

## Toronto.



TORONTO is beautifully situated on the north shore of Lake Ontario, and, with the exception of Montreal, is the largest and most prosperous of the commercial centres of the Dominion. With environments of lovely natural scenery, ornamented with picturesque public parks, elegant and costly public buildings and private residences, and hundreds of stately edifices, it naturally pre-empted the title of "Queen City of the West," and to it annually is attracted that vast and largely increasing brotherhood whose quest is pleasure.

Few cities in the world are more admirably adapted for a summer resort than Toronto. Its situation on the lake, in the very heart of the temperate zone, is unsurpassed. It has a mild and equable climate, which renders the summer days pleasant. The average temperature in summer is between  $10^{\circ}$  and  $20^{\circ}$  hotter than that of the resorts of North Carolina and Florida in winter, and between  $10^{\circ}$  and  $20^{\circ}$  cooler than the temperature of those states in summer, while the elevation above the sea is about the same, and there is little difference in humidity.

The site of this pleasant city, in the middle of the eighteenth century, was a trackless wilderness, the only inhabitants being a powerful tribe of Indians. In 1749, under the government of France, a trading post was established, bearing the name of Fort Rouille; not long after, the country passed into the hands of the British, and we do not hear much of what took place at Fort Rouille until 1793, and there seems to have been little change during the next half century. In 1792, Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe

arrived in the colony from England, and established his government at Niagara. During the following year, being dissatisfied with the location of his quarters, he set forth to select from the vast domain under his rule a site on which to establish a permanent seat of government worthy of the territory it was to represent. He had not far to seek, nor has the wisdom of his choice since been questioned. Crossing the lake, he was attracted by the advantages of the bay, as forming a natural harbor capable of meeting the greatest demands of commerce, advantages which had no doubt appealed equally to the French fifty years previously, when selecting the site of a post, in opposition to the English one, on the Oswego.

On landing, Simcoe pitched his tent near the shore, and soon a large body of men were clearing the forest and cutting roads. Simcoe named the city York, and remained for several months superintending the development of the infant capital. The first road that was cleared was Yonge street, connecting the seat of government with the Holland River, and opening up the waterway to the West. The residence of the Governor and Parliament buildings were established near the shore, and from this date, 1793, the city of York takes its birth.

There is little left in Toronto or in the neighborhood suggestive of its early history; the principal feature that recalls its memory is a massive granite boulder in the Queen's Park, bearing this inscription:

THIS CAIRN MARKS THE  
EXACT SITE OF FORT ROUILLE,  
COMMONLY KNOWN AS FORT TORONTO,  
AN INDIAN TRADING POST AND STOCKADE,  
ESTABLISHED A. D. 1749,  
BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LOUIS XV.,  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
REPRESENTATIONS OF  
THE COUNT DE LA GALISSONNIÈRE,  
ADMINISTRATOR OF NEW FRANCE, 1747-49.  
ERECTED BY THE CORPORATION OF THE  
CITY OF TORONTO, 1878.