

the new provinces. That course was liberal and the whole of the article, which may be found in Read's *Life of Simcoe*, pp. 117-27, is both interesting and instructive. It is said that Lord Dorchester, then Commander-in-Chief of Quebec, desired the appointment of a resident gentleman as Governor of the Upper Province, but the appointment of Simcoe had been made and confirmed before his Lordship's letters arrived. The date of Simcoe's appointment cannot be ascertained, but the Bill for the separation of the Province passed the second reading on the 16th May, 1791, and we find the new Governor at once laying plans for the future welfare of his trust. Indeed, the whole purport of Simcoe's correspondence with the Government, as shewn by the Archives, both before leaving England and after his arrival is the benefit of the settlers and the best development of the Province on a sound basis. On the 20th May, 1791, only four days after the passing of the Bill of Separation, Lieut.-Col. Simcoe wrote to Mr. D. W. Smith, who became acting surveyor-general of the Province, desiring him to have a report ready by his arrival of the quality of a salt spring on the river Trent, Simcoe himself having "directed Mr. Angus Macdonell to proceed at once to analyze its quality." (This was one of the Macdonells of Glengarry.) The value of salt is scarcely recognized by the public of the present day, but Governor Simcoe who had known the difficulties caused by its absence or too limited supply in military campaigns, and had observed the manner in which the Indians and wild cattle flocked to natural salt centres, was able justly to place a value upon it. The Indians in some measure worship this natural production, from a sense of its importance to them as a centre of food supply.

As Mr. Read justly remarks, "How could the new Governor have known of this salt spring in a province wherein his mili-



Hon. William Osgoode, First Chief Justice of Upper Canada.

tary duties had never lain, unless he had carefully studied the official documents relating to its survey, that were in the hands of the Home Government?" His solicitude for the rights of the Indians, for their proper and respectful treatment as denizens of the soil, and ancient allies of Britain, whose friendship was worth retaining, is also conspicuous in the letter referred to, a singular mark of his paternal and just attitude towards the province he was sent to govern.

But before proceeding to the details of the initiation of the First Legislature of Upper Canada, a few words are necessary in regard to the setting off as a separate government, the new Province.

The Treaty of Ghent, which gave to England the despised French Colony of Quebec, was concluded in 1763. In this cession Nova Scotia was also included, France thus giving up, by one scratch of the pen, the whole of the North American dominions. "The population of Quebec was about 65,000 souls, inhabiting a narrow strip," says N. P. Willis, "on the banks of the St. Lawrence, and chiefly employed in agriculture." In the wilds of the Far West some few hundred others