



## FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE WAR OF 1812



A PROVINCE that has been largely settled from first to last by soldiers and the sons of soldiers, it is but natural that a militia force should have been formed spontaneously and almost without an effort on the part of the Government, and too often, it must be added, with scant encouragement on its part.

As early as the summer of 1782 a few discharged soldiers from Lieut.-Colonel John Butler's corps of Rangers began a settlement on the west bank of the River Niagara, near the site of the present town of that name. Next year they were joined by others, and in 1784 the entire regiment was disbanded and officers and men were assigned lands in the twenty townships which were shortly afterwards surveyed for the purpose on the Niagara Peninsula, and composed the original County of Lincoln, bounded to westward by the tract of land along the Grand River, granted to the Indians of the Six Nations. The two battalions of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, the King's Rangers, the Loyal Rangers and fragments of other American loyalist corps, with some men from regular British and Ger-