

their plans. They had thought of increasing the value of their property by their own toil, and determined that at least they would have a good look at it.

They engaged men and teams to take them, paying a dollar a hundred for their luggage. The women and children found seats on top of the loads, and the men walked. They crept slowly along beneath a broiling June sun, sometimes sticking fast on a hill, and needing the friendly aid of some settler's oxen, in one instance owned and driven by an old friend who had preceded them. At last they reached the village of the falls' and caves, which then consisted of one house and a tavern minus a roof.

The landlord said he could keep the horses, but had no place for the folks to sleep. Mr. Elmslie, who met them here, said that his house was roofed and floored, and if they could get out to it with a load of bedding they would be more comfortable. Accordingly they loaded one team with bundles of bedding and other necessities, and plodded on for a couple of weary miles. At length they reached their destination, and after a well earned supper, thoroughly tired out, they lay down to pass the first night in the new settlement, their future home.

The preceding day, the 10th of June, 1835, had been excessively hot, so judge of their surprise on awakening the next morning, stiff and cold, to find everything in the way of crops cut down by a severe summer frost, then and for many years afterwards but too common in the higher parts of Ontario. Weary, sad, and discouraged at the gloomy prospect, some proposed returning to Hamilton with the teams that had brought them up; but, as often occurs, a small thing turned the balance the other way. A farm hand named Dawson, brought out by Mr. Melvin, one of the party, had gone out to examine the quality of the soil, and came back saying they would surely never turn their back upon "sic gran' lan'."

## II.

### The First Settlers

The first settlers in Bon Accord were George Elmslie, Alexander Watt and John Keith. It was stated in the preceding chapter that Mr. Elmslie fell in with Mr. Watt in Western Canada. Another informant says that these two and Mr. Keith came out in the same vessel and travelled together from New York as far as Toronto, then York—Muddy Little York—where Mr. Keith remained working at his trade of carpentry while his friends went in search of an eligible location for the new settlement. In the block of land that was purchased