

this city, in company with an intelligent friend, (or rather I a companion of his, for I rode in his cutter, borne aloft by a strong, fleet horse—one of the most delightful modes of travelling ever adopted;) in which we travelled more than 250 miles. We passed through the townships of Nepean, Huntly, Fitzroy, March, McNab, Bagot, Brougham, Adamston, Gattton, Sebastopol, Wilberforce, Alice, Stafford, Pembroke, Westmeath, and Ross, on the Upper Canada side of the noble Ottawa River; and the townships of Litchfield, Clarendon, Bristol, Onslow, Eardly and Hull, on the Lower Canada side. This tract of land, as a whole, is well adapted to agriculture. The soil, from the appearance of the generality of the farms in the settled parts, and the size and character of the timber in the uncleared portions, must be rich and strong. Nor is the country near so rough as I had supposed. Nepean, Huntly, March, Pembroke, Westmeath, Ross, Clarendon, Bristol, and Onslow, cannot be said to be rough. So with parts of Wilberforce, Alice, McNab, and all the rest. It is true all the country is beautifully diversified with hill and dale; and is therefore intersected with springs and streams of water, with here and there a beautiful lake. The result is, it is very healthy—that bane of human existence, ague and fever, is unknown. We must not conceal from the reader, however, that parts of Bagot, Brougham, along the way we took, and Gattton, and Sebastopol, adjacent to the Opeongo road, are rough and rocky. Yet, between the hills, we were assured there are many arable, fertile vales. It is said one sees the worst of the country by travelling the road we went, from Burnstown on the Madawaska, by Springtown and Mount St. Patrick to the Opeongo road. Of this road I am bound to say, it is well made—wide and in good repair. It must admit of any class of carriages in summer. It is furnished with tolerable houses of entertainment, where are “accommodations for man and beast.” Mr. McDonald’s Inn, in the township of Sebastopol, is very clean, convenient, and comfortable. It seemed surprising to find such evidences and accompaniments of civilization in the midst of the trackless wilderness on the outskirts of human

habitation, midway between the Ottawa River and Belleville. *Tea*, from China, *Coffee* from Turkey, and *Sugar* from Jamaica, but the greatest wonder of all was, the latest newspapers. We were there on 21st of January, and not only the Kingston and the Perth papers of the previous week were there before us, but the *Globe* of Toronto, of the 16th Jan., and the New York *Tablet* or *Atlas*, (I forget which) of the 15th. Why have not the Belleville papers found their way out there? Belleville has a great stake in that back country. A friend of mine who lives in Westmeath on the Ottawa, has to be in your good town in the early part of March. By crossing the country he can be in Belleville as soon as he can get to the nearest railway terminus—Ottawa or Perth, or nearly so. The country back of you is filling up fast. Through the politeness of T. P. French, Esq. the Government Agent, who treated us in the most urbane and gentlemanly manner, we learned that the Opeongo road is being opened out through to the large and beautiful lake that rejoices in the euphonious Indian name from which the road is called. He says there is a large tract of most excellent land on the South side of that sheet of water, which will soon be opened for settlement. We saw from his maps and diagrams that Brudenell, the next township to the West of Sebastopol, and the one through which the branch road runs diagonally, connecting the Opeongo with Hastings road, is largely settled with a good, wholesome class of English settlers, who are Protestants. Nor is this country, as has been represented, by any means an exclusively Roman Catholic colonization. The finishing of the Opeongo road, and the carrying of the Hastings *directly* through to the first mentioned, both of which is being done, when finished, with the branch road, which I am told is particularly good, will describe a triangle which comprehends a large block of good land which is filling up fast. The report of Ottawa becoming the Seat of Government, about a year or more ago, brought a large number of enterprising Immigrants to this city, who, in seeking for a place to settle, followed up the Opeongo road to a point nearly North of you. And should the Queen’s decision