

or "Permitted," attaching his own signature. Thus a wonderful amount of red-tape was saved, the circumlocution office had not then found a footing in Canada, though I am sorry to say it did at a later period.

Dec. 17, 1796, the Hon. Peter Russell, in his own hand, directs the Hon. D. W. Smith to allot to Sergeant Hill, of the Queen's Rangers, the land granted to him in *Toby Cook*.

Here one is half inclined to think the Hon., the President, amused himself at the expense of Sergeant Hill, for in a letter immediately following he says to the Surveyor-General, "Dr. Gamble being desirous of exchanging some lots he has in Darlington for the same quantity in *Etobicoke*," spelling the word correctly. This letter contains a bit of general news—it is dated 13th March, 1798, and says, "but I am afraid difficulty may attend the business (the exchange desired) until the latter Township (*Etobicoke*) be surveyed," showing that the work of survey did not—indeed, how could it?—keep pace with settlement.

On 23rd March, 1799, Hon. Peter Russell forwards to Hon. D. W. Smith, a memorandum in Council by which he is authorized to reserve Lot No. 3, in range D, of *Tobecoak*, for the accommodation of Dr. Gamble. We will lay the blame of the relapse into phonetic spelling on one of His Honour's Secretary's, seeing we do not know him. But a further letter to His Honour, the President, from Mr. Gamble, gentleman, gives us another variety of spelling yet, for he asks for his grant in the Township of *Tobbicoe*, and thus describes the location he wants: "Fifty acres West side of the Humber, one hundred and fifty on the Mimico, or the creek next the Humber."

It is, however, very satisfactory to find, on good authority, not only the correct spelling, but the origin of this name of the beautiful Township given. In the history of York County, published by C. Blackett Robinson in 1885, Mr. Cave, of Thistleton, is quoted as saying that he "remembers the old Indian, *John Etobicoke* and his squaw, after whom the Township was named.

I do not think there will be an individual present to-day who will not be glad that a memory of a people, once the occupiers of the large tract from which, by the hard pressure of a different civilization from their own, they have almost, perhaps entirely, disappeared, has been so far, and we will hope for ever, appropriately preserved. But time will not permit me to say a great deal more on the interesting subject of the early times of our two counties, York and Peel, once one in assessment, now in a sense divided, yet remaining one in heart as this meeting proves to-day. I cannot close, however, without quoting from a *Directory for the County of Peel*, which I found in our Public Library. These Directories and Gazetteers deserve more than the attention usually bestowed on them they are so full of the past, of incident, history and romance. I love to get hold of one, and in this one for Peel I found among numerous items of settlement, County Court records and other matters what I have long been looking for, how the heroic Laura Secord became acquainted, or rather, as I ought to put it, had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with her husband. She was an Ingersol, a daughter of Mr. Thomas Inger-