

This place has had quite a history in its checkered career. It came into the possession of Captain Usher, a gentleman without any business training, and as a matter of course the venture ended in failure. He was a strong conservative and took quite an interest in the battle that was so bitterly waged against the Rebellion Losses Bill. This might be expected, as he was either cousin or brother of the Usher killed at Niagara Falls. His sons are scattered I know not where. It was during his regime that I first knew Frank Henderson, who for a long time played such a notable role as bookkeeper and livery man. Frank was an original man and Irish to the backbone. Kindness itself but he many another good headed fellow. He was the victim of his race. He was a long time in Usher's employ before embarking in business for himself. One is apt to overlook the important part played by the less lights when taking a survey, as I am trying to do of old events and the men connected with them.

Mr. James Cooper, a cooper by trade, a Scotchman born and bred, had a shop and supplied the mill with barrels. He was quite eccentric in his way but was a thorough well informed man, an omnivorous reader and a great admirer of Carlyle. I refer to his life as illustrating how often persons endowed with large capabilities do not rise as they should, either through the force of circumstances or from lack of energy or courage. After the business played out he stayed on and eked out a scanty livelihood. He once applied to the town council for a side walk. It was a well written, comical proposition and very few could have gotten it up. He secured the side walk, or an apology for one. There were three boys. The eldest, Robert, I took into my office and taught telegraphing. The old gentleman told me Mr. Simpson had hoped to give the boy a position in the Ontario Bank, which had recently been started, but as that did not materialize he appealed to me to take him. Robert was clever and soon became an expert. I applied to Mr. Dwight on his behalf and he gave him the important office at Chatham. The other two boys, James and Thomas, also came into the office. The former became one of the fastest and best operators on the continent. The latter was in the service of the old Montreal Telegraph Co. on the Intercolonial Railroad in New Brunswick. His excellent work there was so appreciated that he was

made agent of the then important and growing town of Windsor. At an early age he died a his post, his constitution being enfeebled by the hardships he underwent in the lower province. H. P. Dwight was then the manager of the main telegraph line in Canada. He is still the President of the G. N. W., retaining his interest in this wonderful science with which his whole active life has been identified. Here let me pay this tribute to him—and certainly after 50 years service under his immediate control I am justified in making this statement:—In the administration of the vast interests committed to his care, he has displayed the highest qualities of mind and heart; of the former in his complete grasp of every detail of the complicated work; and of the latter, in his universal kindness and consideration for every employee, even the humblest, in the service.

I go farther down the stream. Leonard Soper bought the property so long in the possession of his descendants in 1851. W. at a spectacle met his eye when he first beheld it in all its primitive beauty,—the tall pine and hemlock, stately elm widespreading beneath and charming maples, the banks of the crystal stream covered with cedar, spruce and the endless variety of shrub composing the underwood. But the ordinary man is so eagerly in search of the material things with which we are clothed and affed that the chances are he did not realize the beautiful things around him.

The hardships of pioneer life in Dorlington were mitigated by the easily obtained addition to the food supply which lay at his hand in the lake streams and woods. He built the first sawmill in the township a year afterwards, near the site of the present Caledonia mills of the John McKay, Limited.

Timothy Soper's son, succeeded him and was one of the historical persons of the very early settlement. He was a man of few words, self contained, and more of a thinker than a talker. He afterwards erected a grist mill, and at one time ran a tannery. When I first remember him he had large means, owning, besides the home property valuable lands in Clarke and Hope townships; but in the ups and downs that come to most of us the latter marked the ending portion of his journey. Bad judgment in endorsing other people's notes brought about the sad change and no doubt em-