

of his produce, and lays in his supplies for the future. The snow forms a covering for his crops and his road to the market."

FIRST SETTLEMENT AND EARLY HISTORY OF OTTAWA.

THE geographical position of Ottawa is admirable. It is in the very heart of Canada, and situated on a noble stream which gives character and grandeur to that part of the province.

In the year 1796, the country, then in a primeval condition, and entirely in the possession of the Indian tribes, was explored by Mr. Philemon Wright, of Massachusetts, who, pleased with the character and scenery of the Ottawa, applied to the Canadian Government, and obtained a large tract of land on the North side of the river at the Chaudiere Falls, within what is now known as the township of Hull. In the year 1800, accompanied by some friends and laboring men, numbering twenty-seven in all, Mr. Wright took possession of the soil, and the pioneers succeeded in clearing 100 acres, and sowed the same with corn before the winter set in.

In the fall of the year he visited Quebec, procured another Order in Council, enabling him to have the township surveyed at his own expense, and thence proceeded to Massachusetts to settle his affairs. In the spring, accompanied by his family, thirty-five other men and some of their families, a quantity of cattle and horses, and other property necessary to supply the settlement, he returned in safety, adopting the Ottawa River as his route.

In 1805, as the pioneer of the lumber trade, he succeeded in taking the first timber raft to Quebec. A correspondent of the *Hamilton Spectator* says that—"Previously to Mr. Wright's coming, the sound of the white man's axe had been nowhere heard above the Long Sault Rapids; and this was the beginning, apparently so insignificant, from which the whole of the vast Ottawa lumber trade has sprung. Mr. Wright commenced lumbering the next year on a larger scale, not forgetting, however, to improve his farms and erect stores, blacksmiths' and shoemakers' shops, a tannery, &c. In 1806, he had commenced the cultivation of hemp on a large scale, built a mill at the Chaudiere for breaking and dressing it, and shipped a large number of bales, as well as a large quantity of hemp-seed to Quebec and England. So important did this seem to the public in Great Britain that the Royal Society sent him its silver medal, which the family yet possesses. It bears on the one side the inscription, 'Arts and Commerce Promoted,' and on the other, 'To Mr. Philemon Wright, MDCCCVI., for Culture of Hemp in Canada.' During the Russian war this was a money-making trade, but at its conclusion, in 1821, the hemp from Russia could be sold in England