

newer buildings,—surrounding or neighbouring on the Gore. Every citizen in this neighbourhood seems to feel the sentiment *noblesse oblige*: our buildings *must* be worthy of the place. This artistic sentiment is clearly seen in such buildings as the new offices of the Hamilton Provident and Loan Society and those of the Canada Life Assurance Company. And the feeling has inoculated the County Council, who have joined hands with the city and erected in Prince's Square a Court House, which does signal honour to both corporations. The Educational Institutions of Hamilton have always been among its chief glories. The Public system of schools commences with numerous, well-equipped Ward Schools, and is crowned by a Collegiate Institute, which is the largest organization of the kind in the Province. There is a Young Ladies' College, conducted under the auspices of the Wesleyan Church, and an extensive system of Roman Catholic Separate Schools.

Hamilton is the seat of two Bishops' Sees,—the Anglican Bishop of Niagara, and the Catholic Bishop of Hamilton. The lofty cathedrals and churches lead up the eye as well as the mind above the smoking steeples of industry. The merchants have built for themselves princely homes on the terraces of the Mountain. Then, looking down upon all from the mountain-brow, and piteously gazing out on a landscape of unsurpassed beauty, is a vast Asylum for the Insane—that mysterious, inseparable shadow of modern civilization!

In 1858, when starting off on his story of "Count or Counterfeit," the Rev. R. J. MacGeorge described Hamilton as "the ambitious and stirring little city." The sobriquet of "the ambitious little city" was thenceforward fastened upon Hamilton, the middle term being craftily omitted. A quarter-century has elapsed since "Solomon of Streetsville" wrote his burlesque, and time, which cures all things, has removed all reproach as to the city's size, but as to the rest, Hamilton is more stirring and more ambitious than ever. Ambitious? Why not? For ambition is

"—the spur that the clear spirit doth raise
To scorn delights and live laborious days."

Dundas was the most dangerous rival of Hamilton in the race for commercial preëminence. But Ancaster was still earlier in the field, and at one time was the centre of commerce, manufactures, and postal communication for the whole district. In his pedestrian tours through the Western Peninsula, Governor Simcoe would extend his already prolonged march in order to enjoy the cheer and the bright ingle-side of his Ancaster inn. As the fruit of Simcoe's tours, we have the great military highway which he drew and intended to open from Pointe au Baudet on the St. Lawrence, through Kingston, York (Toronto), the Head of the Lake (Dundas), Oxford (Woodstock), London, and so to the River Detroit. This great road he named "Dundas