

miles; the second day, to the Welsh Harp; the third, to Coventry; the fourth, to Northampton; the fifth, to Dunstable; and, as a wondrous effort, on the last, to London before the commencement of night. The strain and labour of six good horses, sometimes eight, drew us through the sloughs of Mireden, and many other places. We were constantly out two hours before day, and as late at night; and in the depth of winter, proportionably later. Families who travelled in their own carriages contracted with Benson & Co., and were dragged up, in the same number of days, by three sets of able horses. The single gentlemen, then a hardy race, equipped in jack-boots and trowsers up to their middle, rode post through thick and thin, and, guarded against the mire, defied the frequent stumble and fall; arose and pursued their journey with alacrity; while, in these days, their enervated posterity sleep away their rapid journeys in easy chaises, fitted for the conveyance of the soft inhabitants of Sybaris."

In 1742, a journey from London to Birmingham occupied nearly three days, as may be seen by the following curious advertisement from Walker's Birmingham Paper of the 12th April, 1742. "The Litchfield and Birmingham stage-coach set out this morning (Monday) from the Rose Inn at Holbourne Bridge, London, and will be at the house of Mr. Francis Cox, the Angel and Hen and Chickens, in the high town of Birmingham, on Wednesday next, to dinner, and goes the same afternoon to Litchfield, and returns to Birmingham on Thursday morning to breakfast, and gets to London on Saturday night, and so will continue every week regularly, with a good coach and able horses."

In the early part of the eighteenth century, Marshal Wade commanded the forces in North Britain, and employed the troops over whom he was placed, in cutting roads through the Highlands. He was occupied for ten years in the superintendance of this undertaking, the effects of which were extremely beneficial. Several gentlemen made ways from their own residences to the main road; forty stone bridges were built; and in districts where scarcely any habitations,

but turf-huts, could previously have been found, substantial houses for the accommodation of travellers were erected at short distances from each other. The soldiers, many of whom were husbandmen, taught the Highlanders an improved method of tilling their ground; several useful arts were introduced, to which the peasantry had hitherto been strangers; and the English drovers, who had rarely ventured to attend the Fairs beyond the borders, now penetrated, to purchase cattle, into the heart of the country. Wade, on account of his long and arduous services as a road-maker, was termed, by the humourists of the day, the greatest *highwayman* in existence; and a classical wag facetiously proposed that the following line from Horace should be inscribed on his tomb:

Non indecoro pulvere sordidus

In Chambers' book of Scotland, one of the Marshal's roads is described as being sixteen miles in length, with only four turnings; and these, it is remarked, were occasioned, not by eminences, but by the necessity of crossing rivers. — "Wade," continues the author, "seems to have communicated his own stiff, erect, and formal character to his roads, but above all to this particular one, which is as straight as his person, as undeviating as his mind, and as indifferent to steep braes, as he himself was to difficulties in the execution of his duty. But, perhaps, of all persons who may be little disposed to lift up their hands and bless General Wade, the antiquary will be the least; for the Marshal, with that persevering straightforwardness for which he was so remarkable, has gone smack through a grand Roman camp at Cudock, and obliterated the whole of one of its sides, though he might have easily avoided the same, by turning a few yards out of his way."

Since the days of Marshal Wade, a Scotchman, in the person of Mr. Macadam, has repaid to England the benefits conferred upon Scotland by an Englishman; and we hope, that ere long Upper Canada will not be without a Macadam of its own. The perusal of the "shreds and