

The Natural History of the Toronto Region

CHAPTER I.

TORONTO: AN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH

By

DAVID REID KEYS, M.A.,

University College, University of Toronto

WHEN that genial and versatile geologist, the late N. S. Shaler, wrote the history of his native State, Kentucky, he drew attention to the peculiar position it held among the American commonwealths. Kentucky alone, he said, is the child of another commonwealth, Virginia, and owes the majority of her early inhabitants to the soldiers disbanded at the close of the American revolutionary war. In the same manner, and almost to the same extent, the first settlers in Upper Canada, as it was then called, were the loyalist soldiers of the British army, and the other U. E. Loyalists whose devotion to a lost cause led them to prefer expatriation to life under a new flag. To make the parallel still more exact, not a few of these sturdy loyalists came from Virginia and founded some of the first families of our province.