

V.

ORO VISITED.

According to promise I will give you an account of my late visit to my former home in Oro. I was astonished to see the great change that seven years had made in the neighbourhood, and within sight of my old homestead I could see five or six substantial brick houses that had been erected since I had left, and the farms shewed the prosperity of the owners. Verily the thought passed through my brain, is this the sign of the down-trodden farming community which we have heard so much of lately, and wish for a return of the good times of old? Very little the present generation know of the good times they mourn after. I remember them well, and the time when the farmers' wives would walk to Barrie or Orillia, carrying a basket of butter or eggs ten or twelve miles, and returning in the evening with the groceries, &c., they had purchased, altogether a distance of twenty or twenty-four miles, and paying for the said groceries, 10c. per pound for sugar, tea from 60c. to \$1, and salt \$3.50 per barrel. I remember before I removed to Oro I had a good crop of wheat, but there was no cash market for it, unless we waited for sleighing and drove to the Holland Landing, and I wanted to pay my taxes and could not raise the needful. My old friend Mr. George Hallen came to the rescue. He told me he was getting a saddle from Mr. King, a storekeeper at that time in Orillia. King would take wheat for it at the price of fifty cents per bushel, and Mr. Hallen had no wheat to sell. I gave him the wheat, with which he paid for the saddle, and gave me the money, with which I got out of my dilemma.

But to return to my visit among my old friends. I went on Sunday to the Presbyterian Church at Guthrie, which is a large, substantial brick Church erected in the stead of the old frame one, at the opening of which I was present many years since. There is also a fine Church near the Town Hall, and another at Jarratt's Corners, all erected within the last three or four years. I found good roads, rather a contrast to the roads leading into the village of Coldwater, which are a disgrace to a township which has now