

IV.—*The First Legislators of Upper Canada.*

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In the terms of capitulation at Montreal, in 1760, Ontario was referred to as "le pays d'en haut" (the upper country). Three years later (10th February, 1763) the formal transfer took place under the Treaty of Paris, in these words:

"His most Christian Majesty cedes and guarantees to his said Britannic Majesty, in full right, Canada with all its dependencies, as well as the Island of Cape Breton and all the other islands and coasts in the Gulf and River St. Lawrence."

There was no attempt at defining the western boundaries or limits of Canada; there was no necessity for further definition; the people of Canada were understood to be those living in immediate relationship to Quebec, Three Rivers, and Montreal. On the 7th of October of the same year, however, a Royal Proclamation was issued which fixed the limits of Quebec as follows:

"The Government of Quebec, bounded on the Labrador Coast by the River St. John, and from thence by a line drawn from the head of that river through the Lake St. John to the south end of the Lake Nipissing; from whence the said line, crossing the River St. Lawrence and the Lake Champlain in forty-five degrees of north latitude, passes along the highlands which divide the rivers that empty themselves into the said River St. Lawrence from those which fall into the sea; and also along the north coast of the Baye des Chaleurs and the Coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Cape Rosières, and from thence crossing the mouth of the River St. Lawrence by the west end of the Island of Anticosti terminates at the aforesaid River St. John."

Allowing for some incongruities in these lines we find that by this proclamation the part of Ontario lying east of a line drawn from Cornwall to the south-western end of Lake Nipissing was then included in Quebec.

By the Quebec Act of 1774 the boundaries were carried westward to include the remainder of Ontario to the Great Lakes and also a portion of the present United States lying east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio River.

Two years later came the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. By the settlement in the Treaty of Paris, 3rd September, 1783, the land to the south and west of the Great Lakes was cut off from