

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF TORONTO.

TORONTO, the Queen City of the West, is the largest and most populous in Western Canada ; it is situated on the north shore of Lake Ontario, between the Humber and Don Rivers, 30 miles N. N. W. of the mouth of the Niagara River, and is one of the most English places in Canada, and the acknowledged business centre of the Province of Ontario. It was at first called York ; but in 1833, when it was incorporated as the first city of Upper Canada, its name was changed to Toronto, derived either from the Mohawk De-on-do, "trees in the water," descriptive of the appearance of the Islands, or from Toronto, "the place of meeting" of the tribes. Some say Toronto was the name of a noted Indian chief.

Of all the cities on the Canadian shore of Lake Ontario, Toronto is the largest and most important ; although not picturesque, it is most agreeably situated. The handsome Bay, forming its southern front or boundary, gives it as a lake port, great commercial advantages, and collects for shipment to the sea-board more grain than all the other cities and towns in Ontario put together. The view from the western entrance to the harbour and from the island is varied and striking. The spires and cupolas of its public Buildings afford a most agreeable diversity to the distant outline of the city, and mark it as a place of wealth and enterprise. From the cupola of the St. Lawrence Hall at the south, and from that of the Educational Department, and the University at the north, the view is both extensive and animating. The long lines of houses, and the rectangular blocks of buildings, intersected by streets running towards the four cardinal points of the compass, and here and there a handsome church or an elegant edifice, strike the eye of a stranger with an agreeable surprise. Young in years, it has none of the associations which render Quebec almost classic ; but it is as proud of its beautiful Bay and aquatic sports as Quebec is of its ancient Walls and Citadel.

The streets of Toronto are spacious, well laid out, and regularly built. The two main arteries of the city are King and Yonge Streets, which crossing each other at right angles, divide the city