

**THE CANADIAN HANDBOOK AND
TOURIST'S GUIDE: GIVING A
DESCRIPTION OF CANADIAN LAKE AND
RIVER SCENERY AND PLACES OF
HISTORICAL INTEREST WITH THE BEST
SPOTS FOR FISHING AND SHOOTING**

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The Canadian Handbook and Tourist's Guide: Giving a Description of Canadian Lake and River Scenery and Places of Historical Interest with the Best Spots for Fishing and Shooting by John Taylor

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JOHN TAYLOR

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Old Trapper.

STAN, Photo.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE NOOKS AND CORNERS OF CANADA, and more especially of the Lower Province, in addition to the interest they awaken as important sources of Commercial and Agricultural wealth, are invested with no ordinary attraction for the Naturalist, the Antiquary, the Historian, and the Tourist in quest of pleasure or of health. We have often wondered why more of the venturesome spirits amongst our transatlantic friends do not tear themselves away, even for a few months, from London fogs, to visit our distant but more favoured clime. How is it that so few, comparatively speaking, come to enjoy the bracing air and bright summer skies of Canada? With what zest could the enterprising or eccentric among them undertake a ramble, with rod and gun in hand, from Niagara to Labrador, over the Laurentian Chain of Mountains, choosing as rallying points, whereat to compare notes, the summit of Cape Eternity in the Saguenay district, and

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the Peak of Cap Tourmente, or the Cave of the Winds under Niagara Falls. We imagine the atmosphere of those airy positions is as brisk, to say nothing of the diverse incidents of travel and of sport combined, as that in the fiords of Norway, or as the heath-clad peaks of the Dovre-feld afford to so many an English Tourist and Sportsman.

Volumes have been written to make known the inexhaustible mineral, agricultural, industrial, and commercial wealth of this Colony, but few efforts have yet been made to lay before the public, or rather the travelling portion of the public, the natural beauties of its scenery,—its streams, rivers, lakes and forests,—lakes that in beauty, number, and variety of size, no other country in the world can vie with,—replete with fish of every description, within access alike of the million and the millionaire. To the Botanist, during the summer months, perhaps no country offers such varied inducements,—plants flourishing here of almost every class, from the Lichens and Mosses of the Arctic Zone, to the Azalia, Kalmia, and Lady's Slipper of the Sunny South. The very woods are sacred to Flora, and here may be culled specimens of plants within a day's journey of civilization, that 'erst have led the adventurous seeker after Nature's gems to wander for days away from the beaten track; in the far-off prairies of the West, or the tangled swamps and thickets of the South. To the Ornithologist, the Geologist, or the Student of any branch of Natural History, we would say, take a run through the Canadas to increase your collection. Does not almost every British Mail bring out enquiries and orders for the finest specimens of our Fauna and Flora? *If weary of naturalizing during the July and*

August heats, steam down and take a briny dip at Murray Bay, or Kakouna, or Tadousac. Do you fancy Canadian Highlands?—seek the pleasant shades of Cap à l'Aigle, or Pointe à Pie. Are you inclined for French gaiety and killing toilets?—steer for Kakouna. Do you prefer the *grand monde*, the fashionable place *par excellence*?—then try Tadousac. Each and all of these localities we will endeavour to lay alike before you, with their associations, their scenery, their attractions, and their inducements for the traveller to linger on his journey, and enjoy what he might otherwise pass by, in search of some wider known and less gifted place. Every traveller in Canada from Baron La Hontan, who “preferred the forests of Canada to the Pyrénées of France,” to the Hon. A. Murray, Charlevoix, Lanman, Peter Kalm, Isaac Weld, Heriot, Silliman, Rameau, Augustus Sala, have united in pronouncing the landscape of Lower Canada so majestic, so wild, so captivating withal, as to vie in beauty with the most picturesque portions of the Old or New World; and though we have no ivied ruins dating back to mediæval times, no moated castle or battlemented tower,—though we have no Chatsworths, nor Blenheims, nor Woburn Abbeys, nor Arundel Castles, embellishing the landscape with their architectural beauty,—yet in Lower Canada especially, most of our nooks and corners are hallowed by associations destined to remain ever memorable amongst the inhabitants of its soil.

In the days of yore the Summer Tourist through the Country had no easy means of access to the quiet nooks in the “back country,” or the many pleasant resorts our railways have opened out. The old hackneyed journey was as

follows :—A few days at Niagara Falls, a hurried trip through the “ambitious little city of the West,” Hamilton, a cursory glance at Toronto, a night on Ontario in the close state-room of a steamer, a hurried run through the Lake of the Thousand Islands, a day or two in Montreal and Quebec, omitting more than half the surroundings of the latter city, and the Canadian Tour was considered complete. But now, thanks to the iron horse and its accessories, wild forest-lands, smiling villages beside rivers teeming with the finny tribe, the scenery of Superior and Huron, the Saguenay, the St. Francis, the St. Maurice, all are easy of access—all worthy of a visit, and only awaiting some painter’s hand to bring them prominently forward in their beauty. The facilities about to be offered to pleasure-seekers, through the arrangements the celebrated Thomas Cook, of European Tourist fame, has made, to organize excursion parties to and from this country, will doubtless cause hundreds to avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting, at a moderate cost of time and money, this, the hitherto *Ultima Thule* of travel. The trips which have been conducted by him in Europe, have obtained the highest encomiums from all who have participated in them ; and as it is his purpose now to extend them through the United States and Canada, such intercourse will be of real service in opening International courtesies and mutual hospitalities.

We commence with the City of Quebec as being the first place that the Tourist will reach in Summer by Ocean Steamer ; it is the centre of much beautiful and varied scenery, and affording in its vicinity sporting of almost every *description*.