

passing by boat to and from the house of the Patroon, the headquarters of the brilliant and stately regime of New York feudalism. There was one son, a boy of ten years, Stephen.

The Englishman found himself in the midst of surroundings which he could not bring himself to understand. He could have little natural interest in the Dutch genealogies, which were such a pleasure to his wife; he saw in the gaities of society but worldly vanities; in family portraits but useless baggage; in fashionable connections but a course of extravagance and frugality. His first care was to get the property into business shape like his own. In order to place the share of his wife in her English inheritance under his control, a friendly suit was taken against the executors of the Major's estate, which, by the name of *Hoyle vs. Schuyler*, has remained a well-known precedent in New York law on the question of husband's property rights. He kept books, stopped some of the sources of thoughtless outlay, and made a stock-farm of the homestead. Stock-arming became, or had been, his hobby, and he soon began to sigh for its application to his extensive tract in Canada. He thought he saw no future for the children of both families (there were soon three small Hoyles added) in the United States, and perhaps sighed for a return to British citizenship. About 1824 he succeeded in selling the estate for thirty thousand dollars to speculators in building lots, and in 1825 moved to Hoyleville. Great aching of heart befell the Schuylers at leaving their pleasant home, the beloved place—as it is referred to in a letter of the time. Among other things, at the instance of Mr. Hoyle, an act of barbarity was committed. By his order, all the family portraits, with one exception, were brought together in a pile and burnt. The exception was an oil picture of a *Ten Eyck*, which was begged by Agness Schuyler. It represented a young man of twenty-two with a sad expression, whose hand was placed over his heart, and the tradition went that he had died of a broken heart, the result of some love affair. This picture, painted in 1774, is still kept. The silver and many other heirlooms, and most of the furniture, were brought into Canada and furnished Rockliffe Wood. The Misses Schuyler were left in Troy for a time in the mansion.

The country about Hoyleville was rough, but not in the first stage of settlement. Roads existed, a good deal of clearing had been done, even on the wood, and at least the Moore house, that of a large proprietor in the neighbourhood, which had been the social meeting place of the officers of both armies during the war of 1812, was a centre of taste and elegance.

The goals of the Schuyler-Hoyle were doubtless carried mainly by boat up Lakes George and Champlain past Plattsburg, and by the little Champlain River to within a couple of miles. Their house had been already begun, and it was for some time after their arrival "all of carpenters." They were yet in this situation and "fall fast approaching," when a letter from Agnes came, causing a commotion. It announced that she had just received proposals from three gentlemen. One was from a clergyman of Stillwater, another from Douw Light-

hall, a kinsman, whose father, Lancaster Lighthall—Dutch, notwithstanding his very English name—had in his lifetime been a Loyalist; the third was not named. She asked advice. Mrs. Hoyle at once left her young children and unsettled household and flew back to Troy. Mr. Hoyle wrote with all the affection of a real father, emphasizing the seriousness of marriage and the necessity of true love, discussing briefly the characters and circumstances of the suitors and recommending prayer for wisdom. He reminded her of the poverty of clergymen, and her own previous comforts. Mr. Lighthall, he pronounced a fine character. The little romance ended in the latter's favour. Agness came to Hoyleville for a short time and love-letters passed between them, with one of which he sends her *Washington Irving's* book, and declares himself disgusted with the American "political vortex," and deeply attracted for her sake, towards the North. Before the end of the year, he came up and they were married at Caldwell's Manor, after which they returned to Troy and lived in the mansion for some years, until 1829, when he was induced by Mr. Hoyle to become a British citizen, and take up the scheme (proposed by John Bowron, lands agent at the point afterwards called Huntingdon), of founding a town there. The town scheme, including a fine Rockaway coaching line from Montreal to the frontier, for New York, equivalent in its day to a railroad, failed on the whole, but Huntingdon received permanent benefits, and Mr. Lighthall settled into the position of Registrar of the District. To resume concerning Rockliffe. The introduction of a large amount of capital and the establishment of a stock-farm, were immediately felt in the region. The farm book for 1826 exists recording some of the first of the operations. It is a parchment-covered folio ledger marked in neat lettering, "*Day-Book, Journal D, Leonard Van Buren, owner. 1786.*" Leonard Van Buren—1750-'86—was uncle of Mrs. Hoyle and President Van Buren. The manner of keeping the book was that of an English farm. It commenced with entries of things appointed to be done at certain dates throughout the year. It also contained accounts of labourers and of barter with neighbours of the stores. But the chief system of the farm—that for which it was noticeable—was its arrangements with farmers throughout the region, for the raising of stock on shares. In a new country of this kind, inhabited by a poor and moneyless class of settlers performing the first labours on their lands, cash payments were impossible. To them, the opportunity of obtaining full-bred or high-grade stock on the easy terms of sharing the progeny, was a great boon, of which they took advantage in large numbers. The cattle favoured by Mr. Hoyle were chiefly Durhams, a line which his successors continue till the present day; the sheep, apparently Leicesters and merinos and the influence of Rockliffe was a large element in the agriculture of the district. The contracts for lease of stock were in an old-fashioned semi-legal form holding the lessee responsible for the return of the animals after so many years, with so many lambs, calves, yearlings, etc., in sound condition, except in case of loss by "the fall of a tree or a stroke of lightning."

Every Autumn, Mr. Hoyle would drive through the region attended by his men, collect his year's crop of share cattle and send them to Montreal for sale, at the same time renewing his contracts and making fresh ones. The district through which this was done—that in which the widely-known Huntingdon fair is held—is now celebrated for its stock, and is in that respect unqualified in Canada and perhaps in America. Credit seems due in part for this to Mr. Hoyle's distribution of high-grade among the earlier settlers. Besides stock-farming he also made large purchases of land. From a list of these, the amount seems to have not been less than seven or eight thousand acres, all of the choicest, including a thousand acres at Huntingdon and large tracts in its vicinity, of which he thought highly. The purchases were generally also of the sites of possible villages, and were such as to control the best water powers. Adjoining Rockliffe, on the American side, he added some four hundred acres, so as to include a rich natural pasture, celebrated far and near under the name of "*Hoyle's Beaver Meadow.*" The Lacolle mill-power, a large mill, etc., was afterwards given to Merritt Hotchkiss, M.L.A., who married Sarah Schuyler. That at Huntingdon was placed in the hands of Mr. Lighthall. Others were later on sold. He was liberal with the Churches, and the site of St. Andrew's at Huntingdon was his gift. Such was a brief sketch of the founding of the important industry of stock-farming in Canada and of the family immigration which occasioned it. About 1860, the last link with the South disappeared with the sale of a farm at Fort Edward, the remnant of the Schuyler manor at that place. Mr. Hoyle died about 1845 and his wife about 1858. Neither she nor her daughter were ever fully reconciled to their change of life and her last wish was, that she should be buried by the side of her first husband, and their lot surrounded by stone posts each bearing the beloved name of Schuyler. During her life she frequently made journeyed with some of her children to her former haunts and friends, visiting the mansion, and proceeded by rowboat down the river to the Van Rensselaer house, where she would land at the garden and dine with her cronies, the old Patroon. Of the family, Sarah Schuyler married Merritt Hotchkiss, the member for Lacolle; Cornelia Schuyler became Mrs. Nye, the wife of a wealthy neighbour; Agness Schuyler, that of Douw K. Lighthall, the Registrar, for many years the most influential man in the district, and chairman for a quarter of a century of every general public meeting; Stephen Schuyler married a Bowren and survives at Huntingdon. John Van Buren Hoyle was established upon a large share of the original Robert's land; the Honorable Timothy Hoyle founded, with his brother, the Honorable George Vischer Hoyle, the Ogdensburg and Champlain Railway, carried on the Rockliffe farm, and was at the same time a Senator of New York and a Canadian Seigneur. The farm was managed by him as a favorite side-interest on the same lines as his father, although adopted to suit modern improvements. Though a banker and railroad man of prominence, he was