

that so large a city would have displaced the forest within less than forty years; but on this Continent changes are so rapid that they appear more like magic than the results of plodding industry and heroic toil. The older city—the Metropolis of the British Empire,—called by the same name, did not reach the same expansion in so brief a time, and though this one will never rival it in grandeur, commerce, and wealth, it, situated in the centre of an extensive and fertile agricultural district, is destined to become an important field of industry and of human influence.

Just about the locality where Dr. Anderson's laboratory used to be on West Dundas Street, Abraham Carroll, from Oxford County, reared in the fall the second house,—a frame tavern in front, with a log dwelling behind it. When nearly finished, it took fire and was reduced to ashes. But not discouraged, Carroll immediately began another structure on the same lot, and by next summer he had fairly commenced business.

The call for taverns presupposes a certain amount of traffic in the district, and as stores soon made their appearance, some one may inquire who travelled here, and who were to support the stores before an immediately local population collected themselves on this virgin territory? These questions can best be answered by glancing for a moment at the condition of the adjoining townships, when the city was in its infancy. There were many residences within a limited distance from Peter McGregor's tavern. London township had already been well settled. It was first entered by emigrants in 1817, and rapidly filled up after 1820, though the improvements were, as might be conjectured, on an humble scale; Westminster was thickly settled along the Commissioner's road and for two concessions back; at the same period Dorchester, Nissouri, and Lobo, seven miles from London, were each partially inhabited, and fresh arrivals were continually taking place. Thus there was a considerable population in the adjoining country to foster the incipient hamlet and to receive supplies from its coming stores.

Contemporaneous with the origin of London was the building of Westminster Bridge, the earliest of the three wooden structures that cross the Thames. It was finished in the summer of 1828. The first crime in the annals of the place connects itself with this bridge; it consisted in stealing an axe from one of the hands employed at the works. The thief's name we have failed to discover, else it should here have been handed down to posterity. In these days police officers were unknown in the region, and the base wretch was pursued by Mr. Levi Merrick, the architect of the rising structure, and brought back to the scene of his offence. It was late when they returned, and the culprit was chained all night to a stump, with a blanket mercifully contributed for his comfort. On the morrow Judge Lynch presided over the extemporised open-air tribunal, and after a regular examination of witnesses, the jury found the culprit guilty. The sentence was that he should receive so many lashes or clear out, never again to make his appearance. Accepting the latter alternative, he "akedadelled" in haste, and public indignation was appeased.

In 1827 the Court House and Jail were commenced where the present public buildings are. It would not do to risk criminals as the axe-thief had been confined by merely chaining them to a stump, and an apartment had to be provided for their better custody. But that incident was not exactly the cause of a lock-up being furnished, though it showed the necessity for such accommodation. Before this date justice and law had been dispensed at the Court House in the township of Woodhouse, near Long Point,—for Norfolk, Elgin, Oxford, part of Brant and for Middlesex; but by accident the public offices were burnt, and Parliament, then in session, ordained, in spite of the earnest opposition of St. Thomas, that the County Buildings should be erected in London, even then expected to become the centre of a large community. The first Court House erected here was a frame building, and the jail, its necessary accompaniment, consisted