

first governor and true founder of settlement in Upper Canada. Tired of a military life, at an early age, he obtained in 1803 a grant from the Crown equivalent to half a million acres, or twenty-eight townships, in the fertile peninsula of Upper Canada. For fifty years he personally superintended the sale and settlement of this vast district, leaving, indeed, very considerable wealth to his heirs, but leaving to the Province of Upper Canada 150,000 of its most prosperous yeomanry.* Of these a considerable proportion, over a third, were Colonel Talbot's countrymen, irrespective of creed; but he was far from being a bigoted nationalist. Subsequently the settlement of the country upon the Otonabee was undertaken by the Hon. Peter Robinson, who drew largely on Ireland for his pioneers; whose after success and conduct in no respect disappointed their far-seeing patron. In the rebellion of 1837-'8, according to the testimony of Chief Justice Robinson and Sir Allan McNab, they stood unanimously true to their country, as did, with very few exceptions, their compatriots in Lower Canada, thanks to their own good sense, and the salutary advices of Father Phelan of Montreal, and Father McMahon of Quebec.

In Upper Canada, in the second generation from its settlement, the educated Irish settlers, almost all Protestants in religion, though liberals in politics, began to exercise a potent influence. Though their Catholic countrymen, neither before the Union nor since, have found the Protestant majority disposed to

* Colonel Talbot died at London, C.W., Feb. 6th, 1853, aged about 80.