

In 1783 commenced the great influx of loyalist refugees, many of whom had come hundreds of miles through the wilderness. Many articles are still to be seen in the neighborhood that were thus brought with much pains and care and which have a later history of interest, having been perhaps buried in the earth to save from the Indians or other foes ; here a brass kettle (a valuable article in those days,) there an old fashioned chair, a few pieces of precious china or treasured silverware, which had a century before crossed the Atlantic.

The history of the exile of the U. E. Loyalists, an exile without parallel in history, except perhaps the expatriation of the Huguenots in the time of Louis XIV., has never really been told as it deserves to be. Tens of thousands left homes of plenty and came to a wilderness, an unbroken forest ! And why ? A poem by Rev. Leroy Hooker answers this. Space only allows a brief extract :

“But, dearer to their faithful hearts  
Than home, or gold, or lands,  
Were Britain's laws and Britain's crown  
And Britain's flag of long renown,  
And grip of British hands.  
They looked their last and got them out  
Into the wilderness,  
The stern old wilderness—  
But then—'twas British wilderness.”

And in Mr. Kirby's Hungry Year :

“ They who loved  
The cause that had been lost—and kept their faith  
To England's Crown, and *scorned* an alien name,  
Passed into exile ; leaving all behind  
Except their honor.  
Not drooping like poor fugitives they came  
In exodus to our Canadian wilds,  
But full of heart and hope with heads erect,  
And fearless eyes, victorious in defeat.  
With thousand toils they forced their devious way  
Through the great wilderness of silent woods  
That gloomed o'er lake and stream, till higher rose  
The northern star above the broad domain  
Of half a continent, still theirs to hold,  
Defend and keep forever as their own ”

Across Niagara River, says Bryce, came convoys of emigrant wagons, herds of cattle, and household goods. Stores were issued from the fort for two years, to those who were in need, and in 1787-9-91, when the crops failed from drought, and rations were issued from the fort and Butler's Barracks, we read of a visit from H. R. H., the