

EXTRACTS FROM A DIARY.

A PICTURE OF TORONTO AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY.

The first school on Toronto Bay—The Grammar School—The first year of 1827.

Let us take a trip back through the years and dwell for a few moments on the past history of our Queen city. It is past history in the city we live in, and cannot fall to be full of interest. The streets we walk every day were once the primal home of the noble savage.

Child of the forest, here he roamed. No smoke nor noise here, but the sound of the beaver in his dam, and the sound of the bison in the distance.

No palatial ship with speeding sails. Then through these waters blue, the Indian's birch canoe, but there was no island in the distance.

There was something rather round like a peninsula that stretched round like a protecting arm and gave Toronto one of the finest harbors in the world. Since that time the incessant action of the waves has broken the bar and left us the poor substitute of an island.

We also have complete records of the stagnant and unhealthy condition of the Don, but it was not so in the happy days of 1800. Then the river was noted for its picturesque and romantic beauty, and on its banks were erected the villas of the early settlers, notably Castle Frank, the home of General Simcoe, and in the vicinity flourished the nucleus of our present city.

Where the Pink Swan dwells. Pink cheeks, by the way, are no longer fashionable in the home of royalty. English belles must now be pallid. If, as the poet breathes, we must "walk fair, not pale," still the interesting fact remains, red cheeks are considered vulgar, and a young cheery or woman from the British isles is insulted when she speaks of possibly blushing.

Life then partook much of the Arcadian happiness which we all love to read about. There were no shrieking railway trains to disturb the solemnity and grandeur of the scene. There were no puntal steamboats requiring haste and anxiety. But journeying was made along the beaten trail, in the stately cavalcade of the Indian and the white man, and on the other the dense forest stretched far to the north; while here and there might be seen the wigwag of the Indian, with his lordship lying listlessly on the virgin sod smoking his calumet of peace.

We have come across some pages of an old diary giving curious information of the time of 1800 to '12, from which we will give a few extracts. Then, as now, the chief winter amusement of the young was skating. In the long moonlight nights the young men and maidens would gather on the bay in the sheltered cove, and there enjoy facilities for skating such as our crumpled rinks cannot now afford. The following is a description of what was probably the first ice-boat that was appeared on York Bay, and it is connected, too, with a name well known in the history of Upper Canada.

Winter of 1800.—We were much amused one day, when the ice was very smooth and the wind strong from the west, with all set to sea, a large party was congregated on the bay. Upon being brought to the bay, which was not completed until the craft came up standing against the shore of the bay, our friend the soldier-general, Mr. Boulton, was discovered mounted on a square sail, having a blanket hooded as a square sail upon the pole for a mast, and a canvas cover tied to the end of a hand-spike as a rudder.

The writer of the diary had been a pupil in the old grammar school of York, and mentions the coming of Rev. John Strachan from Cornwall to succeed Rev. John Beveridge in the headmastership of the school. Allusion is also made to the separation in 1812 of the fair sex into different pupils of our present Collegiate Institute.

Then came the stirring times of 1812, when the peace and happiness of the province was threatened by an armed invasion from the United States. Then was displayed that spirit of loyalty and martial enthusiasm, which has so lately been revived when on a similar occasion the integrity of the empire was threatened, and the fact, which history bears out, that they have always been found ready at the call of duty to defend their homes and their liberties. Their efforts in this instance were marvellous. They had to submit to superiority of numbers. But the same spirit that had actuated them remained, though overcome they were unshaken.

The following account of the descent upon York, or Toronto, on April 27, 1813, is written so concisely that we give it in full.

On the afternoon of the 28th instant was brought that the American fleet, consisting of five heavy frigates, and as it was supposed that York was its destination, alarm guns were fired and the militia began to assemble in the daylight next morning the fleet was off Gibraltar point, and the British fleet, which had been anchored in the harbor, began to land troops in the morning. The British commander, ordered the Grenadier company of the 4th or King's regiment to proceed to the shore of the harbor, where they were to land, and were to be ready to march at a moment's notice. The British commander, ordered the Grenadier company of the 4th or King's regiment to proceed to the shore of the harbor, where they were to land, and were to be ready to march at a moment's notice.

EVERYBODY!

FOR EVERYBODY!

"TRUTH'S" SPECIAL Great Holiday Bible Competition, No. 15.

In order that no one shall be disappointed in this competition, the following list of prizes is published. Prizes will be given to the winners of the following prizes: A gold watch, a silver watch, a gold chain, a silver chain, a gold ring, a silver ring, a gold bracelet, a silver bracelet, a gold brooch, a silver brooch, a gold earring, a silver earring, a gold necklace, a silver necklace, a gold chain, a silver chain, a gold ring, a silver ring, a gold bracelet, a silver bracelet, a gold brooch, a silver brooch, a gold earring, a silver earring, a gold necklace, a silver necklace.

1st. Where are SHEEP first mentioned in the Bible? 2nd. Where are GOATS first mentioned in the Bible? 3rd. Where are OXEN first mentioned in the Bible? 4th. Where are HORSES first mentioned in the Bible? 5th. Where are SHEEP first mentioned in the Bible? 6th. Where are GOATS first mentioned in the Bible? 7th. Where are OXEN first mentioned in the Bible? 8th. Where are HORSES first mentioned in the Bible?

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Table with columns for Policy Type (Etna Life, Canada Life, etc.) and Per Cent. of Lapsed and Surrendered Policies.

Amount of Deposit at Ottawa.

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