

The inhabitants of our Village, even at its earliest settlement, had less of these dangers to encounter than others in more remote portions of the province. Their near proximity to Halifax made their wants easily satisfied, so far as food and clothing were concerned; and as the country beyond was as yet almost wilderness, they had but slight connection with it.

However, as years passed on and improvements increased, though slowly, the trees disappeared beneath the axe of the woodman; cottages sprang up where the pine had waved alone in its majesty; lowing cows filled the space the Moose and Cariboo had abdicated; children's young voices rang out, where once only was heard the singing of the birds; smiling fields laughed out to the sunshine, covered with the grain and vegetables that fill the farmer's store-house, where once grey rocks and gnarled branches held entire dominion. Settlements were formed, and roads branched off from these to other settlements, once unapproachable till labour and energy went on their work of improvement. Our Village extended its boundaries, and though the homes were scattered, and convenience small, still the genius of civilization was doing its work, until gradually the face of nature wore a brighter and a better aspect.

As each fresh labourer came to the task, some new beauty, or source of benefit was developed. The country on the eastern side of Halifax abounds in lakes and rivers, some of them beautifully picturesque, and peculiarly adapted as a means of benefit to the surrounding inhabitants. When enterprise and wealth shall favour science and industry, may we hope to see canals intersecting this fine province, to the prosperity and welfare of its population.

Nature has bestowed upon our Village some very beautiful water scenery, as regards lakes and rivers. As one pursues the highway that winds gracefully through a pretty forest filled with every variety of tree our lower Provinces produce, the eye is often pleasantly surprised by the appearance of some little sheet of water, sparkling and smiling among the dusky trees, like a 'star upon the brow of night,' with the fair graceful lilies, sleeping among their green leaves on its placid bosom; or suddenly the ear is arrested by the lulling sound of falling water, and you see a rapid brook dashing over the brown rocks and making exquisite melody in the summer morning. Or it may be that some broader stream, magnified by courtesy into *river*, spans the way, sheltering as it does the queenly lilies, so abundant in every part of Nova Scotia.

But we intended to tell a tale of sorrow, connected with the hardships of our early inhabitants, and not to dwell upon the beauty of the country in which they underwent so much privation and toil; but as our story is brief in detail, we may be pardoned for devoting a few lines to the scenery of the spot round which all our little episodes of human life linger, and to which the affections of its children will turn, viz. '*Our Village*.'