

and respectability under the civilized cognomen of Wallaceburg, so called after Scotland's patriot Sir William.

Probably next upon the scene, appeared James Baby, whose father Francis, under patent 17th March, 1828, had acquired Lot 12, Concession 2nd, and now, at all events, about the year 1839, the former erected thereon on what is now Lot 7, McCallum's survey, south corner of Wallace and Bridge Streets, a somewhat pretentious building in which, for a short time he kept store, a building which is yet to the fore and now does duty as Lalonde's furniture establishment. At the opposite corner on Lot 1, same survey, pioneer Uncle Johnson, from the "Sny" store, first set out his shingle as a merchant, in a frame building yet standing, now doing duty as the rear portion of a newer house, with which it is incorporated, the second house on the west side of Water Street from the river.

So far the embryo village of the "Forks" centered to the south bank of the river. Across, on the north shore, the bush had still possession. True, as early as 1825 at the "Gore" now the principal business point, a squatter had erected a log shanty at a spot which would now place it in Nelson street, between James Scott's store and Mr. Little's opposite, that is, between Nos. 4 and 5. It was followed by a frame, the first in the locality, erected about 1833 by one James Henderson, in which he kept school and in which subsequently, about 1840, Hector McDonald under "Aunt Christy's" good cheer and ministering care, kept boarding house and dispensed hospitality upon temperance principles to wearied and benighted travellers, becoming in time a welcome and well known resort far and near. Its site is represented by the corn crib on Lot No. 5, and the structure itself—possibly foreseeing the effects of the "National Policy"—anticipated time by its passage towards the Syndicate Northwest as far as Lot No. 70, Elizabeth street, where on less historic ground it performs the modest duty of dwelling house. Pioneer Hector McLean had pitched his tent in the upper part of the original lot, and was effecting a clearing; but between these and excepting these breaks, the forest stood intact. On Langstaff's Point on the opposite gore, double-married American Case had located himself, and more subsequently Archibald McDougall; his brother Hector on the lot just east of him.

Such at this period was the prospective city, such it stood in trade. It may have possessed some other habitations, but they were not visible through the thick bush nor accessible by the many venetian like water ways. Its stores were very common place, and little better than trading huts—barter places for the exchange of the rich fur harvests of the hunter and trapper, and the simple necessities that enter into the needs of his household, that of the settler, or the camp of the lumberer. But it grew, and ere another decade had passed by on its slow and uneventful way, relieved at intervals in its monotonous life by the arrival of a timber or stave vessel, the place, thanks to the generous forests bordering on its streams, had assumed the appearance and characteristics of a thriving village.

Meantime, surveys and sub-divisions of the original lots had been instituted—McDougall's about 1833, McCallum's in 1836, both on the south bank, and James Baby's in 1840 on the north bank, which latter was named "Babyville" as distinctive from Wallaceburg. In the latter survey which covered not only the historic "point," but what is now the central and most valuable portion of the present village, L. H. Johnson was the first to invest and build. This investment was No. 4, the site of James Scott's store and warehouse, and was purchased for a mere bagatelle—some cow or jack-knife consideration. Indeed as evidence of the very modest value put upon "Babyville" lots, and as showing that the south was monopolizing the "com-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24.)