

Charlottetown in "The Olden Time."

A COMPARISON of the two pictures opposite page 190 will convey an idea of the change that has taken place in our principal square during the last sixty years. Earlier than 1840 the appearance of our Queen Square was even less prepossessing than it is shown in the sketch.

But, if possible, this article will deal with the appearance of Charlottetown at an even earlier period than 1840. Although the sources of information are not so easy to find now as they were some years ago, there are still some among us who remember what the town looked like early in the century, and from information supplied it is possible to recall the old people and their houses as they were in those days.

If one had visited Charlottetown so long ago he would probably have come by water—either in a sailing packet from the mainland or in one of the larger sailing vessels that plied between here and the "old country."

By the latter came many of our earliest settlers. Their first view of Charlottetown showed them the shore front broken by only one short wharf or jetty at the foot of Queen St., where now Queen's Wharf pushes its length out into the waters of the harbor.

Near the head of the old landing place were a number of buildings fairly close together. Partly up Queen St. also they were not very widely separated, but outside of that radius the houses and other buildings that dotted the town site were very few and far between.

Passengers disembarked, and cargo was landed from the larger vessels by means of lighters; vessels of light draught came in to the wharf to discharge.

Taking up the description of the old houses that at that time adorned the wide streets of Charlottetown it is perhaps best to begin with the Postoffice. This was a venerable looking old building, one story in height—and not much wider. It was built about 1780, and the first postmaster of Charlottetown was Mr. Benjamin Chappell. He was a personal