

We are encouraged as British Canadians by a reign so happy and so glorious.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." "Happy are the people that are in such a case, yea, blessed are the people who have the Lord for their God."

Mrs. Curzon's Address

In 1792 when Col. John Graves Simcoe received his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, the area we are to-day most interested in was little more than virgin forest, through which roamed the red man, the trapper, and the voyageur, each intent on his own end, the chase, peltry and trading. Down on the shore of Lake Ontario, a stone's throw from the picturesque Humber with its beautiful bay, the French traders from Tadoussac had early built a fort; a fort, not as we understand the term to-day, but a strong-hold and defence against their rival traders, the English. From the lines of this rude post a great tract of country, fertile and in portions well-cultivated by the peace-loving Hurons, spread back on to Lake Simcoe, when, at Penetanguishene and Michilimachinac, other posts or forts where they might trade, existed. This whole track was called the Mississaga tract or territory, and through it a fine Indian trail from Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe—or as it was then called Lac la Clie—ran. Portions of this trail may still be traced through High Park, one of the chief places of resort for our Toronto people.

This great tract of land was acquired by the British Government from the Indians, not by war, nor chicanery, as many people in their ignorance sometimes freely assert or assume, but by honest purchase. In *The York Almanac and Royal Calendar of Upper Canada* for 1825, published by Charles Fothergill, Esq., printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, "A Sketch of the Present State of Canada," drawn up by Mr. Fothergill himself, it is stated "The new Townships (meaning Toronto, Trafalgar, and Nelson) are formed out of recent purchases by Government from the Indians, who received their payments annually in clothing, ammunition, and such articles as they required."

"A statement of some of these purchases shows the Mississaga purchase to have been 648,000 acres for which they were paid £552 10s. per annum. Up to 1820 there had been five of these purchases, *i. e.*, the Lake Huron; the Mississaga; the Rice Lake; the Long Wood; and the Mohawk purchases, comprising in all 4,680,390 acres at an annual charge to the Government of