

1788, and delineated on paper the remains of the buildings of the fort. The eminent pioneer provincial land surveyor, Augustus Jones, a little later entered in his field note-book, still preserved, the exact situation of the fort. The Chief Joseph Brant often paused here when passing to and fro from the Head of the Lake, on his visits to the founder and organizer of Upper Canada, Governor Simcoe, who himself had personally examined the spot. Nor are all the associations of the place those of a peaceful character. All along this bank on the 27th of April, 1813, there was "arming in hot haste."

An American hostile fleet was seen at early dawn rounding the point yonder, and

"— the beat of the alarming drum
Roused up the soldier ere the morning star."

The order to the commander of the invading force had been to effect a landing exactly where we are now standing. Thus the American historian of the affair, John Lewis Thomson, writes:—"The squadron arrived safely at 7 o'clock on the morning of the 27th, about one mile to the westward of the ruins of Fort Toronto. The position which had been fixed on her landing the troops was the site of the Old Fort, and the men in the bateaux, he says, pulled vigorously for the designated ground at the site, but were forced by a strong easterly wind a considerable distance above." It was along here that the grenadiers of the gallant Eighth Regiment retreated after losing so many out of their ranks and their brave leader, Capt McNeill, in the attempt to prevent the landing of the invaders. The exact scene of the conflict was familiarly known to all old inhabitants of York, and used to be pointed out by them just where the bank trends round yonder into Humber Bay. Along here also passed Pike and his men, on that occasion, flushed with their success, and hastening on to take possession of the evacuated York.

We are thus assembled, as you perceive, on a spot of much historical interest; of more historical interest than any other in this vicinity. It is no wonder, therefore, that the citizens of Toronto desire to mark it by an enduring monument, as you see they are doing, which work, we, as pioneers, are helping forward as much as we can. You are all aware of what our Society of Pioneers exists for. We were instituted in 1869 for the purpose of maintaining a friendly intercourse with one another, and preserving the memory of just such facts and incidents as those which I have been narrating.

Now, one special and important use which we wish to make of the present gathering of old settlers from all parts is this:—We desire to suggest the organization forthwith of a general society, to embrace within its scope the whole Province of Ontario, having for its objects (1) the promotion among early settlers and their descendants of friendly inter-communion, one with another; and (2) the preservation of the memory of places of historical interest wheresoever any such exist within the bounds of our province, and the associations connected with them. We ask intelligent and thoughtful men among you to take action in this matter. It is by identifying historical spots and marking each of them with an enduring visible sign, by a massive cube of stone, for example, or bold pillar in accordance with a very ancient practice ar-

mankind, and keeping up the recollection of the notable occurrences commemorated by each of them, that a country is rendered additionally interesting, not only to visitors and strangers, but to the inhabitants themselves, each generation as it springs up, asking of its seniors. What mean ye by these blocks and pillars of stone which we see? and learning in response the local traditions and family legends of their respective neighborhoods and of the country at large. A society in England have been doing good service in this respect, for even there the advances of improvement and the effects of natural decay are beginning to endanger the venerable relics of the past. I refer to the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Sites. A similar society has also been established in France, or at all events in Paris, for the preservation of its ancient monuments. Sir John Lubbock's measure, too, for making all important ancient sites and the land around them the property of the nation has obtained most favourable consideration from the Home Legislature. I, indeed, hope that not only will a general society for Ontario of the kind indicated result from this day's gathering, but, by the co-operation and advocacy of men of influence among you, our local Legislature may be induced to aid, as they have done in the case of the monument to the Indian Chief Joseph Brant, in the city of Brantford, in the preservation of historical sites in Ontario generally, by enacting that they shall each be marked by some simple but enduring monument, suitably inscribed, wherever they are known to exist in the province; that in particular the remains of Fort Frontenac at Kingston, dating back like Fort Toronto to the French times, and certain ruins on the River Wye not very far from Penetanguishene, of like antiquity, shall be so marked; and that relics of a somewhat later era, such as Fort Malden, Fort Erie, Fort George, Fort Mississauga, earth works on Burlington Heights, at Prescott and Windmill Point, and some other places which will probably suggest themselves to different individuals, shall be included in the schedule or list.

I will read the names of the gentlemen who have consented to act as a committee for the furtherance and ultimate completion of the monument here, commemorative of the old French fort Toronto; and the meeting perhaps could not do better than to ask them, with others whose names may be added, to take in hand the formation of a general society in Ontario of the kind which has been described, and also to be a committee to wait on the proper authorities connected with the Government and Legislature, with a view to bringing about a permanent marking of all our historical sites:—His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Alexander Manning, Esq., J. J. Withrow, Esq., W. B. McMurrich, Esq., A. R. Boswell, Esq., Hon. G. R. Allan, Col. Gzowski, A.D.C. (Applause.)

Mr. Canniff Haight moved that this meeting approves of the formation of a general society for Ontario, having in view the preservation of historic sites and the memories connected therewith.

Mr. J. J. Withrow, of St. Catharines, seconded the motion, which was carried.

Read, Q.C., moved that this meeting

respectfully requests the committee superintending the erection of the monument to mark the site of the old French fort at Toronto, to act as a committee to take into consideration also the formation of a general society for Ontario, having in view the preservation of historic sites and the memories connected therewith.

Mr. Young seconded the motion which was carried.

Ex-Ald. Fleming moved that this meeting request the committee to wait upon the proper authorities connected with the Government to procure an enactment to the effect that historic sites known to be connected with great events in the province shall be marked by monuments bearing suitable inscriptions.

Mr. Wilson, of the Toronto York Pioneers, seconded the motion, which was carried.

Ex-Ald. Hallam made a few remarks regretting the want of a reliable loyalist history of Canada, most of the valuable record being in French. He thought the Ontario Government should take up this matter.

Rev. Dr. Scadding expressed their indebtedness to Mr. Withrow for the inception of the movement which led to the commencing of the erection of the monument on Fort Toronto's site. The fund available for the purpose had recently been augmented by a gift of \$120 from Mr. Geo. Gooderham, of \$150 from the York Pioneers, and a grant of \$200 from the City Council. In a year's time they hoped to have raised the monument high enough to receive the pillar. An inscription would be placed upon the block beneath.

Mr. Withrow expressed the hope that the monument would be finished in less than a year's time, so that all present might have a chance of seeing it.

Cheers were then given for Mr. Withrow and Rev. Dr. Scadding and the proceedings terminated.

BADLY CRUSHED.

An Indian named Jackson of Christian Island, was this week trying to cut down a tree which lodged against another. In attempting to fell the latter, the former struck him across the chest. He was brought to Beauseil Island in a very low condition where the doctor attended him though slight hopes were entertained of his recovery. He has since died. Jackson was once a member of the New Credit band.

THE LOONS IN MAINE.

When they hear the loons crying the passamaquoddy Indians think it is sure sign of a hard wind. If the feathers are on the partridges' legs or the bears den early they believe a long winter is coming. If they see a beaver carrying a stick a storm is approaching. It is a sure sign of death to have partridges hovering about the house. If a dog barks in the night a stranger will come the next day. They said the Pleasant Point dogs howled like fiends the night before the writer visited the camp.—[Loweston (Me) Journal.]

The stovepipe can be cleaned by putting a piece of zinc on the coals of a hot fire. The vapor produced carries off the soot by chemical decomposition.