

according to the number of children in the family. Not a few individuals were promised several thousands of acres of land each. It is only fair to suppose that, in such cases, the magnitude of the gift was designed to be in proportion to the services which had been, or were to be rendered to the Government by the recipients, or to the losses they had sustained through their devotion to it. In some instances, an entire township was offered to an individual, on condition of his coming in and settling himself, and bringing with him a certain number of actual settlers; or making certain improvements calculated to attract others.

The successors of Governor Simcoe, however, did not always carry out in good faith these pledges to the emigrants. This, in the west was the case, especially in reference to Mr. Horner of Blenheim, Mr. Reynolds of Dorchester, and Mr. Ingersoll of Oxford.

Governor Simcoe reached Canada in July—a time when the woodland scene is scarcely less lovely than in “leafy June.” The aspect of the country, in its almost pristine wildness, called forth his ardent admiration. And well it might, with its grand lakes spread out like inland seas; their shores, here rearing themselves in rugged banks to repel the dashing waves, there gently sloping downward to greet the advancing waters, or their line occasionally depressed by some wide emboguing, or broken by some ravine, whence issue beautiful streams, which having imparted vigor and beauty to the magnificent forest filling the background, come to add their quota, to swell the ceaseless torrent that foams and thunders at far-famed Niagara.

Nor was the inland prospect less delightful. High hills crowned with timber, and verdant valleys along which flowed sparkling rivers, alive with fish; or more sluggish streams, the sedgy margins of which, in the season, were thronged with wild ducks and other waterfowl; swelling knolls and wide spread plains, covered with umbrageous shrubs or many-tinted flowers; grassy glades and deep forests, in whose vast solitudes the tawny hunter needed not to listen long for the drumming of the pheasant or the gobbling of the wild turkey, nor to search long for signs of the

deer, or other game, so numerous were they all.

Quite a number of the U. E. Loyalists who left the United States at the close of the American Revolution, had come into Canada. Some of them had settled in the Lower Province, and the others were scattered along the frontier in the Niagara country, about Kingston, the Bay of Quinte, and the eastern portion of the north shore of Lake Ontario. From these eastern settlements to those about the head of Lake Ontario, and thence westward to the French settlements in the township of Sandwich, and the military settlers located in that vicinity, the country was in a state of nature.

Such was the condition of Upper Canada when Governor Simcoe assumed its government, and opened its first Parliament, on the 17th September, 1792, at its then capital Newark, (now Niagara.) The Parliament is said to have met under a tree, a large stone serving for a table. The House of Assembly consisted of sixteen members, and the Legislative Council of seven.

Here, during the same year, the Governor became for a time the host of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, the father of our honored Queen. However deficient the primitive gubernatorial abode may have been in princely appointments, both guest and host may well have felt compensated for that by the scenes of varied beauty presented as they passed up the river to the towering heights of Queens-ton, then less memorable than now. Or farther up, if they gazed from the dizzy height, down, down, into the awe-inspiring depths of the darkly circling whirlpool, whose ceaseless rotary motion causes the impressible spectator above instinctively to draw back, as if vaguely apprehensive of being drawn down by some irresistible unseen power, and engulfed in the fearful abyss beneath; leaving the gloomy spectacle behind, a walk of a couple of miles would bring them to that combination of power, beauty, sublimity, and grandeur that overwhelms the beholder with admiring awe—the often attempted-to-be-described but indescribable cataract of Niagara. To have seen this stupendous wonder of