

course of time formed the Beach, which is stationed exactly where the balance of power took place between the opposing waters.

1820. In a Government report of 1820, I find the following :
“ That during the Spring and Fall seasons, ‘ Ocean Winds,’
“ as they were called by old mariners, rose, causing the waters of
“ the Lake to rise and fall in intensity and velocity with that of
“ the Atlantic, rushing through the cut (present Canal) at a veloc-
“ ity of between six and seven miles an hour, forming a tide in
“ the Bay, raising the waters round the shores, flooding Coot’s
“ Paradise, above, almost to the town of Dundas, so that when
“ the storm abated the pent up waters returned to the Lake with
“ a similar velocity.” The small wash-quarter, “ Coot’s
Paradise,” or Dundas Marsh, forms a miniature of the Bay, en-
closed with high banks, known as the Flamboro Heights, and
had, in those days, a singular peculiarity, also that of being an
inland swamp, acted upon by the tidal waves—a very rare
phenomena to be met with in nature. The waters rushed over
the swamp from the Bay when a Lake storm existed with the
lull back, leaving an irrigated paradise for water fowl. Wild rice
grew here luxuriantly, and from the same report I learned
that the swamp contained about two hundred and fifty acres
of ground which might be made into a most valuable rice
farm.

1792. It was the intention of Governor Simcoe to make the
Heights the site of the little town which was then springing up,
but Mr. Richard Beasley, who carried on an extensive trade with
the Indians, laid claim to the land where Dundurn Park is now
situated (in fact, Dundurn Castle was built over the foundation
of the old Beasley homestead). He also pre-empted the adjoining
property known as Beasley’s Hollow, and afterwards erected
a mill on the stream flowing into Coot’s Paradise. Feeling con-
fident that no other site was possible for the future town, Mr.
Beasley demanded such an exorbitant sum for his rights, that
Governor Simcoe withdrew the offer of the purchase made, the
settlement taking a more southerly and easterly direction.

Burlington Heights, the “ Quebec of Ontario,” command the
Bay and occupy one of the most important strategic positions in
Canada, nature in her laboratory of waters having moulded