

whether the first or second house in it. The lot, on King Street of course, was given him for nothing, on condition of building on it; and he might have had as many as he pleased on the same terms. The Government House was at that time a tent; erected, I believe, in the ravine East of the present site of the Parliament Buildings. Having been an old Loyalist Volunteer, my friend received his supplies of flour from the Commissariat, there being then none to be had anywhere else. He had the choice of the whole neighbourhood, including the present site of greater part of the city, as a farm; but he selected the bank of the Don, three miles from this, on account of its being better land—a choice which will not surprise any one if the description given by Talbot makes any approach to the truth. His account, which we quote as a curiosity, is as follows:—

"The situation of the town is very unhealthy: for it stands on a piece of low marshy land, which is better calculated for a frog-pond, or beaver meadow, than for the residence of human beings. The inhabitants are, on this account, much subject, particularly in spring and autumn, to agues and intermittent fevers; and probably five-sevenths of the people are annually affected with these complaints. He who first fixed upon this spot as the site of the capital of Upper Canada, whatever pr. delirium he may have had for the roaring of frogs, or for the effluvia arising from stagnated waters or putrid vegetables, can certainly have had no great regard for preserving the lives of his Majesty's subjects. The town of York possesses one great advantage, which is that of a good but defenceless harbour."—(Vol. i. p. 102.)

It was in 1794 (Bouchette, vol. i. p. 89) that the ground was fixed on and the Government Buildings commenced. The population of the city was:—

In 1801	336	1817	1,200	1826	1677
1830	2,860	1832	4,000	1842	15,336
1845	19,706	1850	25,166	It is now, 1852, 30,-	

763. According to the census returns for last year, the assessed value amounts to £186,983 5s., on which there is a taxation of £17,429.

From Talbot's description of the city I will select a few items which will assist you in forming some idea of the improvement that has taken place.

"It contains," he says, "1336 inhabitants, and about 250 houses, many of which exhibit a very neat appearance. The public buildings are a Protestant Episcopal Church, a Roman Catholic Chapel, a Presbyterian and a Methodist Meeting house, the Hospital, the Parliament House, and the residence of the Lieutenant Governor."

"The Episcopal Church is a plain timber building of tolerable size, with a small steeple of the same material. It has an extensive burial-ground, which is tastefully fenced and planted."

"The Roman Catholic Chapel, which is not yet completed, is a brick edifice, and intended to be very magnificent."

"The York Hospital is the most extensive public building in the Province, and its external appearance is very respectable."

Speaking of the streets, which he describes as "regularly laid out, intersecting each other at right angles," he states that "only one of them is yet completely built: and, in wet weather, the unfinished streets are if possible, muddier and dirtier than those of Kingston."

How changed the picture now. Into any extended description of the difference I cannot enter, which, to do it justice, would require a lecture for itself. With the Hospital, which still stands, compare the splendid Provincial Lunatic Asylum. Look at the elegant Cathedral, close by, which occupies the site of the "plain timber Episcopal Church, with its small steeple of the same material." Pass up the street and cast your eyes on the Roman Catholic Cathedral—to which no one would hold the epithet "magnificent" to be misapplied, with its chaste Bishop's Palace by its side. Walk a few steps further, and look at the noble buildings in course of erection for the Provincial Normal and Model Schools—which are not less creditable to the country, as indicating something of the feeling with which education is regarded,—and to the architects and contractors of whose skill they afford such a favourable specimen, than ornamental to the city. From the Normal School return to Saint Lawrence Hall, and tell me how many handsomer structures you have seen in your travels. Step on through King Street, with its splendid stores, and Yonge and Wellington Streets, with their beautiful Banks and Mercantile establishments. Call one of the numerous cabs which offer their accommodation, and treat yourself to a sight of the beautiful churches and other public buildings; Trinity College and the University grounds and building, with our villas on every hand, and tell me where, on the old continent or the new, you will find a city, which, for its age, excels what was so lately muddy Little York.

Toronto is, however, but a specimen of what is going on throughout the country. Hamilton, for example, which was laid out in 1813, and contained in 1836 only 2,846 inhabitants, had grown by 1846 to 6,832, and numbered in 1850 to 10,248. By the census just completed it is brought up to 14,454. It had in 1850 thirteen churches, was lighted with gas, had four foundries, with manufactories of various sorts, several banks or bank agencies, a large number of wholesale establishments, with a multitude of handsome buildings, public and private, and an extensive trade. The duties collected there in 1850, amounted to £59,398 12s. 2d.

Dundas, the neighbour of Hamilton, distant from it only five miles—one of the three places described by Talbot as numbering 600 souls among them, had in 1845 a population of 1,700, in 1850 2,500; and it now contains 3,519. It had in 1850 seven churches, three flouring mills—one of them with six run of stones; a paper mill; a large foundry; an axe factory; a woollen factory, the proprietor of which (Mr. Patterson) had the honour of taking a prize at the world's fair for blankets—with other factories of one sort and another too numerous to mention; several bank agencies; many handsome buildings, public and private; and though last, not least, a newspaper.

Brantford was surrendered by the Indians and surveyed in 1830. In 1844 its population was somewhere near 500. The census of 1850 gives it as 3,200. Now it is 4,000. Its increase during the last ten years has been nearly 300 per cent. It has seven churches; a brick town hall and market house, which cost £2,200; a brick school house, erected at an expense of £700; with two foundries; four grist mills; a stone-ware manufactory; three bank agencies; two newspapers, with many large stores and handsome dwelling houses.

Within seven miles of Brantford stands Paris, which, from a population somewhere near 300 in 1834, had grown in 1850 to 1810, with six churches: five resident ministers: two flouring mills, with seven run of stones; two plaster mills; a woollen factory; two foundries; a tannery; a planing machine; a soap and candle factory; a saw mill; a bath brick manufactory: a bank agency and newspaper, with private residences, in regard to which it is not too much to say that they are worthy of the eminently beautiful sites they occupy. The present population, as shown by the census just taken, is 1905—to which it has risen from 761 since 1844.

Woodstock, which was surveyed in 1833, contained in 1850, 1,200 inhabitants, with six churches; several mills; manufactories of various sorts, and a goodly number of fine houses—not a few of them brick.

Ingersoll, situated a few miles from Woodstock, has increased about one hundred and forty per cent during the last four years, having in that time advanced from 500 to 1,212.

London, surveyed in 1826, contained in 1850, 5,124 inhabitants: twelve churches—of which three were brick; several bank agencies and insurance companies; three foundries; with other works of various sorts, among them—a large coach factory; three newspapers; a brick school house (in which I saw last autumn, close on 600 scholars), erected at a cost of £1,700. Of the handsomeness of its buildings I need say nothing, for this is recognized by all who visit it. The census just taken shows a population of 7,173.

Turning aside a little from the road by which we have been leading you, we come on Galt, a beautiful town, which from 1,000 inhabitants in 1845, had risen in 1850 to 2,200; with six churches; two bank agencies; two newspapers; a paper mill, and numerous manufactories. Within three miles of Galt is Preston, a thriving town, containing a population of 1,150.

Seventeen miles North East from Galt, stands Guelph, surveyed in 1825, whose population, numbering 778 in 1829, reached in 1850, 4,399. This handsome town contained in the latter year seven churches; 2 bank agencies; several insurance offices; three grist mills; a saw mill; a carding and fulling mill; a foundry; a woollen factory; four tanneries; a grammar school, a library and reading room, and two newspapers.

Niagara, reported by Howison (p. 74) to contain 700 or 800 inhabitants, has now got 3,400; while Saint Catharines, of which he speaks (p. 148) as a "village presenting no claim to notice," has, according to the recent census, a population of 4,369.