The Ethnographical Elements of Ontario.

2

[This article was prepared in the line of the investigations of the Committee appointed by the British Association to organize an Ethnological Survey of Canada.]

It has often been observed that in Ontario, as well as in almost every other new colony, the early settlers located, as a rule, in groups or clusters according to nationality or religious creed. In the course of a journey through the province one comes upon groups of English, Scots, Irish, French, Germans, etc. The particular mationality or creed in each case determines the characteristic traits of the group—traits which persist through several generations, notwithstanding the levelling tendencies of modern life.

The following lists give, by counties, such settlements or groups of the original rural population of Ontario as can be set down in tabular form. The urban portion of our population is too mixed to be amenable to analysis of this kind; the only observable law in this case is that the population of each town or city is mainly recruited from the rural districts in its neighborhood.

It has been deemed advisable to adopt the old division of the frontier portion of the province into eleven districts, because it was the division in use during the first half of the nineteenth century, a period in which the number of immigrants was very large. It is, accordingly, the scheme of division found in tables of statistics of that period, many of which will be useful in connection with this inquiry. Following this scheme of division the population of Ontario for the years 1817 and 1825 is given as follows:

		1817.	1825.
District.		(Gourlay.*)	(Fothergil!.)
Eastern		. 12,700	16,524
Ottawa		. 1,500	2,580
Bathurst			10,509
Johnstown		. 9,200	15,266
Midland		. 14,853	27,316
Newcastle		. 5,000	9,966
Home		. 7,700 -	17,942
Gore		. 6,684	14,225
Niagara		. 12,548	19,090
London		. 8,907	17,351
Western	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	. 4,158	7,162
Total		. 83,950	157,731

* "Gourlay's Statistics," Vol. I., p. 139.