

THE CITY OF HAMILTON.

Hamilton is beautifully situated on the south shore of Burlington Bay. It covers a space about two miles in length of the level which reaches from the lake shore to the mountain, and is about a mile and a-half in width. The surrounding neighborhood is celebrated for its fertility.

The mountain is an escarpment to the broad plateau of Western Ontario, worn down by the ceaseless dash of the waters of the ancient lake. It stretches away to the east, forming the precipices over which leap Niagara and the Genesee.

North-west of the city are Burlington Heights, a wall of concrete built up and cemented together by the action of the water, in the same way that Burlington Beach, which separates the bay from the lake, is now being compacted.

The site of the city was originally covered with a dense growth of tall coarse serrated Indian grass, low and almost impenetrable shrubbery, with here and there a tall water elm. The land between the mountain and the bay consisted chiefly of deep ravines and patches of swamps, affording a favorite haunt for rattlesnakes, frogs and quail. On the plot now occupied as the market square, there was a particularly dense growth of this thicket, which was the rendezvous of wolves innumerable. A deer path passed over the mountain where the reservoir now stands, and an Indian trail connected the Grand River country with Burlington Bay, at the foot of what is now Emerald Street, near which the Indians had a burial ground.

In the year 1678 La Salle visited the site of the city and ascended the mountain. The first settler in the vicinity of Hamilton