

legislation to enable the Court to sit out of the Town of York, and the Act (1831) 2 Wm. IV, c. 8 (U.C.), was passed for that purpose.

WILLIAM RENWICK RIDDELL.

AUTHOR'S NOTE.—Some of the many disadvantages of the new capital may be learned from an official letter from the Administrator, Peter Russell, to Simcoe, then living in England. Writing from York, Upper Canada, December 9, 1797, he says:—

"I have the pleasure to inform your Excellency that I arrived here on the 30th ult., with my family and many effects, which were with great difficulty and some damage put on shore, as a violent storm of wind, rain and snow came on immediately after, and has continued almost ever since with very little intermission, accompanied by a most intense frost; so that our harbour is now completely blocked up for the winter, and I am not without apprehensions that the inhabitants of this settlement may suffer for want of flour, as their expected supplies of that article have been cut off by this early visit of hard weather. Boards and scantling are likewise very scarce here, and not to be procured now from the mills. I am in consequence wholly uninclined, and without covering for my horses, oxen or poultry, and what is still worse, my friend, Mr. McGill, has, very unlike a friend, neglected to lay in hay for me although he was early requested to do so, and I cannot procure a sufficiency for their support at any price. The Attorney-General [John White], and Mr. Smith [Acting Surveyor-General], have by very great exertions got themselves housed, the latter pretty comfortably. But Mr. Jarvis [Provincial Secretary], not having made the smallest effort for the removal of his office, remains still at Niagara, and most probably means to do so until your Excellency's arrival. The two wings to the Government House are raised with brick and completely covered in. The south one being in the greatest forwardness I have directed to be fitted up for a temporary Court House for the King's Bench in the ensuing term [the Court sat there till the buildings were burnt by the Americans in 1813], and I hope they may both be in a condition to receive the two houses of Parliament in June next. I have not given directions for proceeding with the remainder of your Excellency's plan for the Government House, being alarmed at the magnitude of the expense which Captain Graham estimates at £10,000. I shall, however, order a large kiln of bricks to be prepared in the spring and burnt (as they will readily sell for what they cost, if the Government does not want them), and boards and scantling may be cut and seasoned upon the same principle. But I sincerely hope to have the pleasure of seeing your Excellency here before we shall have occasion to proceed further with the building.

I have extended this town [at that time near the mouth of the Don], westward towards the garrison, and to the north as far as