

TORONTO:



THE QUEEN CITY.

I.—HISTORICAL.



TORONTO has a record second to none in the Municipal, Educational, Ecclesiastical and Commercial affairs of Canada. She lays no claim to a long, historic past, bristling with great event and stirring incident, nor does she boast landmarks on which the mold of ages has engraved its impression. Yet her story, if not inscribed on the page of classic antiquity, is interwoven with glowing legend, the romantic creations of picturesque or poetic fancy, devoid neither of passion nor pathos, in the domain of love or war; while to the student of the curious, the short chapter of her early topography offers material of some historic value. For, long ere her site had been staked out by Governor Simcoe, nation met nation on the shores of her beautiful bay to rendezvous for raid and rapine, or to smoke the calumet of peace; and later on, when the pale-face sought adventure or gain, on the great Indian trails, he bivouacked with the friendly Hurons at Toronto,—the most important port between the Georgian Bay and the outlets on the south-eastern shores of Lake Ontario. The fierce struggles of the warlike Iroquois for racial supremacy resulting in the extermination of the Hurons, and the martyrdom of the Jesuit missionaries, fill a chapter of horrors and of heroic sufferings, as do the energy and stratagem of the Voyageurs, one of pioneer enterprise. It was then, in 1749, that Toronto was first organized as a white man's centre of trade by the erection of a wooden fort, protected by a stockade. It was named Fort Rouillé, after the Colonial Minister of France then in power. Around this post a small community of French and Indians sprang up, and a few hundred acres of land were cleared. The British colonies to the south also sent out their intrepid traders, and thenceforward the strife was not between the Wyandots and Iroquois, but between the British and