

CHAPTER XXXV.

CONCLUSION.

IT has been the aim of the writer of these Reminiscences to recall the high character of the mothers of this Dominion. They were indeed worthy helpmeets of the men who levelled the forests and cleared the broad acres of their new home. With unwearied patience these women shared their varied toils; with quiet fortitude endured the separation from kindred and the homes of their youth to bear with them the hardships and the isolation of the settler's life, with a loyalty and courage always rising to meet whatever the occasion and duty demanded.

There is no place that is not rich in local history. It is the duty of those who live among the men and women who made it, to gather their story and preserve their traditions before they are lost forever, that the names of these worthy pioneers shall not be forgotten and their services to the country remain unappreciated. A great statesman said, that "people who never look back to their ancestors will not look forward to posterity," and it is good advice for the past and present. Strangers living among us have noticed this forgetfulness.

Mrs. Jamieson, the wife of an early vice-chancellor, came to Canada late in the year 1836. She had two objects in view—to see Niagara Falls, and to study for herself the characteristics of our Indian tribes. She did both. It was her privilege to meet the Indians under conditions seldom offered to anyone. She stayed among them and saw the better side of the best men and best women of their race. She bears witness to the disabilities under which the Indian lived—the vain effort to escape the temptations set for him at every step, by the pernicious example of the white man, and victimized by the covetousness which robbed him of his lands for the most meagre compensation. Her keen observation saw other things, for she commented upon the political life and the mistakes of that stormy period. More than these, she saw with honest indignation the position of Canadian women, and with what silent fortitude they bore their lot.

Mrs. Moodie and Mrs. Traill came to Canada in 1832. The remainder of their lives were spent in this Province. They have given to the world their experiences as settlers in "Roughing it in the Bush" and