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THE CITIES OF CANADA.

HAMILTON.

If in the progress and prosperity of those cities of which we have already attempted the delineation, we were able to discover some peculiar local features, striking in themselves and sufficiently indicative of the influence they exercised on the destiny of those places, we shall have less difficulty in recognizing them in this youngest member of the family. Few places can be found, we would rather say no place can be found, to illustrate so completely the mode of growth of this colony as the city of Hamilton. It has sprung up within a very brief space of time, and has, from fortuitous local advantages, become as substantial in appearance, as either of its compeers on the lake. The abundance of excellent stone in its neighborhood, of a colour and composition more nearly approaching those with which the eye is familiar in the old world affords the material and gives the appearance of a British Town to it. There is also in the extent and arrangement of the large wholesale mercantile establishments, an air of solid wealth and enterprize, for which we are utterly unprepared, when told that we are about to visit a place literally little more than twenty years old. If we seek for the reasons of this rapid increase in this place, we shall find them in its geographical

position, and the nature of the surrounding country.

It is placed at the western extremity of Ontario, and is the natural termination of the lake navigation, although its advantage in this respect is confined to the summer period entirely, and even this has only been effectively secured by the completion of the Burlington Bay canal. During the winter season the Bay is usually frozen over, which precludes the access of vessels to the port of the city; this is an obstacle, which, however, may be in a great measure obviated by an extension of the railroad to an accessible point on the coast in the immediate neighborhood. The immense extent of territory lying to the westward and southward of the city, and to which it forms the culminating point of traffic, is now only being completely opened up, and a considerable portion of it is in the process of settling. The establishment of the plank and macadamized roads and more recently of the Great Western Railroad, has given a direction to the intercourse and will finally secure a trade which nothing else could have accomplished. The value of the imports of the city may be stated in round numbers to be £450,000. We have not at hand any means of stating what the value of the exports really are, but a proximate idea may be formed from the fact that 1,260,000 bushels of grain and 7,000,000