

occasion were Messrs. Cubitt, who were then living at the mill now owned by Mr George A. Stephens. I think the late Colonel Frederick Cubitt was present. My father was also among the guests. After spending a convivial night (the Cubitts came out on horse back) and when starting for home they had to go through the woods. Mr Smart insisted on accompanying them part of the way. They separated somewhere about 1½ miles north of the town. Mr. Smart did not make his appearance the following morning and parties who went out to search found his lifeless body not far from the place where they had said good night. The horse was found in the immediate vicinity. It was never definitely known how the accident occurred but the supposition was his head had come in contact with a tree in the darkness. No wonder when the intelligence reached the stricken wife she died of a broken heart. All honor to the brothers who so tenderly cared for the orphans. Mr. John Smart at Port Darlington adopted one and David Smart at Port Hope, the other. They never knew the loss of their parents.

The unseen power that guides and controls the lives of men, again draws up the curtain and another actor appears on the stage. Mr John Lester, who came from Cayuga township was the next manager. He was a stout built, strong man and a pusher. For five years he ran the business. Why he dissolved connection with the concern, I cannot say. He opened out for himself immediately west of Mrs Vanstone's present beautiful residence. He had quite an extensive trade and should under the circumstances have acquired an independence. The views of the community on the sin of smuggling were very lax and he was only one among a large number of others who was guilty of this fraud against the government. He did not cover his tracks sufficiently. His nemesis overtook him in the person of the Collector of Customs of Port Hope, who arrived suddenly on the place where the contraband stuff was stored and the game was up. He left the country for good. Mr Thomas Cann, father of Mr Harry Cann, Collector of Taxes in this town, was for some time a clerk in the establishment and Peter Hamblin, who lived so long at the place, was also behind the counter—both at the time young active, clever men.

Shortly after my father was at the helm a young lad John Simpson, about twelve years of age, was sent by the proprietor

to take the place of clerk and acquire a knowledge of the business. Who would have thought at the time that the boy, starting out in such humble circumstances would eventually, not only control the large business which it became, but also exercise such a dominating power in the whole community. He climbed the ladder round by round till he reached the top. He grew up with the business and so thoroughly had he mastered every detail connected with it, that after Mr. Lester resigned and although only eighteen years of age, he was given full control. I do not feel quite certain as to dates but fancy about this time he saw mill was discarded and a new grist mill erected on the old site. A distillery was also built across the road to the south. One point of time can be approximately fixed that is the erection of the brick store first east of Vanstone's mill which is still standing. It was in 1836. It looks now a modest structure, but it was then indeed quite a grand affair and so solid built that it will likely stand for another century.

About this time there was a phenomenal influx of population. Hundreds of immigrants came pouring into the country the British Isles contributing a large quota. Thousands of acres of land were cleared and brought under cultivation. The rich fertile soil producing enormous crops of all kinds of grain. This gave a great impetus to trade. The village grew very fast; new houses were erected and things generally indicated brighter prospects for the future. Under the able management of its young chief the Bowman business began to assume large proportions outstripping all competitors. It must not be forgotten that to succeed in business at that early period of the country's history required a large capital. It was impossible to carry on any kind of enterprise on a cash basis hence long credits were the rule, not the exception.

Showing the condition of things as late as 1839 I have a receipt in the shape of a shin plaster. Bowman & Co was at the time a very wealthy firm and had unlimited credit, so much so that their I. O. U. was as readily taken as gold. Paper currency as a medium of exchange was very scarce. To meet the want they issued a bill of their own. The following is an exact copy of one for 25 cents, which was never redeemed. How much interest do they owe me, I wonder? Many a Darlington farmer owed his first start to this fact. If he was making an