

was dirty, its drawling street on the north side, innocent of sidewalks and composed of at best—a half dozen very ordinary stores, double that number of tradesmen's shops and dwellings, the inevitable tavern, a dwelling house or two alternated with a stable and vacant lots—the play ground of grown children and the roost of trading Indians—running from the bush to the river, whence crossing by the nearly picturesque scow ferry and ascending the north bank, the street description was repeated. Here and there in the unprepossessing line stood out at intervals, particularly at its outer margins, a house—perhaps with garden surroundings—whose better appearance and trimness betokened, if not wealth, at least comfort and refinement. Beyond, and backed and relieved by generous nature's garniture at the outskirts, and the picture is complete. True, it had a redeeming feature in its pretty and sprightly girls, whose good and merry looks, made one at times forgetful of men in leather long boots, cordwood and cant hooks, and wish that instead of the one annual camp-meeting—a long established institution of its shady environs—there had been a dozen.

From 1860 to 1870 the place grew slow and surely, but more rapidly with the decade ending 1880. In the first came to the fore many of the principal citizens: Messrs. Hay, Beattie, Forhan, Steinhoff, Fraser, McDonald and Scott, not forgetting Messrs. Johnson, Judson, Little, Lillie, Clancy, Patterson, McDougall and others, who had sometime preceded them. In the same decade arose Forhan's brick store, several churches and many private houses.

To sum up, its inception as a village dates from say 1835, when it received its cognomen, and had its post office established. Made a port of entry in 1846, it exported in that year goods to the amount of \$34,389, (in 1841 it was only \$5,758); in 1857, \$69,017, and in 1870 \$227,478. In 1850 it became headquarters, under Clerk John Lillie, of Number Five Division Court. In 1873 the north bridge and in 1873 the east bridge was built, as in 1876 was the Town Hall. In 1871 by Asa Cronk, was published its first newspaper, the Western Advocate, and in 1880 by Mr. Wrigley, the Valley Record. In 1874 it was incorporated a village, and on the 18th of January following first sat the Village Council. With a population of 1526, a rate-payers roll of 380, and an assessment roll amounting to \$180,000, all round figures, it stands amongst the county municipalities second to none in all that tends to the making of a town—advantageous position, enterprise, progression and commercial importance. It has long since lost its basswood appearance; its buildings are much improved and its surroundings changed greatly for the better—a live town full of live people. Instead of the shanties standing in unfenced lots, it has now streets of very excellent stores, many fine private dwellings and some villa-like residences. In churches, it might consistently, considering their number and rich and handsome appearance, be termed the city of churches, although at the same time we think the people show no more godliness than their neighbors. That they fancy a fast horse is apparent to any one who has seen their fine rivers well frozen; they however, can afford the pleasure. We do not know if it possesses a town pump, a \$200 set of harness, a block pavement of doubtful ownership, and some private sidewalks built at corporation expense, as in some neighboring municipalities, but we do know that it possesses a fine Town Hall built, we presume, not altogether for the convenience of the general inhabitants, but for a prospective town on the northern edge of the plains. We imagine the village had a syndicate—a building and locating syndicate.