

which sufficed for his dwelling and observatory in the strange new-found islands of Australasian seas. This moveable dwelling chanced to be offered for sale in London just as General Simcoe was about to proceed to his new Government; and recognizing its adaptability to his necessities, the far-travelled mansion was secured, and became the scene of viceregal hospitalities in the infant Province of Upper Canada.

It was in the month of May, 1793, that General Simcoe first entered Toronto Bay, visited the village of Mississauga Indians at the mouth of the Don, and rowed up the river to the heights on which ere long he erected a rustic chateau overlooking the river valley and the lake beyond, to which he gave the name of Castle Frank. Thus established as the representative of Imperial authority, on the site of the future capital, the new Governor explored the swamps and uncleared pine-forest, amid which his sagacious eye saw in anticipation the city rise which now numbers its sixty thousand inhabitants; and so gave to the capital of Ontario a local habitation and a name. To his practical mind the Indians and their names had equally little charm. Reverting rather to old associations as an Englishman and a soldier under Frederick, Duke of York, he named the streams which bounded the civic area on the east and west, the Humber and the Don; and called his new capital YORK.

It is curious to recall the scene as it then presented itself, strange to us now as the old shepherd's hut and the wolf's lair on the Palatine Hill by the Tiber. Fortunately it has been preserved in minutest prefiguration in the narrative of Colonel Bouchette, to whom the Governor entrusted the survey of the harbour in 1793. "Here," says the Colonel, "General Simcoe had resolved on laying the foundations of a provincial capital. I still distinctly recollect the untamed aspect which the country exhibited when first I entered the beautiful basin. Dense and trackless forests lined the margin of the

lake, and reflected their inverted images in its glassy surface. The wandering savage had constructed his ephemeral habitation beneath their luxuriant foliage—the group then consisting of two families of Mississaugas—and the bay and neighbouring marshes were the hitherto uninvaded haunts of immense coveys of wild-fowl; indeed they were so abundant as in some measure to annoy us during the night." The change from this to the new settlement, military and civilian, was rendered all the more striking in its contrast by the amenities of the Government House, which, under His Excellency's care, "was rendered exceedingly comfortable, and soon became as distinguished for the social and urbane hospitality of its venerated and gracious host as for the peculiarity of its structure."

But the first Governor's stay was abruptly cut short. Tradition tells that the old soldier had such an antipathy to the revolted colonists beyond Lake Ontario, that he could not be induced to preserve the most ordinary terms with his republican neighbours, and was hastily recalled, in 1796, lest he should precipitate the war, which at length broke out sixteen years later. The visit of the poet Moore, in 1803, gives us some lively glimpse of a country which, in its raw novelty, seems to have impressed him with very prosaic repulsiveness. It is curious now to read his reference to "Buffalo, a little village on Lake Erie;" and to turn from that to his satirical portraiture of the society of the new States:

"Take Christians, Mohawks, Democrats, and all,
From the rude wigwam to the Congress-hall,
From man the savage, whether slav'd or free,
To man the civilized, less tame than he,—
'Tis one dull chaos, one unfertile strife
Betwixt half-polished and half-barbarous life;
Where every ill the ancient world could brew
Is mixed with every grossness of the new;
Where all corrupts, though little can entice,
And nought is known of luxury but its vice!"

Yet it was impossible that the poet's eye could gaze on the grand river, the broad