

China, Crockery, Earthenware, &c.

HURD, LEIGH & Co., 72 YONGE STREET.

Messrs. Hurd, Leigh & Co., who have been established over ten years, as wholesale and retail China and Crockery dealers, No. 72 Yonge Street, do one of the largest trades in Upper Canada, in this peculiar branch of business. The first floor is used as a store room which is constantly supplied with a varied collection of all descriptions of china, earthenware, such as breakfast, dinner sets, and toilet utensils of different patterns and prices to meet the wants of the customers. The second floor is the decorating and finishing department where a number of hands are employed in painting and gilding china, being the only establishment in Canada, where this beautiful and delicate process is carried out. In this portion of the building twelve hands are constantly engaged. A solution of pure gold is used for gilding purposes, which on being laid on the china at first has a dark hue, the other necessary colors are then put on, after which the china is placed in a furnace where it is subjected to intense heat. On being taken out the gilding is a dull yellow colour, after which the articles are put in the hands of the finishers and burnished with agate or bloodstone. Messrs. Hurd, Leigh & Co., constantly employ twenty hands. Families requiring chinaware for furnishing purposes or otherwise are sure to meet with anything in the line at their establishment. The *Journal of the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Upper Canada*, speaking of the firm, says:—"This elegant ornamental art was introduced into Canada for the first time, by Messrs. Hurd, Leigh & Co., Yonge Street, Toronto. The exceedingly beautiful wares of the English Potteries are so attractive to all who have the least taste that almost every family regards the possession of a set of beautiful china as among the first requisition of housekeeping. Unfortunately, however, the loss by breakage in transporting this class of goods from England to this country, is so great as to raise the price of the articles above the convenience of many to purchase. The Messrs. Hurd, Leigh & Co., familiar with the pottery business in all its practical details resolved to remedy this state of things by importing their fine porcelain without the ornamental work, and having the artistic embellishment executed here at their own establishment. They accordingly sent to England for a family of artists who had been educated at a school of design in connection with the potteries, and had long experience in working for some of the best establishments."