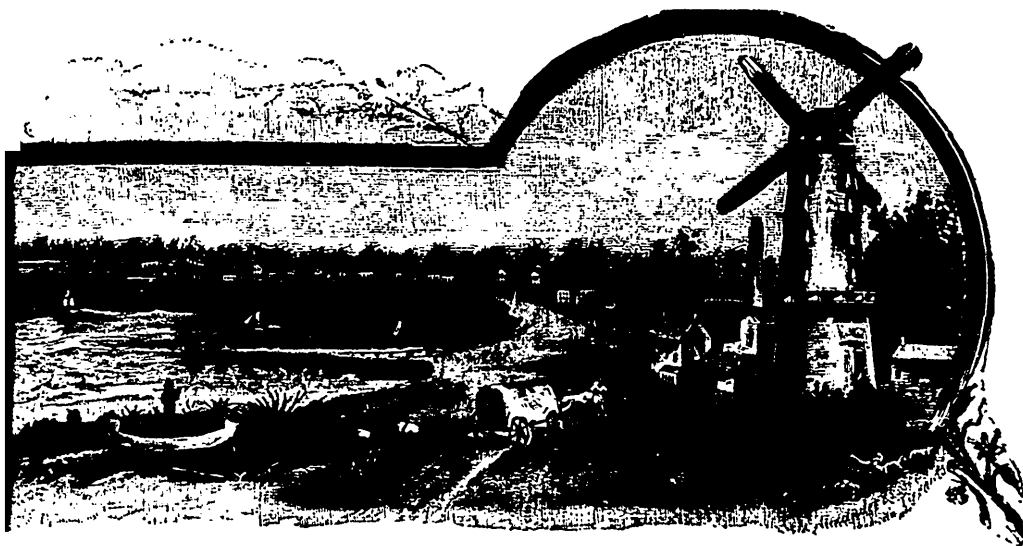


## OUR OWN COUNTRY.

## TORONTO AND ITS VICINITY.

## II.



TORONTO IN 1831.

THE Rev. Dr. Scadding, in his interesting account of "Toronto's First Germ," says: "By a popular misuse of terms the word 'Toronto' came to be applied to the small trading-post or 'fort,' established in 1749, on the north shore of Lake Ontario, not far from the mouth of the Humber. The proper and official name of this erection was Fort Rouillé, so called in compliment to Antoine Louis Rouillé, the Colonial Minister of the day. But traders and *coureurs du bois* preferred to speak of Fort Rouillé as Fort Toronto, because it stood at the landing-place of the southern terminus of the trail which conducted up to the well-known 'Toronto,' the place of concourse, the great Huron rendezvous sixty miles to the north; and popular phraseology ultimately prevailed.

"Fort Rouillé or Toronto was noth-

ing more than a stockaded storehouse, with quarters for a keeper and a few soldiers, after the fashion of a small Hudson's Bay trading-post. A large portion of the site which, fifty years ago, used commonly to be visited as that of the 'Old French Fort,' is now fallen into the lake; but depressions, marking the situation of cellars and portions of some ancient foundations connected with out-buildings are still discernible, as also indications of the line of the stockade on the north side. Formerly there were conspicuous remains of flagged flooring and the basement of chimneys.

"The site of the trading establishment which was thus destined to be the initial germ of the present city of Toronto is now enclosed within the bounds of the park appertaining to the Exhibition Build-