

Experiences and surroundings such as those which have been indicated, served to give a color in the boyish imagination to the words of Horace, when speaking of his own early days, or when alluding to scenery and natural phenomena ; and it is a question whether the Canadian schoolboy had not in these respects some advantage over the schoolboy of Eton or Harrow, who gathered his ideas from an environment presenting to the eye nothing in the rough. How vividly realized for example were such bits of word painting as the following:—"You see how stands Soracte with its depth of snow, and the groaning woods can no longer support their load, and the rivers are fast set with nipping frost." Or "Diana's delight in streams and the foliage of the groves, whatever the leafage be that stands forth, either on cool Algidus, or on the dark forests of Erymanth, or on Cragus green." Again, "Hebrus and Thrace all white with snow, and Rhodope traversed by barbarian foot." And when he spoke of the perils encountered in the navigation of the Mediterranean waters, of "the wintry blast that crushed against the barrier of pumice stone the might of the Etruscan sea," "the breaking billows of the hoarse Adriatic," who could fail to think of our own vast inland sea, Lake Superior, and of the perils reported to have been undergone there by traders and trappers, when coasting along its cavernous shores and overhanging cliffs. Was there not even an almost identity in the names Thunder Cape, and Acroceraunia, the "lightning scathed promontory" which the poet names as being of such ill-repute among the sailors of the Adriatic? The wolf incident did not seem so very extraordinary when the country was in the rough. "A wolf fled from me though unarmed, such a monster as Daunias, home of warriors rears not in her spacious groves of oak;" nor did his slumbers in his native Apulian woods, regardless of bears and vipers, "unharm'd I slept with body safe from deadly vipers and from bears." His illustrations of the perils attending high position, by pointing to the storm-struck tree of the forest, and his reference to the wild honey derived from the hollow oak, in his account of the fabled Fortunate Isles, were both recognized as simple matters of fact. "The man is safe who makes the golden mean his choice,—the mighty pine is oftenest tossed by winds." "From hollow oak flows honey." Quite in keeping with an early settler's life was Horace's reference to his narrow escape from death through the falling of a tree in the woods; the incident is more than once mentioned by him with devout expressions of thankfulness to the gods. He even seems to have commemorated the event by an annual festival. "When almost done to death by the blow of a falling tree I vowed a pleasant feast as each year came round, and the offering of a white kid." In my own case this narrative made a deep impression for a