

CHATHAM.

The County Town and Judicial seat of the County of Kent; is pleasantly and advantageously situated in the midst of a fine agricultural country, on the line of the Great Western Railway, of which it is one of the principal Stations, and on the river Thames (which is navigable for vessels of the largest class,) at a point where it is joined by McGregor's creek, from the South-east. The Town is partly in the Townships of Harwick, Raleigh, Chatham, and Dover East. It was originally laid out by Governor Simcoe, who reserved six hundred acres for a Town plot; in view of the natural advantages of the situation and the prospect of it becoming a Town of some importance. It is distant from Windsor, forty-six miles; from London, sixty-four miles; from Toronto, one hundred and seventy-six miles. The original survey consisted of that part of the Town lying between the river Thames and McGregor's creek, and a portion on the South side of the Thames. Chatham North, or the part that lies North of the Thames, was laid out by the late James Woods, Esq., of Sandwich, County of Essex, and R. S. Woods, Esq., of Chatham. In 1855, lot twenty-four, in the Township of Dover East, lots one and two, second con. of the Township of Chatham; also, lot twenty-three, first con., and lot twenty-four, in the second concession of the Township of Raleigh, were added to the area of the Town. Lots twenty-three and twenty-four in Raleigh are the property of Arthur John Robertson, Esq. of Inches. Chatham was a Garrison during the Rebellion of 1837, and contains barracks, which, however, are not at present occupied by troops; they are under the charge of Sergeant-Major Richard Charles Browne, Drill Instructor of the Chatham Volunteer Infantry Companies, who meet weekly there for drill. Chatham contains a number of elegant private residences, with tastefully and richly ornamented grounds, evincing wealth and refined taste among its professional men, merchants, and wealthy mechanics, whose success in business is a sure indication of the superior position of Chatham as a Town, and the richness and fertility of the adjoining agricultural country; which is unsurpassed in Canada for the excellent quality of the soil, and the improved tillage that is bestowed upon it, which exhibits itself in the abundant crops of every description that are annually produced in the vicinity. The public buildings, among which are the different churches, located in various parts of the Town, and described in another part of this work,—the market building, erected in 1856, at a cost of \$5,000, and the county buildings, erected at a cost of about \$36,000—all present a fine appearance, and do credit to a place of its size. The principal portion of the Town is on the South side of the river. The finest blocks, the principal of which is Ebert's, which is four stories high, and cost eight thousand dollars,

James Rice's Store is opposite the Royal Exchange, King st.,

CHATHAM.