## BALDOON.

CONDENSED FROM "COUNTY LANDMARKS."

Dover Township, south of and bounded by the Indian line of the 1790 surrender on the north, by the Chenal Ecarte on the southwest, and by Bear Creek or Sydenham River on the southeast, lies that triangular tract of land, in area some 950 acres, known as the Baldoon Farm, the property at one time of the Right Honorable Thomas Douglas, fifth Earl of Selkirk, of St. Mary's Isle, Kirkenbright, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, its first owner. Upon what understanding he became possessed of these lands—whether upon conditional settlement duties—is now not very well known, but that he received absolute title to the same, as also to lands adjoining, south of Bear Creek, by patents, the former bearing date 18th of March, 1806, and the latter at different times in 1806 and 1807, is certain. That he was also to receive, as was generally believed by the old settlers, the lands known as the Baldoon range of lots between Chatham and Bear Creek, upon conditions of settlement similar to those enjoyed by Colonel Talbot in the Lake Erie grants, is also somewhat probable; for in the Surveyor General's instructions respecting certain surveys thereof, it is said they were undertaken on the Earl's behalf. It may not be generally known that Lot 24, Dover (189 acres) and Lots 1 and 2, Chatham (389 acres) now forming part of the Town of Chatham. worth of the river, were patented to the Earl of Selkirk, 28th March, 1807.

At all events, to the Baldoon Farm—so named after a Scottish parish—in 1804 the Earl brought a number of Highland Scotch emigrants, and settled them thereon. What were his motives in so doing is, at this time, rather difficult to ascertain. If they were speculative, as some claim them to have been, it is certain philanthrophy entered largely into their composition. Noted for this latter trait, of no ordinary intellect, and with ideas and convictions in advance of his times, he saw in Canadian emigration—his pet hobby-a practical scheme for the amelioration and relief of the evicted Highland tenant families, who, at this time were thrown homeless on the world through the appropriation of their small holdings by the landed proprietors and their conversion into larger, and the more profitable sheep farms; and as in all his colonization ventures this motive chiefly prevailed, it is not likely that the Baldoon colony was made an exception. True, the Red River settlement or "Interior" as it was then called, was established with the avowed double object—of forming a base from which the better to oppose the North West Fur Trading Company, which was continually and systematically infringing upon the rights and privileges of the Hudson Bay Company of which he was the Governor and leading spirit—and in establishing ing a market for the disposal of the Company's imported goods, and the purchase of the necessary but hitherto almost unavailable products of the soil. But at the same time the emigrants were benefitted thereby, as were n particular the families who, in 1811, and opporture to his scheme, had just

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