

where, at that time, according to an account given by the leader of the party, "no building was to be seen save the bark-thatched wigwam of the savage or the newly erected tent of the hardy loyalist." In this primitive wilderness Captain Grass "pointed out to them the site of their future metropolis, and gained for persecuted principles a sanctuary, for himself a home."

The loyalist settlers impressed their own character of conservative loyalty on the new settlement, which has retained this characteristic ever since,—though the principles of reform have also had a strong following in it. The town grew very slowly and the life of the surrounding settlement was long primitive enough; but as it was the only place approaching the dignity of a town within hundreds of miles, it gradually became of considerable importance to the growing population about it. As there was an abundance of limestone, the log cabins in time made way for substantial stone houses, some of which, with their steep roofs and small windows, still stand as relics of the past. A grist mill was built by Government at the picturesque spot called Kingston Mills, about six miles from Kingston, where a foaming cascade tumbles out of a rugged gorge, and where are now the massive and capacious stone locks of the Rideau Canal. This great public work, which, for massive masonry, is probably unexcelled by any canal in the world, was planned as a protected though circuitous route to Montreal, removed from the dangers of frontier exposure, and is said to have been suggested by the Duke of Wellington. It now forms a pleasant means of water communication with Ottawa, to which it gave rise, and it afforded the only highway from the country northward of Kingston, previous to the construction of the Kingston and Pembroke Railway.

Kingston a Military and Naval Station.

The site of Fort Frontenac was not long left vacant as a military post. Carleton Island was first used as a station for troops and shipping, under the British occupation; but when it was discovered that this island was within the American line, Kingston once more became a military as well as a naval station, and a large building called the "Stone Frigate" was built at the dock-yard as a sort of naval school of practice for seamen ashore. Lord Dorchester was most anxious that it should be thoroughly fortified and become the capital of Upper Canada on the separation of the provinces. When the war of 1812 broke out, Kingston was one of the chief points of attack, but escaped with a cannonade from a gunboat, in which the assailant got very much the worst of it. Commodore Chauncey, with a small squadron, chased the *Royal George* into the very harbour of Kingston, where a schooner called the *Simcoe* was sunk from the effects of a similar pursuit. This war, however, which checked York or Toronto and destroyed Niagara, doubled the population, buildings and business of Kingston. Fort Henry was then begun,—at