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JOHN DRYDEN.

John Dryden was born on the farm where he still lives in the summer of 1840. Twenty years before, his father, the late James Dryden, came a boy from England with his widowed mother, and the family found a home in the township of Whitby, county of Ontario. The family tree is ancient and venerable enough no doubt, but the branch of it transplanted to Canada is innocent of a pedigree. The John Dryden of literature may have been nourished on the parent stem, but if he was the fact is not known to his namesake of rural fame. John Dryden, the farmer, has a character of his own, born and bred into him as every believer in blood and breeding will say; yet a character which is distinctively his own by virtue of his environment, his training and his thinking. The public school system of this Province was founded just about the time that his school days began, and saving a year and a half spent at the county grammar school, his education was obtained at a country common school. Had he taken a university course he might have become a rare good scholar, for besides possessing the intellectual qualities he has the method and temperament which give boundless capacity for hard work. He has originality too, and in science or literature he could have won distinction, for he has the faculty of being able to take dry facts and put them into new, pleasing and living relations, and he can generalize with skilful judgment. But life on the farm had greater attrac-