

the Treaty of Ghent they also agreed to refer to two Commissioners, one appointed by each party, the determination of the middle line of the international waters which was the boundary agreed upon in the Treaty of 1783 (which acknowledged the independence of the United States.)

General Peter Buel Porter, who had served with some credit in the War of 1812 and who was to be Secretary of War in Adams' Cabinet, was selected as the American Commissioner, and John Ogilvy of Montreal, the British Commissioner. Their duties led these men into the St. Clair Flats where the deadly Anopheles swarmed. Porter survived the attack, but Ogilvy, bitten by the insects, was stricken with fever and died at Amherstburg, September 28, 1819, the doctors all attributing the fatal infection to the miasmatic air of the lowlands.

A little before the St. Clair mosquitoes plied their deadly beaks on John Ogilvy, their sisters were busy with equally nefarious if not equally fatal work at the other end of the peninsula.

In June, 1817, there entered the Province of Upper Canada a Scotsman over whose head forty winters had passed and who was to become almost by chance one of the most noted men in our whole Provincial history. Robert Gourlay—he later adopted his mother's maiden name "Fleming" as a middle name—was born in Fifeshire of a moderately wealthy family; he devoted himself to farming but quarrelled with almost everyone but his devoted wife and children. Well educated, a man of good principles, honest, generous, ever mindful of the poor, he had peculiarities which were sometimes not far removed from insanity; he seems always to have been anxious to put some one in the wrong, not for any advantage to himself but for chastisement of the wrongdoer; he quarrelled on trivial pretexts with his neighbour the Earl of Kellie, his landlord the Duke of Somerset and several of his friends. At length he made up his mind to come to Upper Canada where he had land. He did not intend to remain more than six months, but purposed to return to his farm in Wiltshire. But *l'homme propose*; he visited his wife's kinsman, Thomas Clark, at Queenston in July 1817 and there he was laid up for two months with a fever caused by the stinging of mosquitoes. This misfortune entirely ended his plan of a speedy return to England.

He had sent out printed enquiries to various parts of the Province; and had received certain answers as to the state of the various townships.

Gourlay remaining in the country published an Address to the Resident Land Owners of the Province, advising the drawing up of a full statistical account of the Province and for that purpose the holding of meetings throughout the country to draw up answers to questions which he framed. The last of these attracted most attention: "What in your opinion retards the improvement of your Township in particular or the Province in general and what would most contribute to the same?"

Gourlay most emphatically states—and apparently with perfect truth—that he did not intend Parliamentary Reform and that he had no political object in view; he published the address in the official organ of the Government, the Upper Canada Gazette, after having consulted the Administrator, the Chief Justice and many of the leading personages of the little capital. Only one Councillor saw anything wrong in the Address; the Reverend Dr. Strachan as soon as he saw it in print, considered it of an inflammatory and dangerous nature. Gourlay was annoyed and angry. He took no pains to be conciliatory but rather the reverse, he wrote articles in the Press which aggravated his