

Having obtained these general ideas of the state and condition of the land-granting departments, I proceeded to travel through the province, and made journies in the whole of above 500 miles.

My first journey was from York to Newmarket, and the landing upon the Holland River, which we descended to Lake Simcoe, and went about six miles upon the lake, or 50 miles north of York. The road along which we passed, called Young Street, is one of the parallel roads originally laid out in the township, and it has the appearance of a street, as the houses generally face each other upon a straight road, of even width, and are mostly a quarter of a mile apart. The cross-roads are inferior, and all at right angles; so that there are no small groups of houses formed by the concurrence of roads, which are the natural seeds of villages and towns.

The whole province is laid out in this way. We found about three-fourths of these lots occupied, and in good order, for their sort of agriculture; fields of wheat generally from 15 to 30 acres. Sometimes, by the lots adjoining each other, 50 or 60 acres of wheat are seen together.

There was a settlement of a species of Quakers, from some part of Pennsylvania, of about 30 years old; a very flourishing village, in the centre of about 300 acres cleared; but this was on a parallel street. We were told that 25 or 30 bushels was the average produce of wheat per acre. A man upon Lake Simcoe assured me that he once had 371 bushels from seven acres; and I was pointed out the residence of a farmer who sent 135 barrels of flour to market last year. The soil seemed peculiarly favourable to wheat, and the peas, flax and barley all looked well. About one-fourth of the land was of inferior quality and unoccupied. Near Newmarket, where the land was best, grain had been sown upon the same ground for 15 or 16 years successively, without injury to it. Our ascent was so moderate that the face of the country looked like an immense plateau; but the land's height must be some hundred feet above the lake. The strip of settlement on this road presented an interminable vista of from half a mile to a mile and a half wide; and the streams crossing it had formed such deep gullies as to be passable only at great expense. We met several waggon loads of flour on their way to York.

The lots of 200 acres, partly improved and with buildings, sell from 500*l.* to 1,000*l.* currency. We saw one, with inferior buildings, which sold under the hammer last year for 675*l.* cash.

My next journey was to the western part of the province, by Burlington Bay and Hamilton; thence through Ancaster, Brandtford, Simcoe, and the Long-Point country to Colonel Talbot's; thence to London upon the Thames, and back by a northern road to Brandtford; thence by Hamilton and the Dundas-street Road to York; making a distance, in the whole, of above 300 miles.

The canal at Burlington Bay was open, and we passed through it. At Hamilton, the county town of Gore district, is a handsome stone court-house. The town is well laid out and flourishing. After ascending the mountain (a continuation of the Queen's Town or Niagara ridge) above 250 feet high, the view to the north and north-west presents an uninterrupted level, like a sea horizon, and suggests the idea of the formation of this country, as from the gradual subsiding of water from the bottom of some vast lake. The soil is chiefly of alluvial deposit, with less stone than I have ever seen elsewhere. Such is the general character of the country between the Lakes Huron, Erie, and Ontario; and only of inferior quality where swamps or the sandy principle predominates; in all other respects of as fine a quality of soil as any in America, or in the world.

On our road to Ancaster we passed the residence of a farmer who had purchased 11 farms, of 200 acres each, with the proceeds of his agricultural produce, and had sold from 2,000 to 3,000 bushels of wheat annually. A gentleman who owns a mill in this district gave me the information, and assured me that when he came to it in 1824 there was not above 10,000 bushels of wheat shipped annually from Burlington Bay, and now they expect 150,000 to be shipped in the present year. This astonishing increase he attributes to the admission of colonial wheat into England at a low duty, and the confining the West India trade to the North American provinces. Before these changes, wheat sold at half a dollar per bushel, and since it has generally at a dollar or more, and he considers it a safe and good business to the farmer to pay 12 dollars per month wages, if wheat can be sold at three-quarters of a dollar per bushel.

At Brandtford we attended an examination of young Mohawk Indian scholars, who performed with credit to themselves and their clergyman, who says that they