

THE TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH.

In the year 1818 a reserve was made in the Township of North Monaghan, which was then but sparsely settled, for a town, but it was not until the year 1825 that the town plot was laid out by actual survey by Mr. Richard Birdsall, Land Surveyor, under the direction of the Honorable Zaccheus Burnham, to whom the Government had assigned the work of laying out in proper lots the lands in this and surrounding counties.

It is rather difficult to say at this late day what advantages the site offered and what prospects there were of the place ever becoming one of any importance; indeed, we understand that some of the first arrivals here scouted the idea, but some of the more sanguine prophesied a great future for the place, and nobly stood by the site, and did every thing in their power to promote its interests, and before they left this world of sin and sorrow they had the proud satisfaction of seeing their prognostications fulfilled, and one of the leading towns of the Dominion standing where was nothing then but a forest and swamp.

About the year 1819 a number of gentlemen from Cobourg and other places on the front rowed up the Otonabee in a skiff, for the purpose of selecting a proper place for the erection of a grist-mill. It must be understood that settlers were at that time pouring into this country in large numbers, and in consequence of having to go to Port Hope, Cobourg and other places to obtain flour, carrying down the wheat, in many cases on their backs, and bringing back the flour in the same way, often waiting for two or three days to have their wheat ground, so that a mill in this neighborhood was looked on as a necessity. The gentlemen who visited here with that object in view were Messrs. Adam Scott, Barnabas Bletcher, John Edmison, Charles Fothergill, Thomas Ward and John Farrelly. Considerable prospecting was done, and it was ascertained that by making an insignificant outlay a fine mill site could be obtained near the corner of Water and King streets where Denne's grist mill stands to-day, and where a similar building has been almost since the first structure was erected.