

and chief responsibility devolving largely on the junior member of the firm, owing to long periods of illness to which Mr. Harris was subject during the last decade or more of their association in business. After lumbering a few years in the valley of the Upper Hudson, it became evident that the supply of pine would ere long be exhausted; Mr. Bronson therefore thought it would be wise to seek a field of ampler scope, and in the summer of 1848, made a prospecting tour into Canada. Striking the Ottawa valley, and ascending it as far as Bytown, where the famous Chaudière Falls are located, he made up his mind that here was a favorable spot for the manufacture of sawn lumber on the most liberal scale, the quality of the pine in this region being excellent and its supply seemingly inexhaustible. He saw also, at a glance, that the motive power of the Chaudière Falls was abundant, and that it would be no miracle to utilize it.

Returning to the State of New York, Mr. Bronson spent three more seasons in operations at the old establishment, his thoughts all the while wandering back to the vast forests of the Ottawa district, and the superior hydraulic privileges of the Chaudière. At length in the spring of 1852 he persuaded Mr. Harris to accompany him on a second trip to the Ottawa valley. Explorers from Maine, and other States engaged in lumbering, had preceded them, and after a thorough investigation of the "lay of the land"—more particularly of the water, had pronounced the Ottawa river, with its large lakes and angry water-falls, entirely unmanageable for the safe driving of saw-logs, the tributaries only of this stream, having, up to that date, been used for such a purpose, and those simply for the running of logs used in the deal trade with Great Britain. In spite of this judgment of old and experienced lumbermen, Messrs. Harris and Bronson, after visiting Bytown, and looking it over very carefully, decided that this was the place in which to centre their future operations. At that time Mr. Horace Merrill was General Superintendent of the Ottawa River Works, and they urged him to recommend an early sale of hydraulic lots at the Chaudière Falls, then held by the Crown. At the same time they signified their intention to be purchasers at such sale. The superintendent complied with their wishes, with the result that a sale was ordered for the following autumn. When it took place, Mr. Harris was present, and bought the lots on which one of the mills now owned and operated by the firm of which Mr. Bronson is senior partner, is situated. Mr. Bronson immediately removed his family to Ottawa (Mr. Harris's family remaining in New York); and in 1853, Messrs. Harris and Bronson began to build their mill, and in 1855 cut their first lumber north of the St. Lawrence. This was the first movement in this part of Canada, for the manufacture of sawn lumber for the United States market, and now the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, not to mention the other Provinces of the Dominion, are sending hundreds of millions of feet annually across the boundary line, where the chief market for Canadian lumber is found.

A portion of the original mill put up under the eye of Mr. Bronson is still standing. It embodied all the "modern improvements" found at that time in such mills, as well as iron