

THE FRENCH COUNT'S HOUSE.

For by this name was known the residence of Count de Puisaye, a French refugee, in the time of the French Revolution, who formed the idea of bringing out from England to a place of refuge in that reign of terror a number of Frenchmen to form a colony. The first appropriation of land was in the county of York, but the Count de Puisaye came to Newark and purchased land in 1798, about three miles from Niagara, built a stone house in the French style, part of which still remains. Quetton St. George, whose name was familiar both in Queenston and York, was one of the colony. Most of the original building has been taken down, but till last summer might still be seen a long low narrow building which formed part of the first edifice. A friend took a kodak view last summer for reproduction in our pages, but alas, it was found that just previous to the taking of the picture the house had been modernized.

Many stories are told of the count, who was a French nobleman of courtly manners, a gentleman of the old school of politeness,—also of one room which seemed to the astonished visitor of those days hung with mirrors, of the brick arch still standing, of the fish ponds, of the powder magazines and the wine cellar. In the war, like many other houses, the Chateau was used as a hospital.

The count stayed not many years, and the scheme of a French Royalist settlement was abandoned, the count returning to England, where he died in 1827, but for many years the solid building remained a memorial of the noble French Royalist, and even yet, a century later, part of it may be found strong and enduring. He is mentioned by Carlyle, Lamartine and Thiers and we find the name in lands granted to French emigres at Markham, and on one of the letters of Surveyor Jones the improvements at Oak Ridges are mentioned as Puisaye's Town.