

THE
Canadian Literary Journal
DEVOTED TO

SELECT ORIGINAL LITERATURE

AND THE INTERESTS OF

CANADIAN LITERARY SOCIETIES.

VOL. I.

FEBRUARY, 1871.

No. 8

THE TWO NEIGHBOURS,
OR,
REVENGE REPAID BY KINDNESS.

Continued from page 143.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY, TORONTO.

CHAPTER II.

A strong, old house with gables tall,
With stone for buttress, stone for wall,
With stone for roof, and stone ground floors,
But oak for chambers, stairs, and doors.
With mullioned windows, long and low,
The casement panes in rhomboid row.
A rude, stone home, old fashioned, plain,
But proof against both wind and rain.

* * * *

The ancient owl his vigil keeps,
For mouse or rat, which stealthy peeps,
Or out from sly concealment creeps,
As darkness over nature sweeps.
Perched in a slit of the barn wall,
He heeds each movement great or small,
Each warning note, or signal call,
And swoops with noiseless pinion fall.
Disturbed by sneaking fox or hound,
Or worse, designing man around,
Cries with a weird, and mournful sound,
The prowlers start with sudden bound.

* * * *

The Old Farm House.

The farm house at the head of the Clough was called the "Quarry," probably because the precipitous hill, immediately in the rear, had, at some former period,

been quarried extensively; and no one doubted that all the stone for the house, its barns, and other buildings, as well as the stone for the fence walls of the farm, had been dug there. The farm house, itself, literally, and in fact, was built upon, *in ani* of the rock. Gray stone walls, grey slate roof and grey flag for the ground floor. The long, low windows were divided into compartments, by stone mullions; into which iron frames were leaded for hinged casements, or fixed frames, glazed with lozenge shaped panes of glass set in grooved strips of lead.

At one end of the house was the workshop and adjoining this was the barn, with stables attached, and then, connected with the latter, a considerable enclosure formed by pent house, sheds for the accommodation of the sheep in winter, principally, but also for other things. The back door of the house opened directly into the great kitchen, with its white, sanded stone floor, its wide, capacious fire place, its "bake stone" for "oat-cake" baking, its boiler for "brewing," and other appointments peculiar, perhaps, to the locality.

Immediately behind the door was the stair case, with its eleven oaken steps of nine inches rise. On the third of these, the landing stair, Old Spot slept at night or was supposed to sleep, and occasionally during the day, when in the house. His bed was a broad comfortable mat of wool.