

THE ROCKWOOD REVIEW.

shrill and not of the same musical quality as those he heard here.

Some of the mice yet running about the house can squeak pretty loudly and shrilly but the soloist of the company is gone, and Tabby may have full swing until the next artist makes himself known in a tuneful way.

GRANDFATHER'S CORNER.

BOYS AND GIRLS:—

I don't wish to tire you, but we must have another talk about Fort Frontenac, if we desire to become well acquainted with its history. It was built of logs, enclosed by a ring of cedar and other pickets, and surrounded by a ditch, sufficiently wide and deep on the land side to give trouble to an attacking force of Indians. Count Frontenac palavered and exchanged presents with the red men, but kept his weather eye open. So he wisely made ready, in time of peace, to give them a warm reception, if ever they needed it, in possible days of war. The Fort was erected upon the Point near the mouth of the Bay, at the Tete du Pont, and overlooked the entrance to Cataraqui Creek. It was probably not much more than a large Blockhouse, had accommodation for a score or so of men, and afforded ample cover for the stores of food and ammunition required by its garrison. The two small cannon brought from Quebec by the Count were doubtless its chief armament, while flint-lock muskets, trusty hangers, and stout pikes, it may be, were the arms borne by its soldierly inhabitants. As I have said, it was completely isolated upon the side next to what is now the site of Kingston, by a deep ditch, but this has disappeared, as it has in the course of years been filled up, as well as a portion of the Bay, by the dumping therein of earth and

rubbish. Count Frontenac having built and left the Fort, its importance as a controlling influence in the trade with the Indians speedily became apparent. Have you heard of La Salle, the brave and intelligent Frenchman, who, although he did not actually discover the Mississippi River, was the first European to follow its course from the Illinois River to the Gulf of Mexico? He was the man who arranged the meeting between Frontenac and the Iroquois, and who conceived the bold design of reaching China through America, firmly believing, as he did, that this great Continent was the highroad to that wonderful Eastern land. Well, he looked upon Fort Frontenac as the gateway to the vast inland seas, which seemed to lead to the object of his dreams. But the people of Montreal and Quebec were jealous of further discoveries, and especially of settlements in the west, and did their utmost to thwart him. He was one of those plucky fellows who never say die, and was determined to find help in France if he could not secure it in Canada. Crossing the Atlantic to see King Louis, he succeeded, after much effort, in obtaining, on the 13th May, 1675, the right to "hold the Fort." He was created, by Royal patent, a Seigneur, with a grant of land for a Seigniorship extending four leagues in length, and half a league in depth covering the ground upon which Kingston now stands, and the newly erected Fort. The King made a hard bargain with him, however, the terms of which La Salle honestly attempted to fulfil. He was to maintain the Fort in a good state of defence: to hold it with a garrison at least as large as that at Montreal; to employ fifteen or twenty laborers in clearing and tilling the land, for at least two years; to supply himself, at his own cost, with necessary artillery,