

make the best farmers, as was graphically shown in Mrs. Moodie's "Roughing it in the Bush." The Irish Catholics were in the majority of cases from the destitute classes, but they succeeded well eventually wherever they settled on the waste lands of Upper Canada, but a considerable number always chose the cities and towns. The sufferings of immigrants during the Atlantic voyage in ill-equipped, filthy, crowded ships, were terrible in days when governments took no precautions for the health and comfort of this class against the greed of shipowners. Disease ever claimed its victims in these pest ships, and in 1832 cholera was brought in this way into Canada, where many thousands of persons from Quebec to Sandwich, fell victims to this dread pestilence.

An important event in the history of the settlement of the upper province was the establishment in 1826 of the Canada Land Company, under an imperial charter. The first secretary was John Galt, a famous *littérateur*, who founded the "royal city" of Guelph, in honour of the reigning dynasty, and whose own name is perpetuated in a prosperous and beautiful town of the fine western district where the company had purchased from the government great blocks of land. Another eminent man was the clever, eccentric Dr. Dunlop,—the founder of Goderich—who is immortalised in *Noctes Ambrosiana* and who contributed interesting sketches of Canadian life to Blackwood's and Fraser's Magazines. Although the Canada Company, which still has an office in Toronto, was a factor in the settlement of the province, its possession of large tracts of the best land—some of which, like the Huron block, were locked up for years—was among the grievances against the government, who lent itself too readily to the schemes of speculators.

An important influence in the early settlement of Upper Canada was exercised by one Colonel Talbot, who had been secretary to Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, and had received large grants of land on the western peninsula between Erie and Ontario. He was the founder of the County of Elgin, and at least two hundred and fifty thousand people now live in the twenty-eight townships of what was once called the "Talbot Settlement." Mrs. Anna Jameson, the wife of a vice-chancellor of Upper Canada, describes in her "Winter Studies and Summer Rambles," written in 1838, the home of this great proprietor—a Talbot of Malahide, one of the oldest families in the parent state. The Chateau—as she calls it, perhaps sarcastically—was a "long wooden building, chiefly of rough logs, with a covered porch running along the south side." Here she found suspended "among sundry implements of husbandry, one of those ferocious animals of the feline kind, called here the cat-a-mountain, and by some the American tiger, or panther which it more resembles." In the hall "sacks of wheat and piles of sheepskins lay