

**OUR BROTHERS AND
COUSINS: A SUMMER
TOUR IN CANADA AND
THE STATES. [1859]**

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Our Brothers and Cousins: A Summer Tour in Canada and the States. [1859] by John MacGregor

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JOHN MACGREGOR

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COUSINS: A SUMMER
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OUR BROTHERS AND COUSINS:

A Summer Tour

IN

CANADA AND THE STATES.

BY

JOHN MACGREGOR, M.A.

OF THE INNER TEMPLE.

SEELEY, JACKSON, AND HALLIDAY, 54 FLEET STREET.

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INTRODUCTION.

IF a huge volume taken at random from a new Encyclopædia were to be thrust before you, and, just as you get interested in one article, the pages were suddenly turned over to the middle of another, and then a second volume given to you next day, and a third the day after, and so on every day, with the same sudden compulsory changes, for weeks together — if you were tossed on the wide Atlantic for a fortnight in a steamer to settle this confusion, and then asked, on your landing, to give a rational account of the best articles in the book, you would be very like a traveller who has been three months in America, and straightway sits down to indite his views at home.

And, to make the matter worse, the most pressing inquiries are precisely about the very subjects that are most difficult to understand, most easy to blunder in, and most mystified by contradictory statements.

Every Christian Englishman is eager to ask in a breath, "What about slavery? Is the American constitution to be admired? What is the true account of the Revival?" Perhaps it is better, then, to keep the following pages as they were written on the spot;* and it is more complimentary to the reader to give him the daily photographs unexplained, and thus invite him to draw his own conclusions. 'Tis like to a ramble amid new rocks and rivers. A finished oil-painting might be attempted on your easel at home; but, after all, the rough sketch made in the wood gives the best impression of what was seen at the time.

Still there are some subjects on which a summer tour gives quite time enough to form reliable opinions.

For instance, an Englishman who reads several American papers every day for a quarter of a

* For the *Record Newspaper*.