

here and there seen stained with the blood of sheep worried by those ferocious animals. Now and then a genuine full-grown bear stalked across the path, or some stragglers of a herd of wild deer on a sudden bounded away through the thicket. In exposed situations lofty pines were not unfrequently struck with lightning and bore conspicuous scars of injuries thus received. The spacious cavities found high up in the stem of a gigantic pine became the abode of wild bees, and when the tree was felled by the woodman's axe, extraordinary accumulations of comb, new and old, constructed by them were to be discovered. At certain seasons the salmon was to be captured in the Don, and a solitary canoe was now and then to be descried proceeding on its way, bearing a genuine red man of the forest in quest of this fish; after nightfall a torch of burning pine knots making him all the more noticeable. Good fish of other kinds besides salmon were numerous—black bass, rock bass, sunfish, perch, pike. Spring water rivulets entering the main stream at several points were frequented by speckled trout. The wild grape vine grew in quantities along the Don, also the wild currant, the wild gooseberry, the wild cherry, the wild apple, the wild plum; hints all of them of the future capabilities of the region. In favorable situations were to be seen throughout the summer, snakes of various hues and sizes, and tortoises, including the snapping turtle, the latter to be found often with its eggs in the adjacent higher sand-banks. In the sands also the marmot or woodchuck burrowed; and in places higher up a family of foxes would find fitting shelter. The beaver survived in these parts only in certain traces of his dams and lodges, to be discerned here and there. Game was plentiful, partridges, quail, woodcock, pigeons, and wild ducks. Wild flowers too numerous to specify abounded everywhere in their proper habitats, swift humming birds from the far south, a duly-demanding toll of them every year.

The position of our clearing was on the east side of the river, forming a portion of lot No. 15, first concession broken front, a lot of 200 acres "more or less," of which, as our archives would show, my father was at once the first patentee from the crown, and the first reclaimer from a state of nature. There being but one bridge over the river it was my lot for a series of years to perform a daily tramp from this locality by a very circuitous route to and from the neighboring town, then known as York. The object of this tramp was to attend, satchel on arm, the old district grammar school there situated, under the superintendence, first of Dr. Strachan, then of Mr. Armour, and finally of Dr. Phillips, in whose time the school became absorbed in the new institution of Upper Canada College.