

Mrs. Traill gathered and put into shape the material for her delightful books, some reflecting the now vanished conditions of the pioneer settlements, and the lives of the true-hearted men and women, branches many of them of the best old English stock, who laid the foundations of the great province of Ontario ; and others interpreting with rare insight and sympathy the life histories of the inhabitants of these Canadian woods and streams. Here too about this time Sandford first met a charming young girl, the daughter of Sheriff Hall, who some ten years afterwards was to become his wife.

Early in August the two lads left for Toronto, to seek their fortune. They drove to Port Hope, where they took the steamer for Toronto. Port Hope in 1845 was 'a nice thriving little town, finely situated between two hills, well covered with trees, and among the trees many beautiful little cottages. A considerable stream runs through the town, with good falls for the mills situated there. This place may be said to be like a Scotch town, but the houses being painted white, and some of them tastefully built, it looks even much better', which was praise indeed for a young man fresh from Scotland.

They left Port Hope at seven a.m., and after calling at several intermediate ports reached Toronto at one o'clock in the afternoon. Toronto was then a town of less than twenty thousand people, with several enormously long and very ill-paved streets. A number of important public buildings had lately been completed or were in course of erection, including several fine churches. The old Market House was still standing, and over it were the rooms of the Athenaeum, afterwards amalgamated with the Canadian Institute. The officials of King's College, now the University of Toronto, occupied part of the old Parliament Buildings. The city was lighted with gas, and water-works had already been established from the bay to the city. Steamboats connected Toronto with Kingston, Hamilton, Niagara, Queenston, and Rochester ; stages carried passengers east and west over exceedingly rough road ; omnibuses ran regularly out Yonge