Sandwich, till General Brock issued his proclamation to the people, telling them that Hull was sent by Madison to conquer the province for Bonaparte, and if they did not repel him they would be sent to France. This was

a successful step towards a preparation to oppose Hull. Brock then beat up for volunteers at Fort George, to go with him and oppose the invader, promising all who would engage with him to share the same with himself, and have 200 acres of land—About 300 turned out, and took water to go by the way of Lake Erie. At the same time he sent 2 pieces of flying artillery, and a few regulars by land. He had also ordered some part of the militia from the district of London about 100 miles from Sandwich, to march there. This many refused to do of their own accord, and others were persuaded so to refuse by a Mr. Culver, a Mr. Beamer, and one more who rode among the people for 6 days, telling them to stand back. However, they were apprehended, and the most of the people became obedient. After this they had their choice to go or stay, and some went. The result of this expedition is sufficiently public, and need not be inserted here. However, it may here be remarked, that the capture of Hull and his army with the surrender of the fort of Detroit, and all the Michigan Territory, were events which the people of Canada could scarcely believe, even after they were known to be true. Indeed when I saw the officers and soldiers returning to Fort George, with the spoils of my countrymen, I could scarcely believe my own eyes. The most of the people in Can-

ada think that Hull was bribed by the British to give up the fort.

After this event, the people of Canada became fearful of disobeying the government; some that had fled to the wilderness returned home; and the friends of the United States were discouraged and those of the king encouraged.

Great preparations were now made—the militia were trained every week, and a number more called out; and some hundreds of regulars came from the lower province. The army now became respectable, and a dread fell on those who had opposed the government. The people now saw that it was as much as their property and lives were worth to disobey orders, and now what they had been compelled to do, after a little while they did from choice.

Things remained in this situation till August when the parliament met for a short session and put all the public money into the hands of the governor, and also passed an act, making it treason for any person, man or woman, to speak against the administration, or to refuse going, or persuading any of his majesty's subjects from going to war; and to subject a person to a fine of 30 dollars who did not denounce a deserter. They strove hard also to pass an act to establish the martial law, but the bill was violently opposed by the friends of the people, particularly by J. Wilcocks, an Irishman. The

members of parliament published an address to the people, in which they all promised to assist in the war, both with their counsel and arms; and when the house dissolved, the most of them took the field.*

In the course of the summer, Brock, who was indeed a very fine man, had rendered himself very dear to all the soldiers at fort George, and to the people in general.

In this situation things remained, and the army increased, till the invasion of the province at Queenston, an account of which has been laid before the public. However, it may not be amiss to make a few remarks on the subject.

Early in the morning of the 13th of Oct. 1812, some Americans landed on the bank at Queenston, unobserved; but were soon discovered, and the alarm given, at which time they retreated unseen (as it was yet dark) through the village and to Black Swamp, 4 miles back.†

At the same time the Americans on the United States side opened their cannon to the British shore to keep them from coming down to the beach to oppose the invaders then crossing with boats. At the same time the cannon from two batteries were levelled against them from

* If the members of Congress would act thus, it would make a great alteration in the war.

† The most of these came the next day, and gave themselves up to the British.

the British side, beside the fire from the small arms of four hundred soldiers which were stationed there at that time. Yet through all this opposition the brave Americans effected a landing, drove the British back and took possession of their batteries and cannon, which however were spiked.

They remained in peace a little while, when Brock came, rallied about three hundred soldiers, including Indians, and made an attempt to retake a battery on the side of the slope, close by Queenston, and was killed, two balls entering his body; his aid de-camp fell at the same time, while on his horse encouraging the people. The Americans were masters of the ground, after that for four hours, in which time many might have landed, though it was not the case.

Expresses now went down to Fort George 8 miles, and the sound was on the float, hurry boys, or else our dear general will be killed and others cried he is wounded, he is wounded, hurry, hurry, save our governor. Such sounds filled every bosom with martial fire. A reinforcement of 1800 soldiers, and 6 pieces of flying artillery were soon in marching orders under Gen. Sheaffe; they ascended the slope one mile and a half west of the American army, which was then on the heights above Queenston. When they came in sight, they raised the Indian war whoop, let loose the cannon

and rushed on with great impetuosity. The Americans seemed panic struck, did not form to any advantage, but retreated a small distance, but the awful chime was in the way: they surrendered, and quarters were given, yet the Indians who were on the left wing, continued to kill with their tomahawks, which so exasperated Gen. Sheaffe, that he threw off his hat and stuck his sword in the ground up to the hilt, and declared, that if every man did not exert himself to prevent the Indians from killing the Americans, after they had surrendered, he would give up the command and go home.

The militia and regulars then, with much ado, stopped the Indians from killing. No one can reflect on this scene without feeling his heart leed at the view of human misery.*

When I heard the cannon in the morning, I took my horse and rode down, and on the road met a number of the Massaugus Indians who had made their escape; these Indians are a very cowardly tribe.

After this the British contemplated another invasion immediately, and therefore called all the militia, from 16 to 60, from the river Credit and the head of Ontario to the west side of

The British published the number killed on their side to be 30, but the true number was 160; chiefly Indians and regulars. The number on the American side was but 260.

the Grand River, and between the two lakes as also more than one half from the London and Home districts to Fort George, and other stations on the Niagara river to Fort Erie, which made an army of 8000 soldiers. This order was resisted with considerable spirit, yet it was late, for not only the officers of the army* and the Indians were engaged to compel obedience but all the militia that had been in the service they thought it hard and unreasonable that they must bear all the burden and dangers of war, therefore a number of them were zealously engaged to bring forward the disobedient although their neighbors and relations. An example of this sort may be named: about days after the battle, a Col. Graham, on Yonge street, ordered his regiment to meet, in order to draft a number to send to fort George: however, about 40 did not appear, but went out Whitechurch township, nearly a wilderness and there joined about 30 more, who had come from different places. When the regiment was there were present some who had liberty of absence a few days from fort George, these others volunteered their services to Col. Graham, to the number of 160, to go and join them in, to which the Colonel agreed, but

* At this time, many a boy thought he grew a man in a few days.

ordered them to take no arms; but when they found they must not take arms, they would not go. At the first of December they had increased to about 300: about which time, as I was on my way to Kingston to obtain a passport to leave this province, I saw about 50 of them near Smith's creek, in Newcastle district, on the main road, with fife and drum, beating for volunteers, crying huzza for Madison.

None of the people in this district bore arms at that time, except 12 at Presquile harbor. They were universally in favour of the United States, and if ever another army is landed in Canada, this would be the best place, which would be 100 miles from any British force, and before one could march there, many of the Canada militia would desert, especially if the American army was large, say 50,000. But whenever the Americans attempt to land where there is an army, that army will fight till they are nearly all destroyed, for they dare not rebel, not having now any faith in any offers of protection in a rebellion, as they have been deceived. Indeed many of the militia are considerably exasperated against the invaders, for they think that it is hard that they should feel the misery of war who have no agency in the councils of England, and know that the United States government cannot force any man over the line, of course those that come, they view as coming

of their own choice, and being as void of justice and humanity, and therefore deserve to be killed for their intrusion.

In August, the inhabitants were called together, in order that all who had not taken the oath of allegiance might take it without exception. However, some refused, some were put in cells, and others were not dealt so hard with. Many took the oath rather than suffer thus.

Some time in the month of November, the Americans became masters of lake Ontario, which was very grievous to the British. About the same time, the governor issued a proclamation ordering all the citizens of the United States, residing in the province of Upper Canada, who had refused to take the oath of allegiance, to leave the province by applying to certain boards of inspection appointed to examine into the claims of those who asked that privilege; and all who did not so receive passports and leave the province by the first of January 1813, and still refused to take the oath of allegiance, should be considered as alien enemies and spies, and be dealt with accordingly. The proclamation was of short duration and but little circulated; of course, but few received the benefit which they ought to have had, according to Jay's treaty.

The victories that the British obtained at Hull at Detroit, and Van Rensselaer at Quebec

ton, were very encouraging to the different tribes of Indians to engage with them in the war. At the commencement of the contest, the most of the Indians refused to take any part in the war, alleging that the Americans were too numerous; but they were then told that although they were numerous, but few would come over, as the government could not compel them; and that if they did not fight they would lose their land. Some of the white people were also led to believe, that they would be deprived of their land and other property. In the course of the summer, on the line between fort George and fort Erie, there were not more than 1000 Indians under arms at one time. These Indians go to and fro as they please, to the country and back, and are very troublesome to the women when their husbands are gone, as they plunder and take what they please, and often beat the women, to force them to give them whiskey, even when they are not in possession of any; and when they see any man that has not gone to the lines, they call him a Yankee, and threaten to kill him for not going to fight; and indeed in some instances, their threats have been put in execution. They act with great authority and rage, since they have stained their hands with human blood.

The inhabitants at large would be extremely glad to get out of their present miserable situation.

tion, at almost any rate; but they dare not venture a rebellion, without being sure of protection. And as they now do not expect that the American government will ever send in a sufficiently large army to afford them a security, should they rebel, they feel it their duty to kill all they can while they are coming over, that they may discourage any more from invading the province, that the government may give up the idea of conquering it, and withdraw their forces, that they may go home also; for they are greatly distressed in leaving their families so long, many of whom are in a suffering condition.

Ever since the commencement of the war there has been no collection of debts by law, in the upper part of the province, and towards the fall in no part; nor would one pay another. No person can get credit from any one to the amount of one dollar; nor can any one sell any of their property for any price, except provisions or clothing; for those who have money, are determined to keep it for the last resort. No business is carried on by any person, except what is absolutely necessary for the time.

In the upper part of the province, all the schools are broken up, and no preaching is heard in all the land. All is gloomy—all is war and misery.

Upon the declaration of war, the government laid an embargo on all the flour, wheat, and

pork then in the province, destined for market, which was at a time when very little had left the province. The next harvest was truly bountiful, as also the crops of corn, buckwheat and peas; the most of which were gathered, except the buckwheat, which was on the ground when all the people were called away after the battle of Queenston; so that the people have a plenty of provision as yet (April, 1813.) But, should the war continue, they must suffer, as not more than one half of the farmers, especially of the upper part of Canada, sowed any winter grain, because when they ought to have done it, they were called away to the lines. Although I say that the people in general have grain enough, yet some women are now suffering for bread, as their husbands are on the lines, and they and their children have no money nor credit, nor can they get any work to do.

As soon as the snow fell in Canada, and the sleighing became good, (which was in the last of November) the British exerted themselves to the utmost to provide for the support of the war. A large price was offered for flour and pork, particularly near the line of the lower part of the State of New York, on the St. Lawrence, and near the line of Vermont and New-Hampshire, in order to get a large supply for another year, and to induce the citizens of the United States to transgress the laws; and it

appears that some, by the love of money, were prevailed upon to do it.

In the months of December and January some hundreds of slays were almost constant on the road from Montreal and other places in the lower province, carrying provisions and military stores to Kingston, York, Niagara and other parts in the upper province. But where all these provisions came from I am unable to say.

About this time in December, the British were making preparations to assemble a large force at Kingston, in order to cross the lower end of lake Ontario on the ice, and if possible to destroy the American vessels laying at Sackett's Harbor, which they considered as powerful and dangerous: and to effect this they were determined to lay out all their strength, or as much as they possibly could spare, for that business.*

* Some time in February, information reached the United States that the governor of the lower province had arrived at Kingston with 5000 troops, which together with what was stationed there, and with what might be collected of the militia round about, would make an army of 9000 strong; and I have wondered why they did not make an attempt while the ice was strong; but as it was not done, I am inclined to believe that the militia would not go over for that purpose, as the law did not oblige them.

In the month of December about 120 ship carpenters came from the lower province to Kingston and York, in order to build 7 vessels on lake Ontario. The government expected to have them finished by the time the ice was out of the lake, which 7, with 4 that were then nearly fit for use, would make a fleet of 11 sail, which it was thought would be sufficient to regain possession of lake Ontario. However, I am fully of opinion that the British will not be able to finish more than 3 before the ice leaves the lake.

Some little time before Hull invaded the province, there was an armistice entered into by the commanders of the armies on both sides of the line, at which time a number of militia were permitted to go home, and which was a joyful thing to them. When this armistice was made known to Mr. Madison he refused to agree to it, and when notice was given of his refusal to the governor of Canada, all the militia were called back. Some time before the battle of Queenston, there was another armistice agreed upon for an unlimited time, but the conditions were such, that if either party wished to commence hostilities, that party should give the other 4 days notice. Immediately upon this agreement, almost all the militia were permitted to go home, and about one half of them had got some miles upon the road, and

some that lived nigh to the line had got one more to the bosom of their families, with the sweet hope of never again returning to the place of danger and death. But oh, hard fate! notice was sent from the American side that the armistice must end in 4 days; of course, the militia that had got home, or on their way were called back again, and with a heavy heart many a man parted with the wife of his bosom and children of his love, for the last time.

The Indians are forbid by the British government from crossing the lines at any time or place and are watched and guarded for fear they will for the British know that if the Indians were permitted to cross and commit depredations on the United States' side, that it would unite all the people against them.*

They told me that none of the Indians took any scalps from women or children but only from those whom they had killed in battle; but they wished that the Governor would give them money for scalps, they would kill plenty. I was told when they took these scalps down to Fort George, the Governor and Col. Clausen proved them for their conduct, and told them to take no more scalps at any time or place.

* The Indians took a number of scalps at the battle of Brownstown; I asked some who stopped at my house if the governor gave them money for them, they told me not: but they said they took them to show the governor how many they killed.

In making these remarks I do not wish to be understood that I believe the British government is too good to wish or permit the Indians to kill and scalp any that lies in their power. I do not pretend to say or judge how this is, but I was led to believe that the British did not allow the Indians to take scalps or else they kept the thing very secret. However, I do not pretend to determine.

The inhabitants in general feel as if they were fighting against their own fathers, brothers, and sons, which in many instances is actually the case. In the first of the war the people of Canada seemed panic struck; they ceased from all business, they even neglected to prepare or eat food, until hunger compelled them to it. However, after a while they began to do a little work, yet only what was needful at the present time.

The opinion of many in Canada now is that the province ought now to be conquered for the good of the inhabitants on both sides, for many in Canada since the war, on the British side, have showed themselves strong friends to the United States, and are marked by the British government as objects of revenge on that account. Here there has been a considerable number of Indians killed by the Americans, which has so exasperated those now alive, that should there be a treaty made, and those In-

dians allowed as much liberty as they now have, they would continually be crossing the line and committing murder on the inhabitants of the frontiers to revenge the loss of their kindred. And also because there has a number of Americans left the province since the war, either by permission or without, and a number of these have land and other property there which they never can obtain again, except the province is conquered: for it must be noticed that all the land in Canada has been given to the first settlers by the king, and it is specified in every original deed, which is a deed of gift, that no person can hold it by transferment more than 1 year, except they take the oath of allegiance to his majesty. Now, although this is the law, and it is so specified in every original deed, yet very few people knew it to be the case that they went from the United States and bought land; of course many have lived there on their lands a number of years without taking the oath, and as many of such have come away rather than take the oath, of course their lands, according to law, will fall back to the king.

After the battle of Queenston, the British continued to augment their forces on the line between forts George and Erie.

About the 20th of Oct. was the usual time for a number of Indians from lake Simcoe, principally of the Massasugas tribe, to assemble

York, (about 1200 in number) in order to hold their fall council, and receive their gifts.

Gen. Sheaffe met them there, and after they had received their gifts, proposed to the warriors to go to fort George and engage in the war. However they declined going, as their squaws were with them.

The general then gave them a very large ox and two barrels of whiskey, upon which they had a merry feast and a war dance; at the same time they declared war against the United States in a formal manner. In moving in a circuitous form, whenever they came towards the United States, they held up their hatchet, gave a strike in the air and a yell.

This was about 3 o'clock, and by 5, about 350 embarked and as many more riflemen with the general for fort George, and the old Indians and squaws returned to lake Simcoe.

The garrison at York was then almost destitute of soldiers, but in a little time the militia to a considerable amount were called in.

About this time, or a little after, the Americans came on shore 18 miles above Kingston, and burnt a vessel belonging to Mr. Fairfield, and took another on the lake.

Things remained in this situation till about the 20th of Nov. when Gen. Chandler invaded Canada, about 50 miles from Montreal, with 300 soldiers. It appears that in destroying an old fortification some of the men were killed.

On the 27th of Nov. Gen. Smyth made an attempt to cross from Black Rock into Canada (river 1 mile wide) he first sent 300 soldiers and sailors under Capt. King: they stormed 3 batteries, and spiked the cannon with the loss of 40.

About 10 o'clock the same day, some soldiers went over, burnt some houses and brought away considerable plunder.

After Gen. Smyth had embarked the troops twice he gave over the project, and for which he has been severely censured by many; but upon the whole, perhaps it was best, as at that time he was not able to take over with him more than 2500 soldiers, which was not enough, as the British had at that time 8000 soldiers on the line between forts George and Erie, a distance of 34 miles only.

As Smyth and his army were seen by the British coming over and twice returning back, it was confidently reported and generally believed, that the American army had mutinized.

This very much encouraged the inhabitants, judging from hence that the soldiers would not come over at all; knowing also that many had refused so to do at the time of the battle of Queenston.

After this, as the winter was coming on, the British calculated that they should not be invaded again, at least till the ice of the river became strong; the Col. of each regiment therefore per-

mitted the principal part of the militia to go home.

The following remarks respecting the progress of the war, are made from information received from the public papers and other sources, and from my knowledge of the province and adjacent parts, in which the operations of the war have been continued to this date, and from my knowledge of the British officers, &c.—for on the 29th of Dec. I crossed the line at Ogdensburgh.

It appears that from the time of the partial invasion of Gen. Smyth, that there was nothing of note done till the defeat of a part of the north western army, under the command of Gen. Winchester, on the 22d of January, 1813, near the rapids of the Miami, which is about 65 miles south of Detroit.

Winchester's army was about 1000 strong, and was attacked by nearly double that number of British and Indians, and as the battle was obstinately contested, nearly 400 Americans were killed, the rest were made prisoners, about 600. All the militia taken were paroled and sent home, not to fight in the war again.

About the 12th of Feb. Capt. Forsyth, commanding a company of U. S. troops (riflemen) at Ogdensburgh, at the mouth of the Oswegatchie river, on the St. Lawrence, 70 miles below Sackett's harbor, marched with 200 men up the river 12 miles, and crossed over to Canada to a

little village (Brockville) on the banks of the river, where the British kept a garrison of about 60 soldiers, which he took with some military stores, without loss.

This so exasperated the British, that they collected a force of about 1200, about the 20th of the same month, chiefly militia, and crossed the river from Prescott (2 miles) effected a landing in spite of Forsyth and his riflemen—drove them 9 miles to Black Lake, with considerable loss on both sides.

They burnt all the buildings of the garrison at that place, which however was of little value, as they were at least 100 years old, having been built by the French, and were badly situated. The British also carried off much military stores.

On the 24th or the 25th of April, Com. Chauncey with about 16 sail of vessels, and General Dearborn with about 2000 soldiers and sailors left Sackett's harbor, for York, on the British side of lake Ontario, distant 190 miles, and arrived there on the morning of the 27th at 10 o'clock.

The American army began to land in boats about 8 o'clock, one mile up the lake from the fort, and two from the town, or west of the town and fort. At this place the banks are high and the woods thick. They were met by the British force, Indians, a few regular

and militia under Gen. Sheaffe, in number about 800 strong. In about 2 hours, in spite of the British, 15 or 1600 landed under the command of Gen. Pike; the British then retreated towards the fort, while the Americans pursued them, and when within about 300 yards of it, a tremendous explosion took place, of powder and combustibles that had been concealed underground, and which spread death and destruction among the American army and British also.

The number of killed by this explosion is not yet fully ascertained; Gen. Dearborn thinks it is more than 100, among which was Gen. Pike. About 300 was lost in all.

After this explosion the command fell upon Col. Pierce, who soon took possession of the fort, which the British left, as Com. Chauncey had got some of his fleet within 600 yards of the fort, and was firing upon it. The British moved down to the town, (1 mile) after having set fire to some of the public stores, and 1 vessel nearly finished. Gen. Sheaffe moved off with what regular troops were left, towards Kingston, and left orders with the commanding officer of the militia (G. S. Mitchell) to make the best terms he could.

About 2 o'clock in the afternoon the American flag was hoisted, and by 3, all was peace, and a capitulation was agreed upon: all the

militia were paroled, about 400, and all the naval and military stores were given up.

On the first of May the troops were embarked, but owing to contrary winds, did not leave York till the 8th, but the same evening they reached the 4 mile creek, a little below fort Niagara, and unladed some of the stores.

On the next Sunday evening two vessels sailed for the head of the lake to get some British stores, which they effected without loss, and returned on Tuesday.

On the 13th, Com. Chauncey arrived at Sackett's harbor, where Gen. Pike was interred with the honors of war.

On the 1st, 2d and 3d of May, the British forces of regulars and militia, under Gen. Proctor, and Indians under Tecumseh, in all about 3000 strong, attacked Gen. Harrison in fort Meigs. On the 4th or 5th, about 9 o'clock Gen. Clay arrived with 800 Kentucky volunteers, in boats, up the Miami—landed and made a heroic push upon the British and Indians, they fighting before fort Meigs—they were drove off and the cannon spiked. However they neglected to go into the fort, or back to the boats—were drawn some distance into the woods by skirmishes with the Indians: they were surrounded by the British, and 650 fell into their hands, dead or alive, though chiefly alive.

After this the Americans obtained some small

advantages over the British, who on the 9th of April raised the siege and returned; after which Gen. Harrison left the command of the fort to Gen. Clay, and went to the south.

On the 27th of May,* Gen. Dearborn, Lewis and others, embarked with Com. Chauncey on board the fleet, at fort Niagara, to the number of about 4000 strong. They landed about 2 miles from fort George, up the lake, near the light house: the vessels anchored within a quarter of a mile of the shore: with boats the army was landed by the assistance of the cannon from the fleet, in spite of the opposition of about 3000 British force, with some flying artillery, under Gen. Vincent. After about a half an hour hard fighting, the British retreated towards fort George, which was much injured from the firing of two vessels in the mouth of the river, and some batteries on the east side. The British did not go in, but gave orders to blow it up; and the cannon of all the batteries on the line, from fort George to Erie, were opened upon the American shore, which continued all night, and in the morning were bursted, and all the places were evacuated, after much destruction of barracks and public stores.

The British continued their retreat to the west of fort George, on a road which leads through

* Just 30 days after the capture of York.

black swamp, which connects it with the main road to 40 mile creek, 10 miles from fort George.

On the next day, the whole British force from the Niagara river, met at 40 mile creek, 31 miles from Niagara, where they made a stand.

In a little time the American army entered fort George and hoisted the flag.

The next evening, Col. Preston crossed over from Black Rock, and took possession of fort Erie; at the same time he published an address to the people, inviting them to come and enrol their names with him and claim the protection of the United States; at the same time warning them that if they did not they should be dealt with in a rigorous manner. It does not appear that any of them came. After he had been there a short time, he destroyed the fort and went to fort George.

The number of killed in this action at fort George, must be considerable on both sides, though it is not yet known.

It appears that in 3 days after, on the 31st, that Com. Chauncey sailed with his fleet, for Sackett's harbor with Gen. Lewis, and that Gen. Boyd took the command under Gen. Dearborn.

On the 1st of June, Gen. Winder with 2000 troops left fort George in pursuit of the British, who had made a stand at the 40 mile creek.

On the 4th, Gen. Chandler, with 2000 more, marched to join Gen. Winder. On the approach of Winder the British retreated 18 miles, to the head of Burlington bay, where they threw up intrenchments. Part of the American army proceeded 10 miles farther, to the 50 mile creek, and encamped on Saturday night, the 5th. On Sunday morning before light it was very dark. About 500 regulars under Gen. Vincent, and some Indians under the chief Norton, unperceived broke into the American camp, took possession of 7 pieces of cannon, which they turned against their foes—the confusion was great—generals Winder and Chandler were taken prisoners, and many more—five pieces of cannon were taken. The Americans fought well—the British retired, leaving 150 behind them: however they were not pursued.

The same day Gen. Dearborn sent orders for the American army to return to fort George, as he had seen several British vessels sail for the head of the lake, which he supposed intended to land reinforcements, which was done. At the same time sir James Yeo appeared with his fleet off the 40 mile creek, and demanded the surrender of the American army, stating that it must of necessity fall into the hands of the British.

The American army then returned to fort

George, having lost a considerable number, being taken prisoners by the Indians and militia, who hung on the skirts of the army, nearly throughout their march.

On the next day all the British army returned to the 40 mile creek. At the same time the British took 12 boats on their return to Fort George, with the baggage of the officers.*

On the 29th of May, (2 days after Gen. Dearborn landed at Niagara) 6 British vessels and 30 boats appeared before Sackett's harbor, from which nearly 1200 men effected a landing a little above the harbor. They drove the Americans back nearly a mile, with considerable loss; however, they were obliged to retreat to their vessels and leave many behind.

As the victory was doubtful for some time the Americans set fire to all the military stores in that place, among which was some taken at York.

The British were commanded by General Sheaffe, and the fleet by Yeo: the Americans by Gen. Brown, of the militia, Col. Mills and Col. Backus were killed early in the action.

On the 12th of June, 15 days after Dearborn had landed at Niagara in Canada, the British fleet of 7 sail of large and some small vessels captured 2 schooners and some boats near the

* About this time the British captured 2 schooners on Lake Champlain.

17 mile creek, 12 miles east of Niagara, on the United States shore of the lake. They were laden with hospital stores for the army.

On the 15th, some soldiers landed from the fleet, at the mouth of the Genesee river, and took off from the village of Charlotteville, 500 barrels of flour and pork, and a large boat loaded with 1200 bushels of corn, destined for the army at Niagara.

On the 18th, they landed at Sodus, burnt some buildings, and carried off 300 barrels of flour.

About the 23d of June, Capt. Chauncey, of one of the American vessels captured one of the British vessels (the Lady Murray, laden with military stores.)

On the 24th of June, Gen. Dearborn sent out 570 men, under Col. Boerstler, in pursuit of some British near the beaver dam, 16 miles from Fort George: they were surrounded by a number of British and Indians, and all killed or taken.

On the 27th of June, Gen. De Rottenburgh arrived in Upper Canada, as governor of the same.

On the 10th of July, 250 British crossed over the Niagara river, below Squaw island, and marched up to Black Rock; the militia in that place (only a few) retreated, and the British burnt the barracks and blockhouse, took some salt, flour and pork, 3 field pieces, and 1 twelve

pounder. In a little time the militia reinforced—come upon the British—an engagement took place for 15 minutes, when the British retreated over the river with some loss.

On the 17th of July, 200 British attacked the American picket guards: detachments were sent out and drove them back with loss. About this time Gen. Dearborn received orders to resign the command of the army, and Gen. Wilkinson took it.

The 21st of July, fort Meigs was besieged by the British and Indians, 2000 strong. However, it appeared that they made a heroic resistance under Maj. Croghan, and that they retreated a little; and that Gen. Harrison was on his way to the fort with reinforcements.

On the 23d of July, 6 British vessels came near to Erie and made some little attempts to injure the American fleet under Com. Perry, which is somewhat less than that of the British.

On the 2d of August, 1200 British landed from lake Champlain at Plattsburgh; what little force was there retreated with safety: they burnt all the public buildings in the place: there was no stores there.

About the 10th, the British fleet came near fort George and the American fleet, which pursued them, but did not come up with them. Both of the fleets were manoeuvring in sight

each other for 3 days, at length the British succeeded in cutting off two of the American schooners, viz. the Julia of 3 guns, and the Growler of 5. It appears that when the captain of the Julia (Trent) saw it was impossible to escape, he hove his little vessel along side of the British commander's vessel (the Wolfe) and the Royal George, and fired 30 rounds, declaring he would not strike—he went down with his vessel. The Growler was captured.

It also appears, that on the 16th of August, 2 other schooners were upset in a gale, viz. the Scourge of 8 guns, and the Hamilton; 16 persons were saved out of 90. Two others have been condemned as unfit for service, viz. the Fair American and the Pert. These disasters happened near the head of the lake.

* The force of the two fleets was about equal.

THE author tenders his acknowledgments to the public, for the ready reception of the first impressions of this book. He has now got a second printed, with considerable enlargements and corrections.

The history of the war in Canada, is brought down to the 21st of August, 1813, to the very hour the last sheet was struck. Since the war began, there has been several accounts published relative to Canada: the author will not make any comments on them; but with regard to this book, he can testify that the geographical part is true, as he had the best opportunity to obtain a correct knowledge of the province, having lived there several years, in which time he was writing on the subject, by permission of the governor.

With regard to the history of the war, from the first thereof till the last of December, 1812, (which was the time I left the province by permission) I know to be true. What relates to its progress since that time, I have carefully taken from the public papers, received at New-York to the 21st of Aug. and should there be another edition printed, it will still be enlarged with the continuation of the history of the war.

And further I will remark, that I am a firm friend of our native country, the United States;* in consideration of which, I left the province of Upper Canada, where I was settled with my family, and all the property I had in the world, rather than fight against my countrymen.

* From Pennsylvania.

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