

GRANDFATHER'S CORNER.

BOYS AND GIRLS: I am going to talk to you now and then, in this quiet corner, kindly given by the Editors to you and me, to have all to our own selves. There are many things to speak of, but to-day we will have a little chat about Kingston. I was'n't born there—through no fault of my own, understand—but if the tenth commandment did'n't stand in the way, I should just envy those who were. Once on a time, it was amongst the most beautiful and important points in Canada. It has lost a few of its old time beauties, and somewhat of the importance arising from position, but although in these respects the glories of the past may be a little dimmed, they have been surpassed by many others of modern origin. But to my story. You already know that the first white men to take possession of the St. Lawrence were from Old France, and made settlements at Tadousac and Quebec, and on the banks of this, one of the most noble streams of the world, up to what is now Montreal. Missionaries led the way further and further west, fur traders followed, or kept pace with, but scarcely ever got ahead of them, and a few settlers made homes here and there outside of the walls of the fortified towns. In all Canada, two hundred and fifty years ago, there was not so many people as live in some single Township, in an Ontario County. The red man owned the greater part of the Continent of North America, and all of what we know as Canada. But he had furs which were valuable in Europe, and the French Government in old France and Canada knew the enormous profits to be made out of a trade in them. So while missionaries came from France to make Christians, governors and French soldiers came to make fortunes. The English, at

the same date, had possession of New England, of which the chief town was Boston. The Dutch held New York and Albany, then known as Manhatte and Orange, and the Hudson River and its tributaries. The Iroquois Indians, or Five Nations, called Senecas, Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas and Cayngas with their allies, the Mohicans, lived in what is now the State of New York. In what are now Ontario and Quebec dwelt the Hurons, and their allies the Ottawa's and Algonquins. There was constant war between these ancient enemies but the Iroquois, trading with the English and Dutch, and possessing superior weapons in consequence, were enabled to overpower the Hurons, and plunder them of their peltries, and to give passage through their territory, to Lake Ontario, to the English and Dutch adventurers, who were thus put in position to readily trade with the Hurons. The English and Dutch paid much more for furs than the French were willing to do, and so interfered with the French trade. This diversion of trade was a serious loss to the Frenchmen, and it was resolved that steps ought to be taken to check so undesirable a state of things. To command the Lakes, was to control the intercourse with the Hurons. Two missionaries, Fathers Dolier and Galinee, and a few French adventurers, reported that a suitable site for a strong fort existed at the foot of the first in the chain of the great Lakes. In 1671, Mons. De Courcelles, having obtained authority from the French Government, set out from the little town of Montreal, on the 3rd of June, to find his way up the St. Lawrence, to the mouth of Lake Ontario. Here he found what appeared to be an open sea without any bounds, and was able to confirm the report of the Sulpician missionaries. The Indians named