

Company could transport their furs from Lake Huron to York, thereby avoiding the circuitous route of Lake Erie, and the inconvenience of passing along the American frontier. In the year 1815, the actual treaty was signed, and among the signatures attached to the treaty were the familiar names of Snake and Yellowhead. In 1793, Governor Simcoe gave Lake Simcoe the name by which it has ever since been known, not in honour of himself, but of his father, Captain Simcoe, R.N., and from thence comes the name "Simcoe County."

The most prominent or best known of the Ojibway's chiefs who signed the treaty for the Indians was Musquakie, or Yellowhead. For many years he was the head chief over all the Ojibway chiefs in the district, and was quite a man in his day. Muskoka was named after him, and thus his memory is kept green. A residence was built for him in Orillia by the Government in 1831, and was afterwards used as the first St. James's parsonage. The building remained for many years afterwards, changing from one condition to another, and finally was used as a private residence.

There was a council house built about the same time; where the early missionaries of all denominations used to hold services. It was known as the Old Mission House. In 1836, the Indian reserve was surrendered to the Government, and in 1838 Yellowhead moved with his band from Orillia and the Narrows to Rama, where they made a large purchase of land which they paid for out of their annuities. This reserve still remains.



## CHAPTER II.

# The Days of the Fur Traders



**A**FTER the Indians came the fur-traders to the wilderness, and early records afford glimpses of many a picturesque figure doing business with the red men at strategical points on the great inland waters. Near Matchedash Bay there settled an English trader named Cowan, who, as a captive in boyhood, had learned the Indian speech and ways, and relics of his dwelling-place are to be seen all along the shores.

Another trader whose story reads like a romance established himself, at the beginning of the nineteenth century at the "Narrows" of Lake Simcoe. This was the French exile of the Reign of Terror, Quetton St. George, who having landed in England on St. George's day, had, in gratitude, added the saint's name to his own. He was very popular with the Indians, who called him "White Hat." He was a successful trader, and ultimately returned—a wealthy man—to his native land.

In early days the route to the West lay through Simcoe County, as it was considered the best route, on