

THE CITY OF LONDON.

The city of London, in the township of that name, is the capital of the county of Middlesex. It is beautifully situated in the midst of a fine section of country, at the confluence of the two branches of the River Thames. It was laid out in 1826, by the Crown, on lands reserved by Governor Simcoe, from as early a date as 1796, with the intention of founding a town by that name.

It was surveyed by Col. Burwell, who lived on Talbot street, near Port Talbot. Its limits then were bounded on the north by North street, on the east by Wellington street, and on the west and south by the two branches of the river.

The late Col. Talbot was appointed by the Government to grant the lots.

Up to this date a solitary log tavern, with a stump, hollow at the bottom, and serving the double purpose of bar-room, counter and cupboard, was the only tenement that adorned London. The second house was built by Abraham Carroll, from Oxford county, and was, like the first, intended for a tavern, but just before being completed it was burned down. Carroll, however, went to work, erected another, and began business the following summer.

The first bridge constructed of those now spanning the river was the Westminster. It was finished in the summer of 1828.

Up to this time London had not shown any extra degree of vitality, and it was not until the extensive emigration of 1832, five years after its first settlement, that it began to increase rapidly.

This was due to its position, and the difficulties consequent thereon, lacking the great advantages it at present enjoys in the facilities for transportation afforded by the different lines of railway. At this period, however, lots began to be taken up rapidly by enterprising adventurers from the British Isles, and it soon presented the appearance of a thriving Canadian village.