

following. In his "Subaltern's Furlough," Lieutenant Coke makes it to be a corrupt form, in some way, of the French *Ronde d'eau*: "It is so called from the circular bay upon whose margin the town is built." Sir Richard Bonnycastle, in his "Canada in 1841," will have it to be "the name, as it is supposed, of the Italian officer of engineers who built the fort, there being no word of this kind in any Indian language now understood in Canada." Lossing, in his "Field-Book of the War of 1812," accepting probably the guess of some interpreter unacquainted with any dialect but his own, says that the word is correctly "Taron-tah—Trees in the water," and "so," he asserts, "the French called the fort when they built it."

CHAPTER IV.

PREVIOUS HISTORY OF THE SITE OF YORK (CONTINUED). FORT ROUILLÉ.

THE name Toronto—with greater propriety, probably, if written at full length "Otoronto"—found a resting place at last, as we have already learned, at the locality which still retains it. More specifically, it became affixed to a French trading-post established on the spot in 1749, the proper official designation of which was Fort Rouillé, so named in compliment to Antoine Louis Rouillé, Count de Jouy, French Colonial Minister, 1749-54. In popular language Fort Rouillé came to be Fort Toronto, that is to say, the fort at Toronto; and as time went on, the popular expression appeared on the maps, while the official title of the station was almost forgotten.

This Fort Toronto—correctly speaking Fort Rouillé—was the building of which conspicuous traces continued to be visible down to 1878, when the ground was levelled for the purposes of the Toronto Industrial Association. The spot, with its grass-grown hillocks and shallow trenches, shewing the lines of the cedar pickets, was familiarly spoken of and described in the topographical books as "The Old French Fort." The establishment itself was burned in 1759 by order of the French Commander-in-chief, as we shall presently learn.