

supremacy of man, when, directing his view to the intermediate spaces, to the winding of the valleys, or the expanse of plains beneath, he could only have distinguished a few insulated patches of culture, each encircling a village of wretched cabins, among which would still be remarked one rude mansion of wood, scarcely equal in comfort to a modern cottage, yet there rising proudly eminent above the rest, where the Saxon lord, surrounded by his faithful cotariff, enjoyed a rude and solitary independence, having no superior but his sovereign." This writer asks us to carry ourselves nine or ten centuries back, to realize the picture which he has conceived. From the upland here in the vicinity of Drynoch, less than half a century ago, gazing southwards over the expanse thence to be commanded, we should have beheld a scene closely resembling that which, as he supposed, was seen from the summit of Pendle in the Saxon days; while, at the present day, we see everywhere throughout the same expanse, an approximation to the old mother-lands, England, Ireland, and Scotland, in condition and appearance: in its style of agriculture, and the character of its towns, villages, hamlets, farm houses, and country villas.

We now entered a region once occupied by a number of French military refugees. During the Revolution in France, at the close of the last century, many of the devotees of the royalist cause passed over into England, where, as elsewhere, they were known and spoken of as *émigrés*. Amongst them were numerous officers of the regular army, all of them, of course, of the noblesse-order, or else, as the inherited rule was, no commission in the king's service could have been theirs. When now the royal cause became desperate, and they had suffered the loss of all their worldly goods, the British Government of the day, in its sympathy for the monarchical cause in France, offered them grants of land in the newly-organized province of Upper Canada. Some of them availed themselves of the generosity of the British Crown. Having been comrades in arms they desired to occupy a block of contiguous lots. Whilst there was yet almost all Western Canada to choose from, by some chance these Oak Ridges, especially difficult to bring under cultivation and somewhat sterile when subdued, were preferred, partly perhaps through the influence of sentiment; they may have discovered some resemblance to regions familiar to themselves in their native land. Or in a mood inspired and made fashionable by Rousseau they may have longed for a lodge in some vast wilderness "where the mortal coil" which had crushed the old society of Europe should no longer harass them. When twitted by the passing wayfarer who had selected land in a more propitious situation, they would point to the gigantic boles of the surrounding pines in proof of the intrinsic excellence of the soil below, which must be good, they said, to nourish such a vegetation. After all, however, this particular locality may have been selected rather for them, than by them. On the early map of 1793 a range of nine lots on each side of Yonge Street, just here in the Ridges, is bracketed and marked, "French Royalists: by order of his Honor," i.e., the President, Peter Russell. A postscript to the *Gazetteer* of 1799 gives the reader the information that "lands have been appropriated in the rear of York as a refuge for some French Royalists, and their settlement has commenced." On the Vaughan side, No. 56 was occupied conjointly by Michel Saigeon and Francis Reneux; No. 57 by Julien le Bugle; No. 58 by René Aug. Comte de Châlûs, Amboise de Farey and Quetton St. George conjointly; No. 59 by Quetton St. George; No. 60 by Jean Louis Vicomte des Châlûs. In King, No. 61 by René Aug. Comte de Châlûs and Augustin Boiton conjointly. On the Markham side: No. 52 is occupied by the Comte de Puisaye; No. 53 by René Aug. Comte de Châlûs; No. 54 by Jean Louis Vicomte de Châlûs and René Aug. Comte de Châlûs conjointly; No. 55 by Jean Louis Vicomte de Châlûs; No. 56 by le Chevalier de Marseuil and Michel Fauchard conjointly; No. 57 by the Chev. de Marseuil; No. 58 by René Létourneaux, Augustin Boiton and J. L. Vicomte de Châlûs conjointly; No. 59 by Quetton St. George and Jean Furon conjointly; No. 60 by Amboise de Farey. In Whitchurch, No. 61 by Michel Saigeon.

After felling the trees in a few acres of their respective allotments, some of these *émigrés* withdrew from the country. Hence in the Ridges was to be seen here and there the rather unusual sight of abandoned clearings returning to a state of nature.

The officers styled Comte and Vicomte de Châlûs derived their title from the veritable domain and castle of Châlûs in Normandy, associated in the minds of all young readers of English History with the death of Richard Cœur de Lion. Jean Louis de Châlûs, whose name appears on numbers 54 and 55 in Markham and on other lots, was a Major-General in the Royal Army of Brittany. At the balls given by the Governor and others at York, the jewels of Madame la