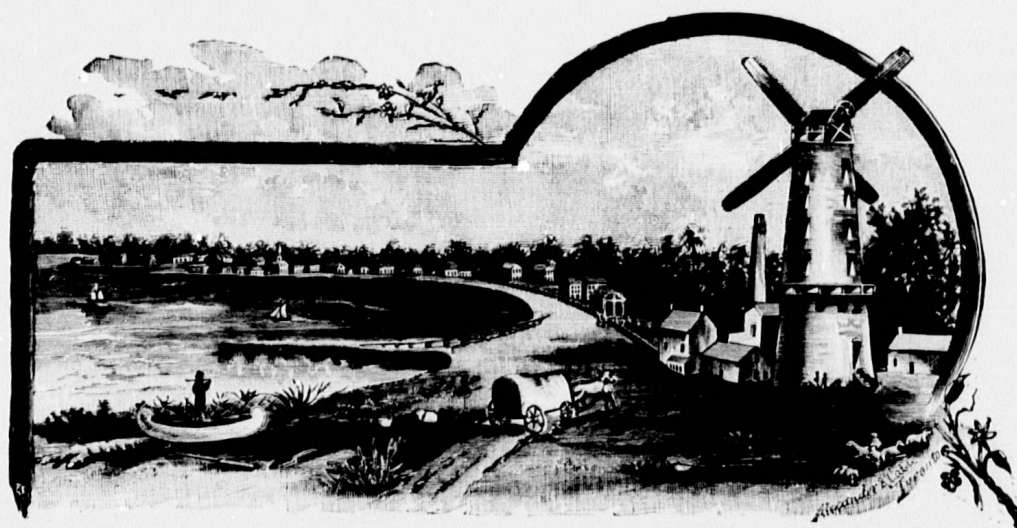


fields set apart for athletic sports and games, to the parks, the grounds allotted to the Industrial Exhibition purposes, or for the encouragement of horticulture ; or drop in on a sunny day—and there are a great many such in this region all the year round—at the banks, at the places of business of the wholesale merchants, at the offices of the large law firms, at the chambers of the judges at Osgoode Hall, or at the great printing-houses. Is there not a bright, airy, ideal aspect about them all, as seen at the present hour in their comparative newness ? Are there many places where the multifarious affairs of men are carried on under conditions more favourable, on the whole, to happiness, health, and length of days ? The exceptions to the rule which will occur are temporary, and they are engaging the attention of the proper persons. Three court houses on different sites have been seen in Toronto during its brief history, two of them abandoned and the third about to be abandoned, not on account of decay, but from having become ill-adapted to the wants of a rapidly growing community. A fourth, of dimensions and capacity suited to the city and county, is at present under construction. In like manner, at least three sets of parliamentary buildings have been seen here, also on different sites. A fourth will, ere long, be ready for occupation.

An idea of the beauty and dignity of these edifices may be gathered from engravings to be seen elsewhere in the pages of this volume. This succession in buildings for public purposes is an outward and visible sign of the rapid progress of the country. As to the tenants who from time to time have peopled the buildings that have passed or are about to pass away, and filled their chambers great and small with a busy life, the judges, sheriffs, magistrates, pleaders, jurors, attorneys of the one, the legislators, executive councillors, lieutenant-governors, statesmen, financiers, orators, and various official functionaries of the other—of these we have no room here to speak. They come within the purview rather of some local association established for the purpose of such matters. Let then these remarks be closed with a reiteration of the doctrine they started with, that there ought to be in every county of the Province, a Pioneer and Historical Society formed for the purpose of collecting and preserving characteristic sayings, doings, dress and demeanour of the first founders of settlements and communities amongst us. Such societies will occasionally be found convenient supplements to the ordinary registry office. While the latter preserves its minute record of the division and sub-division of the soil, and of the transfer of portions of its surface from hand to hand, the former will often preserve the memory of men who, by the sweat of their brow, earned the first implement of market value for that soil, who sometimes at an early period became ornaments of the acres which they tilled, gracing their respective neighbourhoods with characters of high moral excellence and great usefulness, and augmenting the fair fame of the country at large.



TORONTO, IN 1834.