

describes in his *Toronto of Old*, the Lower Landing as it appeared before it fell into its present deserted condition.

Many early travellers of distinction visited the Lower Landing in the course of their journeys, and have left records of the scenes which they beheld.

One of the earliest travellers to arrive at Holland Landing was Mr. John Goldie, the writer of a journal which contained remarks relating to Simcoe County. He was by occupation a botanist and gardener, and first came to America on a tour to examine the plants of the country in 1817. His journal was written two years later, in 1819, while he was on a second trip.

Sir John Franklin embarked here in 1825, when on his first over-land expedition to the Arctic Seas; and in 1827, John Galt, who was on his way to Goderich, via Penetanguishene, also embarked at this place.

The open space referred to by Galt and other early writers was used as a camping-ground by the early Indians and fur-traders. Here could be seen encamped at all seasons of the year large numbers of Indians, often from very remote districts on the upper lakes. Many of these came several times a year for the purpose of bartering their furs at Holland Landing, which was a sort of emporium for a large part of the northern country. Whiskey was too frequently the article sought and obtained by them. On one occasion the writer's grandfather counted no less than thirty wigwags of the larger kind clustered on the common adjoining the Landing. Here, too, the annual distributions of presents to the Indians were made at first. The ceremony was witnessed by the distinguished traveller Capt. Basil Hall, on July 20th, 1827, who has described it in an interesting manner in his *Travels in North America in 1827-28*. The distribution for the year 1828 took place on August 14th, and a description of it has been left us by the native preacher, Rev. Peter Jones. (*Life and Journals*, p. 164). In Appendix A, of Dean Harris' *Catholic Church in the Niagara Peninsula* (Toronto, 1895), there is a narrative of the loss of a child in the Holland Marsh, and it shows the skill displayed by Indians in the recovery of the lost one.

#### THE UPPER, OR CANOE LANDING.

Continuing our journey up stream, the next landmark reached is the Upper, or Canoe Landing, which is about a mile and a half above