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REMINISCENCES OF EARLY CANADIAN LIFE.

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Much has already been written concerning the privations, the sufferings, the heroic fortitude and the final triumphs of the pioneers of Western Canada, and much more remains to be told. It is a story that should never grow stale, though repeated so often. If we desire to cultivate a spirit of nationality and encourage patriotic sentiments among the youths of our country, there should be shown a veneration for the lives and labors of those who endured so much for conscience' sake, and who bequeathed to future generations a legacy of incalculable worth.

The following incidents are of a domestic character, and have been gathered from reliable enquiry. They relate chiefly to the experiences of that noble band of Loyalists who began the settlement of Upper Canada in 1783-4, but will doubtless apply equally well to other sections of the country, and under other circumstances of migration. It is quite natural for us now, when the luxuries of life and blandishments of society are distributed with such bountiful favor, to forget the not very remote period when primitive habits prevailed, and "the sound of the war-whoop oft woke the sleep of the cradle."

The circumstances preceding and attending the loyal exodus from the rebellious colonies during the years above mentioned and subsequent dates need not be repeated here. The motives which actu-

ated so much self-denial, and which were sufficient to carry them through unusual trials of moral and political faith, are worthy of all commendation, and should receive the homage of their more favored descendants. They came from homes of comparative comfort to a wilderness of seclusion, of danger and of peril, where a strong will and iron nerves could alone cope with the savage difficulties which everywhere beset their path. But those resolute refugees flinched not from the contest. In the unbroken forest they discovered beauties of a romantic nature, and from the virgin soil they expected to receive the promised beneficence of a merciful God, who had thus far guided and protected them. The long distance intervening between their former homes and the land of refuge, and the meagre facilities for travelling then commanded, did not allow of much household furniture and domestic necessities being brought with them. Not only had they to build themselves cabins for shelter as soon as a landing was effected, but with limited tools, and still more limited experience, rough articles of daily need were to be improvised from the surrounding forest timber. The plan adopted of forming companies of many families, and placing the whole under the supervision of some experienced person, and by this means combining every possible qualification for success, rendered the begin-