

CITY OF HAMILTON.

BY JOHN JACQUES.

HAMILTON, beautifully situated on the south-western curve of Burlington Bay, occupies a delightful position on a plateau of slightly elevated ground, winding around the base of the Mountain. The distance between the Mountain and the Bay is about two miles, and on the area thus included stands the City of Hamilton, in population, wealth and commercial importance, the second city in Upper Canada. The site is singularly salubrious, the rate of mortality being less in Hamilton, as shown by statistics, than any other city in Canada, Ottawa excepted. Hamilton became a point of military importance about 1813. It was made the resting place of the army of the West, when General Proctor was defeated. To Burlington Heights General Vincent retired after being driven from the Niagara frontier, previous to his brilliant victory over the American army at Stoney Creek, which saved the Province from probable subjugation. The history of Hamilton dates back not much more than a quarter of a century. It seems but yesterday when the tract of country fringing the shores of Lake Ontario was a wilderness, and settlers still living can tell the day when hunters and fishermen alone broke the stillness of the now wealthy and proud District of Gore. The theory of colonization which has been nurtured into life and activity under the fostering care of liberal institutions on this side the Atlantic, has belied the anticipations and ridiculed the prophetic wisdom of statesmen moving under the auspices of time-honored usages in the Old World. Forests are converted into thriving settlements, and cities spring up into wealth and influence as if obedient to some magic impulse. A traveller from one of the sickly metropolises of Europe, in looking at the progress of social cultivation in Canada, at the evidences of civilized advancement observable in the institutions and business energy of the Canadian people, would be slow to realize the fact that he sees the country as less than fifty years of toil and industry have made it.

Let him visit Hamilton, drive up and down its spacious streets, look into the great wholesale establishments; step into the Banking houses and witness the extent of accommodation accorded to commercial enterprise; let him visit the Central School, and contrast the educational advantages of Hamilton with those of cities of the same size in Europe or the Continent, or