

The Rockwood Review.

it is to-day, and that the gentlemen of leisure, who had already defended Canada were, equally ready to amuse Canadian citizens.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

MR. WILLIAM YATES.

The readers of the REVIEW who have been accustomed to look with interest for the contributions of its Hatchley correspondent, whose portrait accompanies this number, will doubtless be gratified to learn something more as to the personality of the writer.

Mr. William Yates was born in Staffordshire, England, in January of the year 1824. As to the outward circumstances of birth, parentage, and educational and social advantages, his career does not differ from that of hundreds of other young men, born in the humbler walks of life, and early inured to the necessity of labour for daily bread, a struggle which at three score and ten he is still cheerfully and stoutly maintaining. The point of difference between him and that vast army of wage-earners, who are annually leaving Great Britain in the hope of mending their fortunes in this western world, is one of intellectual diversity only, but it constitutes as wide a divergence as the broad Atlantic which rolls between the old world and the new.

For one year of his infantile life, from the age of five to six, he was sent to a dame's school, which seems to have been conducted much after the modern Kindergarten methods, the influence of which in determining the bent of his young ideas continued after a subsequent and less salutary experience in one of the National Schools. Here he was taught the rudiments of English, reading, writing and arithmetic, and little else, enforced with much harshness, in company with over two hundred other boys, mostly the children of laborers and factory

operatives, of whom he naively relates that "many of them entered the army in India and Afghanistan, became burglars and criminals, and a number were deported to Australian wilds for riotous conduct."

Later on he joined a mutual improvement club, composed of boys like himself at a Mechanics Institute, where at a night school of one evening in each week, drawing, music, the French language and rhetoric were alternately taught by competent instructors.

In the meantime he had been apprenticed to the cooper trade, a business which along with farming and horticulture he still continues in his hale old age in western Ontario.

Having served his apprenticeship, at the age of nineteen he sailed for New York, where he landed in June 1843, coming from thence to Toronto, removing to Niagara District in the following year, and afterwards to Brant County where the greater part of his life has been passed.

So far there are few salient points in his history for the journalist or the biographer to note, which differ in any way from the common lot of humble adventurers from Europe to America. But out of the hundreds of English lads emigrating to Canada about the same time with himself, on this one only nature had conferred the seeing eye and the hearing ear, and the mind inquisitive and alert to discover her mysteriously guarded secrets.

The woods and fields, the swamps and bye paths which became the arena of his daily labours, were to him the open book in which he found a constantly increasing treasure of learning, occupation and delight. The housekeeping and daily living of birds and squirrels, and all the small denizens of forest and field and stream, which elude the unlooking and indifferent observer, the habits and habitue of insects and plants, of the native trees and undergrowth of our fine