

CHAPTER XXI.

Kingston.—Montreal.—French Population and Language.—Quebec.—Soldiers.—Deserters.—Three Rivers.—Scotch Emigrants.—Distinctness of French and British Canadians.—Large Military Force.—American Sympathizers.—Geological Survey.—Analogy in Structure of Canada and Scandinavia.—Section at Falls of Montmorency.—Unconformable position of lowest Fossiliferous Sandstone to Gneiss.—Supposed Monument of the Commencement of the Organic World.—To what extent the Granitic Rocks are Primary.—Difficulty of establishing the Date of Metamorphic Action.—Two sources of popular error respecting the more abundant production of Hypogene Rocks at Remote Periods.

June 18th.—AN excellent mail steam-packet carried us along the northern coast of Lake Ontario, from Toronto to Kingston, from whence I made a geological excursion to Gannanoquoi. From Kingston we then descended the St. Lawrence to Montreal. The scenery of the Thousand Islands and of the rapids of the St. Lawrence owe much of their beauty to the clearness of the waters, which are almost as green, and their foam as white, as at the Falls of Niagara.

On approaching Montreal we seemed to be entering a French province. The language and costume of the peasants and of the old beggars, the priests with their breviaries, the large crosses on the public roads, with the symbols of the Crucifixion, the architecture of the houses, with their steep roofs, large casement windows, and, lastly, the great Catholic cathedral rising in state, with its two lofty towers, carried back our thoughts to Normandy and Brittany,