

CHAPTER XXVII.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM FORTUNE, KAMLOOPS, B. C.

MR. and Mrs. William Fortune, Tranquille, Kamloops, British Columbia, were among the earliest settlers of that Province.

William Fortune is commended to the young men of the Dominion as an example of persevering industry, whom no difficulties could discourage. He came to Canada from England in 1858, on the ship *Cerastine*, landing in New York, and coming from there to Buffalo. During his brief stay there he plowed the Square of Black Rock with eight mules. From there he came to Niagara Falls to see Blondin cross the river on a rope. From there he came to St. Davids, where he remained until the discovery of gold in British Columbia. A party was made up from the surrounding villages and towns, composed of twenty-six persons. As they proceeded on their journey others joined them at various points. After leaving Canada, which was early in the spring, they utilized railway and river transit as far as possible. At Minnesota railway travel ended. From St. Paul to Fort Garry (now Winnipeg, with over one hundred thousand inhabitants), they went by stage. At that time Fort Garry was a Hudson Bay post. A steamer was building, and here the party waited for a month to make the preparations for a journey across the continent. Necessary supplies were purchased. Dried buffalo meat, called pemmican, was one of the supplies. Here the party was joined by Governor and Lady Dallas. As the vessel was not large enough to take the party and their supplies, Governor Dallas went on horseback and a portion of the company on foot. The party increased in number. A few weeks after they left Minnesota the Indian massacre took place, and over one thousand lives were lost. The passage across the continent and over the Rockies will not be described. They had the usual experience of the explorer, prospector and settler. Over mountains, through forests, crossing rivers and streams. The object of these reminiscences is to show, that with health, honesty, industry and perseverance, there are no difficulties that cannot be overcome. Losses can be retrieved and the sunset of life will bring its reward. Now, over seventy years of age, Mr. Fortune has a large estate, with wealth honestly earned. It is his subsequent career, upon