

At the age twelve years, William was sent up to London to enter the mercantile house of his uncle, Mr. Rodwell, who was largely engaged in shipping bcots and shoes to the East Indies. Not long afterwards, his uncle, for some unexplained reason, gave up the business, and he was thrown upon his own resources for support. Deciding to enter the army, he enlisted and was sent out to the West Indies to join his regiment, the Royal York Rangers, a new regiment and participated in the taking of Martinique and Guadeloupe. He was afterwards employed on a small schooner engaged in carrying despatches from one island to another, during which time he contracted that dreaded disease, the yellow fever, and was laid up in the Government Hospital, at Barbadoes, for several months. While employed in the duty mentioned, he had a narrow escape from death by the burning of his ship, the *Majestic*, of Whitby, escaping with nothing but the clothes he had on while sleeping. When he had slightly recovered from the attack of yellow fever, he was ordered home to England to recruit his health, and experienced an eighty-day passage from the West Indies to England, in a transport ship, with disabled soldiers, eighty-four of whom died and were consigned to a watery grave during the voyage. He was yet less than twenty-one years of age when he arrived at his father's house in Scole, Norfolk, invalided and unfit for service; but after returning to his native village, his health was soon recovered, and in about six months' time he reported himself again fit for active duty, and was ordered to the Isle of Wight to join his Regiment. Soon afterwards, being again ordered to the West Indies, and feeling that it would be going to almost certain death, he succeeded in making an exchange and being attached to the staff which was being formed to receive recruits for the army. While acting in this capacity he was appointed to a very lucrative situation, whereby he made a considerable amount of money. When the staff was broken up, he returned to his native place possessed of a moderate income, sufficient for all his wants, and intending to retire from active life. Shortly after this his father died, and probably owing to the fact that our subject had previously paid off a mortgage of 800 pounds sterling on the farm, his father after bequeathing a certain portion to each of the brothers and the only sister, left William the residue legatee and executor of his will. Unfortunately the settlements were all made when prices ruled very high, and in less than a year after he came into possession, fell off to such a degree that it left his inheritance worthless. He continued farming, however, as his occupation, until 1832, residing in the home of his forefathers. Prior to this, in 1831, Mr. James Worts, who had married Mr. Gooderham's only sister, came out to Canada to select a home for both families. Arriving at Quebec, Mr. Worts proceeded to Montreal, and thence to Kingston, Toronto (then York), Hamilton, Niagara, and various other places, and finally decided on Toronto as their future home, commencing immediately to build the windmill, which since became, historically, so well known in this city. In the following year Mr. Gooderham, in pursuance of the plan previously arranged between himself and Mr.