

An Historic House.

The Residence of Mr. James McFarland.

BY JESSIE McKENZIE.

The following appeared in the Montreal Witness 'n 1893, being one of the stories written by the Schoolchildren of Canada in the prize competition instituted by that paper.

The house in which I live is situated on the banks of the beautiful Niagara River. It was built in 1800 and has witnessed many strange scenes, especially during the stirring times of 1812-14. As it was one of the largest and most comfortable houses of those times it was used as a hospital by both British and Americans, as each had possession of it. The hall was sometimes so filled with the dead and wounded that it was almost impossible to reach the upper story without treading on their bodies. A few yards to the north of the house is a ravine which was no doubt at that time covered with shrubbery, in which the boats were concealed which were intended to be used in the capture of Fort Niagara.

The fort was captured without the firing of a gun on Dec. 19th, 1813. Col. Murray came from Burlington to Niagara with portions of the 100th and 41st regiments, they did not cross at Niagara but about two miles up the river. My uncle who had been taken prisoner by the Americans, made his escape out of the fort early one morning and walked up the river along the shore until he came to a house where he was well known. There, kind friends hid him in the cellar until nightfall when he crossed to his own country. Col. Murray hearing of his return, sent for him and he was appointed pilot of the expedition to take the fort. They embarked a little below the house, then went up the river for a short distance and landed on the opposite shore where two