

According to Talbot (vol. i. p. 58) Quebec contained in 1816, 14,880 inhabitants. Its population in 1850 was 37,865. Montreal, which numbered in 1850, 48,093, contained in the same year (1816) 16,000. Cornwall is described by him as containing 200; its population in 1850 was 1,506. Prescott he sets down at 150; now it is 2,156. Brockville is represented by this same writer to contain 450 souls. Its dwellings, he describes as built of wood, and tastefully painted. It had then "no church" though it possessed a parsonage-house. These wooden buildings have long ago given place to elegant stone structures, which testify at once to the wealth and taste of their proprietors. It contained in 1850 a population of 2,757, with six churches—several of them stone.

Kingston, described by Talbot (vol. i., p. 98), as the largest town in the Upper Province, contained when he wrote, 2,336 inhabitants. Its population in 1850, amounted, after various mishaps, to 10,097. It is now 14,725, and is, besides, though the dark colour of the stone of which its buildings are erected gives them a somewhat sombre aspect, a very handsome city. Its market house is a noble structure. It has eleven churches, several of them beautiful; and is, besides, the seat of a university—that of Queen's College;—and of a Roman Catholic college and cathedral.

"Between Kingston and York" (Toronto), Talbot says, "there are two or three very small villages, the largest of which is Belleville, containing about 150 inhabitants." In 1850, Belleville contained a population of 3,500; and Cobourg and Port Hope—the two villages, I presume, which he thought too small and insignificant to name—the former 3,700, with seven churches, a college (Victoria, which is rendering important service, especially to that region of country), with an attendance of 60 students, 2 grammar schools, and a cloth factory, "employing about 175 hands, and turning out 800 yards of goods, per day; and the latter (Port Hope), 2,200, with four churches, three bank agencies, several insurance societies, and a weekly newspaper.

Since Talbot's time a number of new towns have sprung into existence between the cities named, of which we can notice only Bowmanville, laid out about 1832, which contained in 1850, 1750 inhabitants, with eight churches, two bank agencies, a weekly newspaper, with four grist mills,—the proprietor of one of which, Mr. Simpson, obtained a prize at the world's fair for a barrel of flour;—saw and oatmeal mills, a cloth factory, three tanneries, and two potteries.

To compare any of our cities, as to growth, with cities of such world-wide repute as Boston or New York, may perhaps be deemed somewhat too bold. As this, however, is an adventurous age, it may be worth while, were it but to prove we are not behind the times, to run the hazard.

Begin we then with Boston—New England's noble capital—which taken all in all, is without question one of the finest cities in the world. Boston contained:—

In 1790, 18,038 inhabitants.	In 1830, 61,391 inhabitants.
1810, 33,250 "	1840, 93,000 "
1820, 43,298 "	1850, 135,000 "

(World's Progress, 212, 694.)

Dividing the above into two periods of thirty years each, Boston contains at the close of the first, about two and a half times its number of inhabitants at the commencement; while the close of the second shows three and one-tenth times the number of the beginning. The population of 1850 is eight times, or nearly that of 1790: Toronto being in 1850 over six times what it was eighteen years before, to wit, in 1832; more than 75 times what it was 49 years before, or in 1801. Between 1840 and 1850, the increase is—on Boston, 45 per cent; on Toronto, 95. The recent census makes the increase between 1842 and 1852—100 per cent.

New York, the emporium of the New World,—a city that for its age, will, we suppose, vie with any on earth—numbered:

In 1790, 33,131 inhabitants.	In 1840, 312,710 inhabitants.
1810, 96,373 "	1850, 517,000 "
1830, 202,548 "	

[World's Progress, 444, 701.]

Its increase thus stands as compared with Toronto, two and a half times in the twenty years between 1830 to 1850, against six times in the eighteen years between 1832 and 1850, or nearly eight times in the twenty years between 1832 and 1852; sixteen times in sixty years against seventy-five in forty-nine; sixty-six per cent. between 1840 and 1850, against ninety-five.

Hamilton contains now (1852) over five times its population in 1836,—an interval of only sixteen years. In 1850, Montreal contained over three times that of 1816; Quebec fully two and one-eighth times, and Sorel about four and one-half times, or 6,646 inhabitants in the place of 1500.

Perchance we may be asked how our Canadian cities compare in growth with Cincinnati, or Saint Louis? Very favourably, we reply, as the following statistics prove:—

The population of Cincinnati was in 1850,—when it reached 115,590,—about twelve times its amount in 1820, (thirty years before,) when it numbered 9,642—[World's Progress, 245];—while Toronto had, in the same year (1850) eighteen times its population in 1817—that is, 33 years before; and has now (1850) over twenty-five and a-half times.

Davis's "Half Century" (p. 29) reports Cincinnati at only 82,000—nearly 24,000 less than the statement we have adopted. We have given the larger number, because being professedly taken from the census of 1850, we suppose it the more correct; and because too we would do our neighbour full justice.

Saint Louis contained in 1820, 4,597 inhabitants; and in 1850, 70,000—a trifle over fifteen times the previous number. Toronto, as we have seen, had in the latter year, eighteen times its population in 1817.

During the last thirty years our growth has thus, in its rate, exceeded that of both these cities, which among those of the west hold first rank.

To the specimens already given of rise in the value of land in the rural districts, we add a few illustrative of what has been taking place in the towns and cities:

In 1840, the Government paid £19,000 for 32 acres of land in Kingston; part of a lot of 100 acres which had cost the party from whom the purchase was made £500. Bishop Macdonnell paid, in 1816, £500 for 11 acres in the same city. The front portion of the block was laid out in 1840, in quarter acre lots, which brought from £160 to £250 a-piece.

Perhaps it may be said that land in Kingston had, at the time in question, an undue value given it by the circumstance of the city's being made the seat of government. Be it so; Brantford has never been the seat of government: yet two lots in Colborne Street, which cost originally £10 for sixty-six feet, were sold last summer—the one for £25, the other £30 per foot. A lot was pointed out to me last autumn, in one of the second or third rate streets in London, for which I was told from £7 10s. to £9, could easily be got.

Forty acres of land in this city, extending from Richmond up to Gerard Street, were sold (how long ago I cannot say), by Hon. Mr. Crookshanks to the late Hon. Mr. McGill, for 23s. 9d. per acre; which now average in value, I presume, not less than £750 per acre. The McGill property, valued by the proprietor in 1823 at £4,000, is now supposed worth from £75,000 to £100,000. Six acre lots on Yonge Street, which cost in 1825, £75; could not be purchased now, probably, under £1000.

Those who have been for any length of time acquainted with the country, must be struck with the improvement going on in the character of the houses; the handsome frame, or brick, or stone dwelling, rapidly taking the place, in all the older localities, of the log-cabin.

The roads are likewise improving fast. For example, in the spring of 1837, I journeyed from Brantford to Hamilton in company with a friend. We had a horse which, according to the fashion of these now ancient times, we rode in turn. Night came on ere we reached Hamilton. The road was in such a state that neither of us could venture to ride. Compelled to dismount, we had for the sake of safety, to plunge on through the mud, leading our horse, and sinking