

of the Empire, 'forsook pleasant homes and perilled their lives in an unpopular and almost hopeless cause.

"The estates of the Tories were among the fairest; their stately mansions stood on the sightliest hill-brows; the richest and best-tilled meadows were their farms; the long avenue, the broad lawn, the trim hedge about the gardens, servants, plate, pictures,—the varied circumstance external and internal of dignified and generous house-keeping, for the most part these things were at the homes of the Tories. They loved beauty, dignity, and refinement."

These are the words of no partisan of theirs, but contain the candid avowal of a descendant of a noted Whig in writing the life of one of the founders of the United States. Such were the men who formed the nucleus of a settlement in Upper Canada and the Maritime Provinces of British America.

Game both large and small was abundant. The brown bear was frequently met in the forest, and its ravages seen in the settlers' maize-fields. Large herds of deer grazed in the openings. Flocks of wild turkeys and flights of pigeons might be seen daily. Squirrels, black and gray, thronged the woods on every side, so unsuspicious of danger that they could be knocked down with a stick. The land was so densely timbered that the labor of "clearing" was very great. Large quantities of valuable wood were burned on the spot, merely to get rid of it, and luxuriant crops of wheat, rye, and oats were soon growing in its place. Most of the early settlers had learned from the Indians the art of converting the skins of animals they had killed into articles of clothing, and the men were chiefly clad in buckskin, while the women wore homespun garments, the product of their own spindle and loom. Houses were erected of roughly-hewn logs, notched together at the ends, with the interstices caulked with clay. Mills or shops of any kind, as yet, did not exist, and every man was of necessity obliged to become his own blacksmith, wheelwright, and miller, as well as his own tailor and shoemaker. Still a slender, but steady stream of emigration from the young United States poured into the country, and the population increased so rapidly that in the year 1791 the district west of the Ottawa River, was erected into a Province by the title of Upper Canada, and Col. John Simcoe, a distinguished partisan officer of the Revolution, appointed Lieut.-Governor. He divided the Province into counties as far as surveyed, and gave the name of Lincoln to a large tract of land bordering on the Niagara and south shore of Lake Ontario, comprising the present Counties of Welland, Lincoln, and the principal part of Wentworth. The townships which had hitherto been numbered only, now received names transferred from well-known localities in English Lincolnshire. The principal stream falling into the Niagara on the west, formerly known as the Chippawa, was now called the Welland, and the adjacent townships were named Stamford, Crowland, Thorold, Willoughby, Humbersone, Bertie, and Pelham, while that comprising the marshy