



A Relic of Napoleon in Canada



A Historic Weeping Willow The weeping willow in front of the residence stands to-day on the Merritt property in St. Catharines, Ont., and the history in connection with it is unique as well as interesting. It will be remembered that the country in the vicinity of Hamilton, St. Catharines, etc., was settled in the early part of last century by British army officers, and among these was the Hon. Wm. Hamilton Merritt, who settled in St. Catharines just after the close of the Napoleonic wars. When the Hon. gentleman, then an army officer, was in St. Helena where Napoleon was banished for life, he dug up a tree, a small weeping willow which was growing quite close to where Napoleon was imprisoned, and brought it with him to Canada. On his arrival at what is now St. Catharines, he planted this tree, which has grown to the dimensions to be seen in the picture. It was the Hon. W. H. Merritt who carried to completion the construction of the Old Welland Canal, a gigantic task in those days. The small boy in front of the residence in the picture, is the great-great-grandson of the gentleman who planted this handsome tree.