

The site of this large and handsome city, was, in 1793, occupied by a single Indian Wigwam (Talbot, vol. i., 100) : inhabited as would appear from Bouchette (vol. i., p. 89), by two families of Mississaugas. A few years ago I had the pleasure of dining with an old farmer on the Don, who told me that he built, I forget whether the first or second house in it. The lot, on King Street of course, was given him for nothing, on condition of building on it; and he might have had as many as he pleased on the same terms. The Government House was at that time a tent; erected, I believe, in the ravine East of the present site of the Parliament Buildings. Having been an old Loyalist Volunteer, my friend received his supplies of flour from the Commissariat, there being then none to be had anywhere else. He had the choice of the whole neighbourhood, including the present site of greater part of the city, as a farm; but he selected the bank of the Don, three miles from this, on account of its being better land—a choice which will not surprise any one if the description given by Talbot makes any approach to the truth. His account, which we quote as a curiosity, is as follows :—

“The situation of the town is very unhealthy; for it stands on a piece of low marshy land, which is better calculated for a frog-pond, or beaver meadow, than for the residence of human beings. The inhabitants are, on this account, much subject, particularly in spring and autumn, to agues and intermittent fevers; and probably five-sevenths of the people are annually affected with these complaints. He who first fixed upon this spot as the site of the capital of Upper Canada, whatever prediction he may have had for the roaring of frogs, or for the effluvia arising from stagnated waters or putrid vegetables, can certainly have had no great regard for preserving the lives of his Majesty’s subjects. The town of York possesses one great advantage, which is that of a good but defenceless harbour.”—(Vol. i. p. 102.)

It was in 1794 (Bouchette, vol. i. p. 89) that the ground was fixed on and the Government Buildings commenced. The population of the city was :—

In 1801	336	1817	1,200	1826	1677
1830	2,860	1832	4,000	1842	15,336
1845	19,706	1850	25,166	It is now,	1852, 30,-

763. According to the census returns for last year, the assessed value of property in the City of Toronto was £3,116,400. The annual value at 6 per cent. amounts to £186,983 5s., on which there is a taxation of £17,429.

Goods imported at the Port of Toronto during the year 1851:—

For duty,	£656,552	3	8
Free,	38,045	3	7
Total duties collected,	94,330	5	8
Exports to United States Ports,	81,841	19	8

No precise account was kept of the Exports from Toronto to Montreal, Quebec, or the Ports on Lake Ontario and the River St.