

Adjala was originally peopled by Irish Catholics, large groups of whom also located in Flos and Medonte, though these mostly since the Rebellion of '37. In Oro and in Nottawasaga are large settlements of Highland Scotch, most of whom were natives of the island ofIslay. Near Penetanguishene a settlement of French-Canadians was made about 1828, and in Oro two dozen Negro families were planted about 1832 on what was known as Wilberforce Street. These, and many more, are the "national" settlements which were formed throughout the county prior to 1837, and it may be added that the greater portion of the county's population at that time was comprised within these "little nations," each having but a few square miles of area. The conditions of life (especially the introduction of railways, which rapidly mix the population) as in every new country, here became such, however, that distinctive national traits of character are giving way to more cosmopolitan manners and speech.

A story is told of the early settlers of Essa (and confirmed on good authority), that they would not allow a Roman Catholic to settle amongst them. A few of such, however, did manage to settle, but the almost unmixed Protestant population of this township, down to the present day, tells the story in uncertain language of this "select policy" on the part of its first settlers.

THE ELEMENTS OF OUR POPULATION.

With the groups of English, Scots, Irish, French-Canadians, Germans, etc., the particular nationality or creed in each case determines the characteristic traits of the group—traits which are persisting through several generations, notwithstanding the levelling tendencies of modern life.

The accompanying lists give, by townships such settlements or groups of the original rural population of Simcoe County, as can be set down in tabular form. The town and village portion of our population is too mixed to be amenable to analysis of this kind; the only observable rule in this case is that the population of each town is mainly recruited from the rural districts in its neighbourhood.

In this county, as elsewhere, names of political and religious significance are often the most convenient for the designation of the various groups.

For the most part, those who colonized this county belonged to the peasant classes of Great Britain and Ireland, as the accompanying