

them a large amount of "Army Bills," in payment for provisions, &c., and for damages done to their property by his army while located on their place.

The British army was succeeded by the American, and when the latter left the desolation was complete. Where before the advent of the armies had stood large distilleries, breweries, houses, barns, out-houses, &c., with all the appurtenances of a large and well-ordered farm, not a board, post, or rail was left, excepting those remaining on some of the dilapidated buildings. A mass of unsightly ruins was all that remained of the beautiful home, that had so lately been a scene of domestic comfort and busy industry.

Having an estate across the line in Virginia that had partially escaped the ravages of the war, they abandoned the scathed wreck of their North Carolina property, and removed to the other place, where they remained for a number of years.

They were ardently attached to the British Crown, and also firmly grounded in the faith of the English Episcopalian Church, which in their locality appeared to have become extinct with the English rule. These sentiments rendered the order of things which prevailed after the close of the war exceedingly distasteful to them. With such views, their thoughts naturally turned to the country whither so many of their co-patriots had already gone; hoping that with a residence in a land owning allegiance to the British Government, they would also again enjoy the ordinances of religion, as administered in the church in which they had been reared.

They had heard that J. G. Simcoe, who was a young General in Lord Cornwallis' army during the war, and with whom the young Davises had at that time formed an acquaintance, had been appointed Governor of Canada. They hoped also to obtain payment in Canada for the "Army Bills," given by Lord Cornwallis, as an equivalent for the losses they had sustained by the troops under his command. These considerations induced them to leave a country that had lost all attractions for them, and they started for Canada.

Their journey lay chiefly through the wilderness, and was not unattended by the difficulties and perils generally encountered by travellers

in those wild regions at that period. To accomplish so great a distance in the then state of country through which the greater part of their road lay, necessarily required a long time; but after fording the streams that were fordable, and being ferried, generally in scows, over those that were not; climbing over mountains, and wading or being dragged through swamps and quagmires unnumbered if not innumerable, they at length reached a point on the Genesee river, near its mouth, where the city of Rochester now stands.

Here they were obliged to pause, having come to the termination of the bush-road, and being unable to proceed any further with their wagons. In this dilemma two of the elder of the young men, Asahel Davis and Thomas Ghent, mounted their horses and made their way to Canada, to consult Governor Simcoe. That gallant officer was greatly delighted at again meeting with his kind Carolinian entertainers, and particularly so when he learned that they and their families were coming to reside in the country. On being informed of the state of the case—probably wishing thus to indicate his appreciation of the hospitality extended to himself and his brother officers by the Davises in their southern home—he sent a large gunboat, then lying at Queenston, to the mouth of the Genesee river for the accommodation of the travellers. On this vessel they embarked, with their horses and wagons, and all their effects, and were brought in safety to Queenston. Thence they proceeded by land to the mouth of the Chipewewa, where a fort had been built, and where Governor Simcoe was then residing.

His Excellency expressed himself greatly pleased at the arrival of his old friends, and giving them a hearty welcome, he told them that "the land was before them," and they should take up all that they desired for themselves and their children and grandchildren. But so wild was the country, and so valueless were its lands considered then, and even long after that time, that they were indifferent about possessing any large quantity of it, so they contented themselves with securing only a lot for each of themselves.

When they consulted the Governor respecting the "Army Bills" which they held, he encouraged their hope of receiving payment for them, and interested himself to secure it