

HISTORY

OF THE

COUNTY OF PERTH

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL REMARKS ON PIONEER LIFE

I propose to write a history of the County of Perth, in order that those whom futurity will bring may know the story of pioneer life in this portion of Canada. The passing years glide silently onwards, now laden with memories of those old settlers who transformed the dreary wilderness of the Huron Tract into smiling fields and happy homes. The love of an aged pioneer for his old farm was a sacred feeling, and in his bosom ranked next to that of his family, or even to life itself. Here he came in his youth, with high aspirations and a determination to make a home for himself, in spite of adverse circumstances and almost insurmountable difficulties. Here his children grew up around him, here he fought life's battle, endured the struggle with penury, often with the stern spectre of want at his door, and here also was the scene of his ultimate triumph. The names of many are now lost, but their work remains. The fertile acres they hewed from the forest have, we regret to say, in too many instances passed into other hands. The old homestead, with all its hallowed associations, is now held by the stranger. There are still a few remaining, however, of this old band, now worn and grey, bending low beneath the weight of years, and from these must be gathered the story of the early settlement of this County.