

ed an independent yeomanry, each living upon his own freehold estate, the lord of his own manor, enjoying the blessings of peace, and the sweetness of contentment. Thus, the wilderness receded rapidly before the axe of the hardy pioneer; and a tract of land which, sixty years ago, served only to shelter wild beasts; and to offer a bare and scanty subsistence to a few aborigines and the famishing wolves that were there companions in their forest homes, is now covered with smiling fields, bearing abundance of golden grain, and dotted with homes in which over thirty-three thousand persons find peace and plenty, the security and dignity of freemen, and the rewards of honest, industrious, and enterprising citizens. The log cabin has disappeared to give place to the frame dwelling; and that in its turn is being rapidly succeeded by the brick mansion, embowered in orchards, approached through rich green lawns, or tastefully arranged flower gardens, furnished with the best skill and taste of the modern Cabinet-maker, and filled with evidences of the higher, the more refined and the more enduring pleasures that spring from a cultivated intellect, and elevated moral feelings.

In the year 1803, the Hon. Col. Talbot was authorized to form a settlement of the waste lands of the Crown; and he, with great wisdom and forethought, laid out lands and located the emigrants seeking a home in Canada, establishing thereby a prosperous and happy home for thousands of those who are now independent, whose industry is an example to settlers in any country. London was located by him to actual settlers, himself setting the example by going into the woods and cutting down the first tree. He landed at Port Talbot—a beautiful spot in the Township of Dunwich, on the banks of Lake Erie—on the 21st of May, 1803. At this date, a trace of civilization was not to be seen anywhere within the County, nor nearer than Long Point—60 miles eastward of Port Talbot. For six years, few immigrants were attracted by the Talbot Settlement; and it was not until 1809 that settlers first began to drop in. In that year he built on a stream below his dwelling, a grist mill, which, in 1812, was burnt down by a marauding party of Americans. He never rebuilt it. The roads were, however, so unpracticable, that settlers at a distance preferred going by boat to Long Point with their grists, while others made use of a hand mill of simple construction; and others yet of the stump of a tree hollowed and conveated into a mortar by means of fire, in which, by the aid of a pestle, they