

tutions, moulded her history, and a careful perusal of their laws, and the circumstances with which they were surrounded, amply testify to the truth of the above contention. While not wishing to be invidious, or desiring to belittle the work of any class or section in connection with the early history of the country, still the ability, courage, and endurance, and all that these qualities have accomplished in the lives and work of the United Empire Loyalists, demand more than a passing notice, for the annals of history, ancient or modern, do not contain any record that equals the self-denial from the sacrifices made, or the hardships endured, by those noble people in their successful endeavour to remain true to the land of their birth, and their determination to live and die under the protection of that flag which to them was a synonym of civil and religious liberty, and was revered and loved for all the hallowed and sacred traditions associated with it. Sentiment was strong in these patriots, and they counted not their comfortable homes, their wealth, and in some instances great possessions, dear unto them, but rather than do violence to their conscience, they left the land of their adoption, and after great trials and innumerable difficulties, settled in what is now known as Canada. No portion of the Dominion is richer in historic lore of the work and lives of those distinguished people, than eastern Canada, and in the Ottawa valley can be found some of the best illustrations of their hardships and accomplishments, and in order that such may be intelligently understood, we will briefly give some facts about the country, and the impressions then existing regarding it. Canada, at the beginning of the present century, was little understood, and the province of Ontario was almost unknown by even the inhabitants of what are now known as the Eastern States, the prevailing impression being that it was an inaccessible forest, with an inhospitable climate, having nothing to recommend it but abundance of game, and even this was associated with the doubtful accompaniment of numerous tribes of savage Indians. The beautiful and fertile Ontario of to-day was regarded as an impossibility, and this portion of North America was looked upon as a place where existence was barely possible, without a future other than the continued asylum of the aborigines. But notwithstanding all these forboding and discouraging statements, this misrepresented country had one claim to those people's regard, they knew that it was British territory, an integral portion of that great empire whose growth had been attained by the prowess of that race to which they belonged, and whose success in arms had been consecrated by their forefathers' blood. And so, with that same noble patriotism and dauntless courage that had inspired their wor-

thy sires, they resolved to brave all the terrors of pioneer life in that uninviting country, and there found an English-speaking community, owning allegiance to the British crown, and loyal to the best instincts and traditions of their race; and the Ontario of to-day is the best evidence of how they accomplished this great work, and the only monument that could do even scant justice to their memory. Probably no one living can claim more direct descent, or is more purely of U. E. Loyalist stock, than Hebron Harris, Esq., of the city of Ottawa. Both his father and mother's families were of those who emigrated to Canada rather than forswear their fealty to what they believed the properly constituted authorities, and his fathers proper, who were Puritans, twice within a few generations went into voluntary exile rather than do violence to their conscientious convictions, or countenance a government whose claim to their obedience was not founded in right. Mr. Harris's grandfather was a native of New Hampshire, and in the year 1778 left the place of his birth and all his worldly possessions, and with his family came to Canada, and settled in the township of Oxford, in the county of Grenville, then an unbroken forest, and uninhabited save by Indians, for he was the first white settler in that locality, and here it may be mentioned that one of the great benefits these men conferred on their country was the manner in which they treated the Indian. Brave men are rarely cruel, and these men proved no exception to the rule; they made allowance for the untutored savage, and by precept and example succeeded in winning the respect and affection of this then numerous body, and thereby removed one great cause of anxiety, the existence of which would have done much to retard settlement. Mr. Harris's father, Hebron Harris, was only six years of age when he came to Canada, and when he grew up engaged in farming and contracting. He was a man of great energy, and was among the first who took rafts from the Ottawa to Quebec; this was long before the Rideau Canal was built, and they were forced to team it across the Portage, it being found impossible to run the Falls. In 1812 his father volunteered for the defence of his country, and was placed in command of a company stationed at Point Rockway, below Prescott, where they opposed the crossing of the Americans; and later on, in spite of the almost impassable roads, he and his two sons were actively engaged in the battle of the Windmill. Mr. Harris's father had moved to Burritt's Rapids, and there remained until after the Rideau Canal was built, when he moved to Marlboro', three miles from Kempville, and there remained to live until his death, at the age of 68 years. Possibly no one ever had a more thorough experience of pioneer life, or knew from