TORONTO OF OLD.

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THE olden times of our Ontario capital must be measured by the scale of the New World to which it belongs, and the Young Dominion in which it occupies so prominent a place; but youthful as it is, its beginnings already pertain to elder generations; and it has a history of its own not without some interest to others besides its modern denizens. With a well-determined civic centre, moreover: the seat of legislature, and the legal, educational, and commercial capital of an industrious community; the records of their rude forefathers, and the struggles of its birth-time, grow in value with the passing years, and in a generation or two become matters of widespread interest.

Antiquarian research seems peculiarly out of place in a new colony, and is lucky if it escape the sneer of the busy trader, in his zeal for wealth and material progress. Nevertheless, to one gifted with the slightest powers of fancy, there is something fasci-nating in the attempt to recall the infancy even of comparatively modern cities. Horace Smith, in his quaint invocation to Belzoni's mummy, delights to fancy the old Egyptian treading the thoroughfares of the hundred-gated Thebes, and dropping a penny into Homer's hat. The historian of Rome still strives to illuminate that cradle-time of the City of the Seven Hills which its first shepherds and husbandmen celebrated in their Lupercalia, or Wolf-festival, on the Palatine Hill, some two thousand five hundred years ago. The City of King Lud, the Londinum of Tacitus, when the Roman legions were fleeing before Boadicea and her Icenian Britons, is modern compared with that of Romulus. The recovered traces of its Roman occupants in the first century belong to its infant story. Antiquity, in truth, is a very relative thing. The Christian era is modern for Egypt, and recent even for Rome. The Norman Conquest of a thousand years later is ancient for London; while with our-