

BEAUTY AND WORTH.

She sprang it with her dainty foot.
"Twas but a weed," she said,
That by the beaten thoroughfare
Upraised its modest head.

Whilst in it, all its humble life
No human eye had seen
A beauty, save its waxed stem,
And foliage darkly green.

It bore no odour prisoning bud,
No spike of brilliant flowers,
Like those, above the neighbouring wall
Adorning cultured borders.

"Sweet rose!" the maiden cried, and peeped
The garden wall above,
"Sweet rose! thou art the Queen of all,
Thou flower of youth and love!"

The scene is changed. The maiden droops.
Upon her couch she lies;
Her hallowed cheek is deathly pale,
Half closed her languid eyes.

Whilst Love and Science by her side
Keep watch, both day and night,
Love weeps in unavailing woe
Before the piteous sight.

But grave-eyed Science, hoping still,
Wields every power to stay
The grisly conqueror, who speeds
Upon his coming way.

Love curled the rose with eager care,
And laid it by her bed,
She smiled, then sighing turned away,
"It fades, like me," she said.

Nor all its odour sweet could stay
That fast-departing bloom,
Nor could the reflex of its blood
Displace the hue of death.

Now Science brings that wedding's juice,
With cunning care expressed;
She drinks, and soon new life pervades
The fountains of her breast.

The crimson tide now purely flows
Through every branching vein,
And cheek and lip incarnadine
With healthier hues again.

Once more she sees the smiling fields,
Again the pathway treads,
White flowers, of every varying tint,
Blush from their turfy beds.

But carelessly she passes all
To where a wedding droops,
That once despoiled, neglected grew,
While gratefully she stoops.

And gathering it with tender care,
Her heart sincerely cries,
"Never will I value beauty more,
True worth, alone, I'll prize!"

Montreal. MARY J. WELLS.

THE Cities and Towns of Canada ILLUSTRATED.

II.

CORNWALL, Ont.

AS IT WAS AND AS IT IS.

INTERESTING NOTES RESPECTING THE SETTLEMENT AND GROWTH OF ONE OF THE OLDEST TOWNS IN CANADA.

The town of Cornwall is the outgrowth of one of the oldest settlements in Canada. It is only sixty-seven miles, by Grand Trunk Railway, west of Montreal, and but a short distance from the Provincial border; yet, the Ontario stamp, as it were, is unmistakable, though there is lacking, in some degree, the spirit of enterprise characteristic of your thorough-going Western town. But it is only fair to state that Cornwall is in a transitory condition. In the old days it was quite an aristocratic place, the Belgravia of Canada, so to speak, and though some "blue blood" still remains, the town, as a whole, has changed its character, and is now developing into a commercial centre.

The site is in many respects an advantageous one, as a glance at the map will show. It is the pivot point of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec and the State of New York, and is the County town of the united Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, being situated in the south-east corner of the first-mentioned County. It is backed by a fair farming country, but the evidences of wealth, seen in agricultural districts further west, are wanting. The country is pretty well cleared for a distance of thirty miles back, then the farms are few and far between, though the work of bringing the wilderness into subjection is steadily progressing. In the heart of the forest, about Scotch River, where the red deer still abound, and bears are sometimes met with, there is quite a colony of French-Canadian pioneers from about Beauharnois.

The following interesting notes respecting the settlement and growth of Cornwall were kindly obtained by Dr. J. J. Dickinson, from S. J. Chesley, Esq., a venerable fellow-townsmen, who was for many years Indian Agent at Cornwall, and is now engaged in the Department of the Interior at Ottawa. Mr. Chesley tells us that the settlement of Cornwall began in 1784, principally by United Empire Loyalists and soldiers from a disbanded regiment that had been com-

manded by the Hon. Sir John Johnson. The town was laid out about that time by Mr. Patrick McNiff. The Counties of Stormont and Russell, of which the Town of Cornwall was the judicial and electoral centre, were first represented in Parliament, soon after the division of the Province of Quebec, 1791, into Upper and Lower Canada, by Mr. D'Arcy Boulton, of Little York, now Toronto. Among the leading residents at that time were Col. Gray, Capt. S. Anderson, Capt. Neil McLean (the first Treasurer), Cornelius Monroe (the first Sheriff), Joseph Anderson, Richard Warffe (the first Coroner), and David Sheik. Among the first physicians were Drs. Wood, Noah Dickinson, John Moseley and Timothy Johnson. The mercantile community was represented by Messrs. Michael Van Koughnet, Chas. Jones and Burk. The first resident lawyers were Messrs. John Lowe, Farrand and Wilkinson. The town was incorporated in 1834, and Mr. George S. Jarvis was the first Parliamentary representative. The bill to provide for the construction of the Cornwall canal was introduced by Mr. Hamilton Merritt, and work commenced at Pot-Ash Point, July, 1834. The first vessel that passed through was the steamer *Highlander*, Capt. A. Whipple, November, 1841. The first passenger boat that plied on the St. Lawrence from Cornwall was named the *Cornwall*. It was worked by two, sometimes three, horses. This craft sometimes attained a speed of six miles per hour in slack water. Its capacity did not exceed fifteen tons.

Previous to the war of 1812, the mails between Montreal and Kingston were carried by footmen once a fortnight. "On one occasion," says Mr. Chesley, "I happened to be a fellow-passenger on a freight bateau from Ottawa en lac to Cornwall with one of these mail carriers, who, perceiving that I spoke his language (French), when opposite Lancaster, asked me to examine his mail bag to ascertain whether there were any letters for that place. There being but one, he concluded not to stop then, but said he would deliver it on his return." What would the love-sick maiden of the period, anxiously awaiting her *billet-doux*, or the modern merchant, who counts time by minutes, say to such treatment?

"The establishment of a line of stage-coaches between Montreal and Kingston, in 1817, by the brothers Horace and Barnabas Dickson, improved the postal facilities, and the mails thenceforth were delivered twice, then thrice a week, and eventually daily. The postage in those times on a letter from Cornwall to Montreal was seven pence, and to Little York eleven pence." "Before the construction of the canal, the transport of freight from Montreal to Cornwall was done in summer by bateaus of five tons capacity, manned by five persons. The voyage upwards from Lacine occupied usually three days, and the return, one or two. The cost of transport was fifty cents per cwt., or 112 lbs.; now it is eight cents per 100 lbs. The winter service was by sleighs, at about the same rates as in summer.

"The Presbyterians built the first church in Cornwall, near the site of the present St. John's Church. The first minister was the Rev. John Bethune, of Williamstown, father of the late Dean of Montreal and of the present Bishop of Toronto. The first clergyman of the Church of England was a Mr. Rudd, who must have ministered at Cornwall at the beginning of the present century. In 1803, John, afterwards Bishop, Strachan, at the age of 24 years, was ordained a Deacon by the first Bishop Mountain, of Quebec, and appointed to the then vacant incumbency at Cornwall. In addition to his clerical duties, Mr. Strachan opened a Grammar School and taught in a small building till about 1806, when he removed into a more commodious school-house, which he erected at his own expense. This building he sold to the Eastern District on leaving Cornwall for Little York, in 1811. It is still standing on the same spot where it was erected, 71 years ago, and it would be, says Mr. Chesley, "almost a sacrilegious act to disturb it." Among the eminent and distinguished men who were educated at the Strachan School, were the Hon. Sir John Beverly Robinson, of Little York; Justice Jones Jones, of Brockville; Hon. Justice McLean, of Cornwall; Chief-Justice Sir J. B. Macaulay, C.B.; Hon. Wm. Robinson, of Little York; Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald, Hon. P. Van Koughnet, Chancellor Van Koughnet, Col. G. A. Gage, Rev. William McAulay, Hon. D. A. Macdonald, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, &c., &c.

"The first Episcopal Church was begun in 1804, and completed in 1806; the builder was Abner Young, an American. It was consecrated under the name of Trinity Church, by Bishop Strachan.

"The teachers of the Cornwall District School, after Mr. Strachan, were John Bethune (late Dean of Montreal), Rev. J. Johnston, Presbyterian; Rev. Harry Leith, do.; Rev. Hugh Urquhart, do.; and Mr. Kay, do.

"Cornwall was a military garrison during the war of 1812-13, and was commanded in succession by Col. Neil McLean, Major Clifford, Col. G. McDowell and Col. Grant. Detachments of the 49th and 70th regiments, besides a park of artillery, were stationed there in 1813 and 1814. A company of drafted militia, commanded by Capt. Philip Empey, of Col. McLean's Stormont Militia, kept the garrison the first year of the war."

Judge Jarvis is one of the few surviving celebrities of Cornwall. His Honour is over eighty years old, barely able to walk about his room, of venerable presence; fine profile, with long silvery beard; fond of a novel, and always ready

to tell of his early military days. He went into service as a drummer-boy and left it a Colonel. He was a youthful ensign when he saw General Brock shot, and heard the cry "Avenge the General!" as the British troops made the irresistible bayonet charge, which secured them the victory. Among other old-time recollections, the venerable Judge mentioned that Judge McLean, when practicing at the Bar, managed to persuade most of his clients to settle their cases out of Court—his desire being to discourage litigation, not foment, as is too frequently the case now-a-days with members of the legal fraternity. As a contrast to the many murders and few hangings of the present day, he graphically described the execution of five men at Cornwall, in 1817, for the murder of a labouring man.

Mr. A. P. Macdonald (of the firm of Worthington & Macdonald), told the writer a story of early days in Cornwall, which will illustrate the "larking" propensities of the Canadian youth in the "good old days." It appears a circus visited Cornwall, but young Macdonald and his chums were not satisfied with the performances in the ring, and sighed for something really novel. So they met and talked matters over, and finally resolved to raise a fund of \$100 and offer it to the proprietor of the circus if he would allow his elephant to show his abilities as a swimmer. The offer was accepted. After the afternoon performance the elephant was taken down to the river bank. It took a good deal of persuading and prodding to get the beast to enter the water, but, when he did go in, he set off straight for the south shore. This was more than the owner of the elephant bargained for, and he and his men put off in boats to turn the huge beast back. They might as well have attempted to stop an ice-berg. Mr. Elephant was bound for the south shore, and he pushed the obstructing boats away as though they were so many straws. When he landed, he showed no disposition to re-enter the river, and it was night before he was induced to make the return trip. The affair afforded the "boys" no end of fun, but it prevented the circus showing at Prescott, as it was billed, and upset the tour generally. On another occasion, when a circus was passing through the country, young Macdonald and his mates hit upon an ingenious plan by which they and the people of the country-side could get a good look at the elephant gratis. In those days to "see the elephant" literally, was regarded as a great thing. The circus people had arranged to pass into Cornwall before day-break. The elephant was not then carried about in a railway van. He walked and carried his own trunk. The point was, how could the elephant be detained on the road till daylight came. Again "Young Canada" was equal to the occasion. It was resolved to scatter potatoes irregularly along the road a few feet apart. This was done, the boys getting several bushels of "small potatoes" for the purpose. Then they hid and watched. About two o'clock the sound of wheels was heard, and slowly the cavalcade approached. The elephant walked majestically about the centre of the string of waggons. Suddenly he stopped, and began feeling about the road with his wonderful trunk. He had struck the potatoes. The keeper tried all sorts of plans to get the beast along, but elephants are partial to potatoes and do not get them every day, so this one evidently reflected, for he only moved in zig-zag fashion, and that slowly, fearful of missing a solitary "later. Being summer-time, the rosy dawn soon tinted the sky, and the last two miles into Cornwall were made in broad daylight, so that folks were enabled to stare at the elephant to their heart's content.

So much for Cornwall as it was: Cornwall as it is now demands attention. The population of Cornwall is estimated at 5,000. The total assessment amounts to \$240,529; the revenue is \$11,290, and the rate of taxation for all purposes one cent and twenty-mills on the dollar. The Town Hall building, a brick edifice on Pitt street, is by no means an attractive looking pile, but it serves a variety of purposes. Beneath its roof is the Council Chamber (which also answers for a Police Court), a Fire and Police Station, a market and a concert hall. The latter is commodious but devoid of any attempt at decoration. Why is it that town halls in "this Canada of ours" are, as a rule, so dreadfully dismal? If we cannot expect handsomely frescoed walls and ceilings, at least we might have a pleasant tint in place of the regulation dirty whitewash. And, at the start, it would cost but little more if a platform of tasteful design took the place of the orthodox erection of planks. Perhaps some of these days those in our midst who believe that "a thing of beauty is a joy for ever," and a great civilizer, will establish a "Society for Improving and Beautifying Town Halls in Canada." So mote it be.

The Council is made up of the Mayor, C. J. Mattice, Esq., the Reeve, Deputy Reeve and nine Councillors. The Council Chamber is neatly furnished and cleanly.

Cornwall has wisely patronized native manufactures in the matter of a steam fire engine and possesses one of the best in the country. It was made at Chatham, Ont., and has been worked with the thermometer registering twenty degrees below zero. It is a splendid looking machine and seems capable of doing grand work. There are three hose-trucks with 1,000 feet of hose in all, and a hook and ladder waggon. The volunteer system is still in vogue here; the company is frequently drilled and is said to be very efficient. Besides the canal which would be available for a considerable portion of the

town, there are large tanks scattered through the streets.

In the rear of the Town Hall is a wooden building used as a drill shed and armory.

The Court House and Jail are comprised in a large cut-stone edifice at the foot of Pitt street, facing the river. The court room, which is very large, contains life-size portraits of the late Judge McLean and Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald. The Assizes, County Court, Court of General Sessions of the Peace and Chancery Court are held in this building.

The town and township of Cornwall constitute the borough which is represented in the Commons by Alexander Sandfield Macdonald, Esq., and in the Local Legislature by Mr. G. G. Sneltinger, merchant, Moulinette.

During the past year a very fine High School has been erected from plans prepared by Mr. Johnstone, of Ogdensburgh, N. Y. Mr. W. Atchison, of Cornwall, was the builder, the contract amounting to about \$8,000. It will accommodate two hundred pupils. Over eighty pupils have been enrolled during the present year; there are two teachers, and a third will probably be engaged shortly. The High School District embraces the Town and Township of Cornwall, and the Townships of Osnabrock, Finch and Roxborough. Dr. N. McNeish is Principal.

To the memory of Bishop Strachan a very beautiful stone church has been erected on Second street, a short distance west of Pitt. It takes the place of the venerable Trinity Church before mentioned, a wooden structure which has been moved back bodily and serves for Sunday-school purposes during the summer. The new church cost \$37,000, of which \$30,000 have been paid. The steeple has yet to be completed. The congregation have done and are doing nobly, but as this is a memorial church assistance from admirers of the late Bishop will be thankfully received by the rector or churchwardens.

The late rector, Rev. Canon Preston, it may be remembered, died of heart disease while on his way home from the Provincial Synod held in Montreal last September. The congregation felt the bereavement most keenly, for he had endeared himself to many hearts, and his eloquence and kindly disposition won him hosts of admirers. The present rector is the Rev. Canon Pettit, from Richmond, near Ottawa. He is an eminently practical preacher and seems to be well-liked by his flock. The church will seat six hundred comfortably. It boasts a very fair choir.

In the graveyard of Trinity Church there is a quaint old relic in the shape of an enclosure some twelve feet square and six feet high, the walls being of masonry stones. They enclose two venerable elms which take up a great deal of the space, one being at least four feet in diameter. At one corner there is a padlocked door almost off its hinges. Outside, leaning against the stones, stands an oak slab or tablet which sets forth that the enclosure contains, with others, the remains of Colonel James Gray who died 1795.

The elements here had a remarkable effect upon this tablet. The wood has been worn away but the paint has withstood the ravages of time so well that the letters stand out clearly, so that if inked and placed upon a printing press, a very good impression could doubtless be taken. The walls are falling here and there, and there is some talk of removing them. Doubtless the antiquarian would rather see them subjected to a little repair.

The Presbyterians, who form a large and influential congregation, worship in St. John's Church, a frame building on Pitt street. The Rev. Dr. McNeish is pastor.

The Wesleyan Methodists have a commodious brick church on Second street. Rev. Mr. Hall, pastor.

The Roman Catholic Church is a plain, roomy structure, dedicated to St. Columban. Rev. Father Murray is Parish Priest.

Pitt street, running from the depot to the canal wharf, near to the steamboat landing, is the business thoroughfare and promenade. A considerable portion of this street was devastated by fire a year or two ago. The new buildings are quite city-like, and if, as is likely, rebuilding continues in the same style Cornwall will boast a "main street" equal to that of any town of its size in the country. Among new buildings on this street may be mentioned "The Cornwall Cloth Hall," Mr. James McDonell, proprietor. Mr. McDonell claims to be the leading merchant tailor of the town, and to this business he has added a well assorted stock of gentlemen's furnishings, ready-made clothing, hats, caps and turs. Though of a most social disposition, Mr. McDonell is quite an adept in the art of cutting. So skilled is he, indeed, that he finds employment for about forty outside hands. The second flat of the building is laid out for law chambers, and the Good Templars, who are reported to be in a flourishing condition, occupy the upper story.

One of the finest structures erected in "the burnt district," as a Chicagoan would say, is that owned by Mr. Duncan McRae, grocer and provision merchant. Here the spicy products of the Indies and Araby the Blest mingle their sweet fragrance with the more substantial perfume evolved from the cod of the Banks and the tear-compelling onion from the local market garden. What you expect in a grocery you will surely find here, and a glance around will reveal many things which you never expected to see. Mr. McRae believes in meeting the wants of his customers, and he believes that he is going to do a large business, therefore he has