

APPENDIX.

REMINISCENCES OF A CANADIAN LAND SURVEYOR.

BY JOSEPH KIRK, STRATFORD.

WHEN quite a boy, and before coming to Canada, I was placed under the tuition of a gentleman named Robert Crompton, a duly authorized land surveyor in Ireland, resident in the City of Londonderry, for the purpose of learning the art of land surveying. I first commenced a course of mathematics, and after a while commenced the field practice of surveying in different parts of the country where our services were required on different estates. Have done a good deal of surveying on the Earl of Abercorn's estate, in the north of Ireland. Many a night I have slept in a hut on a bed of rushes in the heather mountains of old Ireland.

Emigrated to Canada in the year 1829, under the impression, I suppose, like many others, that I could at once enter on the practice of my profession, but soon found that if I wanted to practise land surveying here I must serve a term of three years under an authorized Provincial Land Surveyor, which for different reasons I could not at that time undertake. Then obtained a position in a mercantile and lumbering supply establishment, owned by Messrs. Bernard & Rainville, in the village of By-Town, then a little French village of two or three hundred inhabitants, now the City of Ottawa. The building of the Rideau Canal was just then commenced under the management of Col. By and a corps of Royal Sappers and Miners recently sent out from England. Very soon the inhabitants of the village began to increase as the work of the canal went on, and the village became a town. Remained in my position until the year 1840, when an opportunity offered for me to indenture myself to a Provincial Land Surveyor for Upper Canada, named John Robertson. In the course of my practice under him he obtained the survey of several lumbering limits on the Ottawa River and some of its tributaries, namely, the Madawaska and the Bon-Chere. Our first work was on the Ottawa, much further up the river than any lumbering operations heretofore, being above the Roche à Capitaine and Deux Rivières where I wintered; snow being from two to two and a half feet deep in the woods all the winter, we travelled on snowshoes and prosecuted our