

possessed of the eloquence and literary skill of a Dufferin or a Lorne, shewed such zeal, courage, wisdom and ability, in the trying hour of need as Simcoe and Brock ; all this, combined with the quiet beauty of lake and river, forest and plain, may surely justify us like St. Paul, who boasted that he was the inhabitant of "no mean city," in rejoicing that we have a heritage of which we may justly feel proud.

FORT NIAGARA.

The earliest record we have of the spot brings up the name of the chivalric La Salle, that man of iron, whose adventurous career has been so well described by Parkman, who at each period of his life when the full cup of success was about to be placed to his lips saw it dashed to the ground. No life more full of high courage, of startling vicissitudes, of weary journeys, has been recorded. For a century this fort was held by the French, and the fleur-de-lis floated high ; then, for nearly forty years, the meteor flag of Britain ; the fort was then peacefully given up by Jay's treaty, and the Stars and Stripes waved to the breeze for twenty years, till the fort was taken at the point of the bayonet by our forces in 1813, and the Union Jack again fluttered from the flag-staff for a year, till by the treaty of Ghent the star-spangled banner once more floated, as it now does, after nearly eighty years.

On 6th December, 1678, a small vessel of ten tons from Fort Frontenac entered Niagara river ; the small company of sixteen men, headed by La Motte and Father Hennepin, chanted *Te Deum Laudamus*, after a stormy passage, and found a village of Seneca Indians. La Salle's vessel following, loaded with cordage, anchors, etc., brought from France for his scheme of Western exploration, was wrecked three miles west of Niagara, but the supplies were saved. We read that in constructing a stockade or palisaded storehouse the men used hot water to soften the frozen ground. The anchors and cables were saved from the wreck, and the small vessel was hauled to Lewiston, and lading, etc., carried twelve miles to Cayuga Creek, where the Griffin, the first vessel made by the pale face, that sailed Lake Erie, was built. (See the "Shipyard of the Griffin," by Remington of Buffalo, for the discussion as to the site of building operations.)