Account of the French Settlement.

This northern part of the state of New York, which contains the three great districts, known as Richland, Katarkouy, and Castor land, is bounded on the north by the River St. Lawrence, on the west by the Ontario, on the east by the counties of Washington and Clinton, and Lake Champlain, and on the south by the new cantons of Oswego, Onondaga, and Herkimer, is traversed nearly its entire length by Black River, which has 45 to 50 miles of navigation to its falls, situated a short distance from its mouth, in the bay of Niahoure, on Lake Ontario. This river receives in its course many considerable streams and creeks, abounding in hydraulic privileges. This region is very favorably situated for access. On the one side it communicates with Canada by the St. Lawrence, with the English establishment upon the right bank of the river, as well as those from Kingston, in the bay of Katarokouy, on the other with Lake Ontario, by the bays of Niahour, and Cat Fish, and lastly with the Mohawk Country, by a route just opened by Richland, Rome, and Castorville. They have surveyed another from the chief place, (Castorville ?) the first navigable waters of the Oswegatchee, at the confluence of which with the St. Lawrence, Major Ford has founded a considerable establishment Long Lake, the waters of which are nearly parallel with the Great River, offers another route to those who wish to go to Ford'sbourg and Lower Canada. With the exception of the mountains, the soil is deep and fertile, as may be judged by the height and variety of the trees that compose the forest. The country, which borders the river from our Katarakouy to the line which separates us from Canada, (the 45th parallel) abounds in oak, a timber the more precious, as it is rare and valuable at Montreal and Quebec. In other sections we see a mixture of elms, button wood, sugar maple, butternut, hickory, beech, water ash, and basswood. We also nd hemlock, white pine, and different kinds of spruce, wild cherry, and red and white cedar. From the boughs of the spruce is made that beer so praised by Capt. Cook, and known to be the best of anti scorbuitics. The sugar maple is so common in some sections as to form a third of the trees. Not only do we derive from thence all the sugar we need, but vinegar also of an excellent quality. As is the case in all northern countries this is filled with woody marshes and natural meadows, in which pasturage is had in summer, and forage for winter. We find in many places limestone, clay, and ore of iron, very ductile, but we are still too young to think of building a furnace or large forges. It will not be so in ten years; it is probable we shall then be in a condition to furnish to the inhabitants of Upper Canada, who, not having contracts to assure them the possession of their lands, can not think of engaging in such enterprises. We already begin to cultivate corn, wheat flax, and even hemp, since it had been observed to what height it grows on land, formerly flowed by beaver dams; but it being only the fourth year of our settlement, the details of our progress can not be very interesting.

An event, as unfortunate as unexpected, has much hindered the prosperity of this colony. The death of a young man of much talent, whom the Castorland Company had sent from Paris, to render a wild and hitherto unknown country fit to favor the reunion of a new born society, to divide the lands, open roads, begin the first labors, built bridges and mills, and invent machines, where man is so rare. A Victim of bis zeal, in taking the level of a bend of the river, he perished in trying to cross above the great falls. His comrades, so unfortunate as not to be able to assist him, have collected the details of this disastrous event in a paper, which I have been unable to read without emotions, and which I send. Our rivers abound in fish, and our brooks in trout I have seen two