

YORK HARBOUR.

ANXIOUS to draw public attention to the state of York harbour, and impressed with the idea of the correctness of my views, I lay them in candour before the public, as interesting to the Commerce of Upper Canada, and, if correct, as vital to the prosperity of the town of York.

To those unacquainted with, or whose vocations deprive them of opportunities of observing the silent and subaqueous operations of nature in the port, I need scarcely apologize for laying before them the result of long observations. To the scientific, I submit my opinions with deference to their better judgement.

I may first, then, remind the country, that we had but three natural ports on the British side of Lake Ontario—those of Kingston, York, and Niagara, until the *once* Burlington Bay by the hand of art became a fourth.

Of the four, that of York, the seat of the capital, possessing more of the natural properties of a good harbour than any of the rest (having besides its splendid bason, an excellent outer roadsted) is the only one approaching to the verge of ruin.

Kingston harbour may be called an arm of the lake. Its outlet is too great for any serious inconvenience to be felt for years, from the deposit of the great Cataraqui river.

The Niagara river (definitely speaking) is imperishable; and a private company has enterprisingly seized upon, and excavated the basin of the port, thereby giving the port a value before unknown; disarming the river of its winter terrors; and turning the current of the river to the profitable account of keeping an open port, at times when most others are closed.

Burlington harbour approaches nearest in aspect to that of York. It is of about the same dimensions—has the Dundas creek falling into it, as that of York has the Don: but then it has fifteen fathoms of water in a large area, whilst the bay of York has only 29 feet, confined to a very small one, thereby rendering inches of more value to the port of York, than feet to Burlington.

It may be necessary to the information of those unacquainted with the harbour of York, first to describe it;—I shall then transfer so much of a paper, that I had the honor to