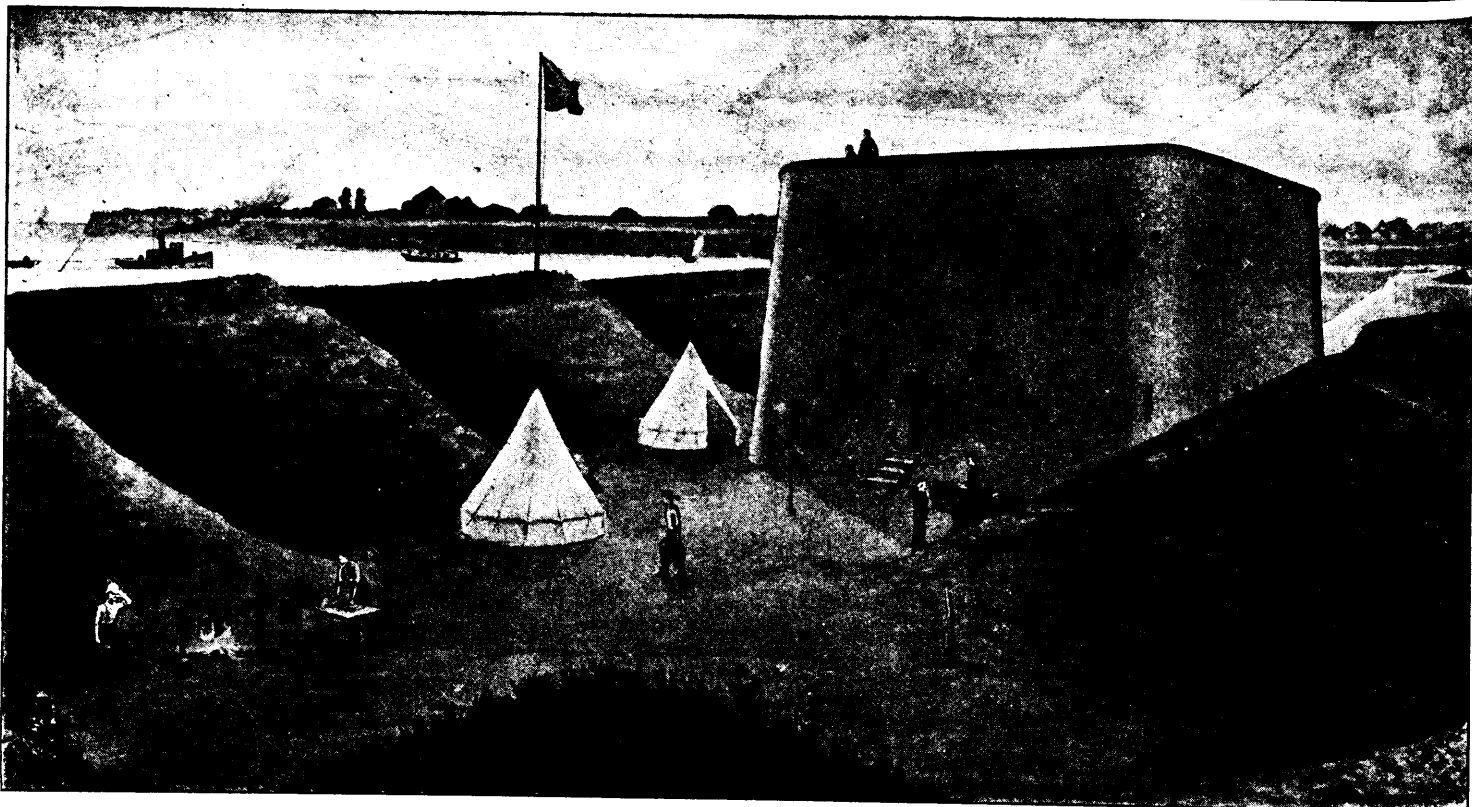




FORT MISSISSAUGA.

HISTORIC CANADA, II.

Fort Mississauga.

Fort Mississauga is situated on the lake front, and there the ruined remains of its thick, strong earthworks and massive brick tower are still plainly to be seen a few hundred yards to the west of the Queen's Royal Hotel. The earthen embankments were thrown up at the time of the building of Fort George in 1792, or immediately afterwards; but the huge tower in the centre of the enclosure was not erected until several years later, when it was built with bricks from the ruined walls of the houses of the town of Niagara, which had been set on fire by order of the American General McClure in the war of 1812. Though not so extensive as Fort George, this lake-shore fort was not less solidly nor scientifically constructed, and owing,

among other things, to the fact that the interior has not been turned into a farm, the outline of the bastions and other portions of the fortification is much more clearly and sharply defined. In fact, the projecting and re-entrant angles, the covered way and underground passages, the principal entrance with its massive double-plank gate thickly studded with iron bolts, the magazine and store-rooms, and all the other salient features of the stronghold may still be readily identified, and could easily be preserved from final destruction and disappearance by the outlay of a little pains and money. Even the old brick tower in the middle could be saved, if the necessary repairs were made on it immediately; but soon it will be too late, solid and exceptionally massive as it once was; it is rapidly crumbling, an eye-sore and a disgrace to the country. These old forts are not, of course, required for

purposes of defence, and still less for purposes of attack; they would be useless for either purpose if they were required. But surely it would not be too much to expect that they should be at least retained in their present condition as exceedingly interesting landmarks of our past history, even if they be not restored to something like the condition they were in three-quarters of a century ago. Economy is an excellent thing, but it is possible to carry it too far. No person, we are sure, and certainly no patriotic Canadian, would object to a trifling outlay on these venerable ruins. It would not cost much to bring them into a condition of which we would not be ashamed; at present they are but ghastly and forlorn shadow of former substance and greatness. Fort Mississauga is spelt in a variety of ways, as Mississauga, Mississauga, Missasaga, Massasaga, Massasaga, and half a dozen others.

Science and Art in Toronto.

[From an occasional contributor.]

TORONTO, October, 1890.

Despite the presence in our city of two old favourites—Robert Burdette and Roland Reed, the Woman's Congress, representing the Association for the Advancement of Woman, has been the event of the week. Invited by the city in the spring, the city, as represented by mayor and aldermen, received the Association with the consideration due to such distinguished guests, and, by tending them a public reception, testified the warmth of their welcome. The reception was held in the theatre of the Normal School, the Honorable the Minister of Education for Ontario thereby testifying his sympathy with the aims and objects of the Association, and in the same building comfortable committee rooms and other conveniences necessary to the work of so important a gathering were provided.

And work the Association did. "We shall have little or no time for junketing," wrote the energetic treasurer to the local committee. Indeed it has caused widespread regret that, owing to this fact, Toronto society has had positively no opportunity of meeting Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and other eminent women among the delegates, save at the crowded public reception. Several of the ladies—Mrs. Howe, Miss Mary F. Eastman, Mrs. Colby, and Mrs. Florence Kollock—are staying over Sunday, but each has some special engagement—such as preaching or speaking—which necessitates her delay, the rest of the party having gone to Buffalo to spend Monday there by special invitation, and giving Tuesday to Rochester, from which city, the home of Susan B. Anthony, the venerable and delightful, an invitation was telegraphed as soon as it was known our visitors had really arrived.

Seldom has Toronto had an opportunity of listening to such papers as have been read before them this week. No crude, ill-digested, speculative statements, but a dealing with the subjects proposed by those who know—women who, having already made their mark upon public literature, can deal with questions from the cultivated standpoint that alone has weight. When Julia Ward Howe talked on "The Practical Value of Philosophy," we knew we were listening to a master mind. When Mary Eastman spoke of "Woman in the State," we had to bow, willingly or unwillingly, to her logic and the clear perception that showed us the folly of our prejudices. "The Scientific Work and Influence of Maria Mitchell" was not less inspiring than interesting, and both in her success as an astronomer, and her immense influence as a teacher of that

abstruse study, formed a sufficient reply to the opponents of women's mental freedom, as well as furnished another instance, like those of Elizabeth Barrett Browning and George Eliott, of the gift a father makes to the world who gives his daughter the highest education of the time, irrespective of sex. A highly appreciative and critical paper on "Ibsen's Plays" was read by its writer, Mrs. Ellen Mitchell, of Colorado, and attracted, no doubt by the fame of the papers already given, a number of our literary men, such as Dr. Withrow, G. Mercer Adam, Richard Lewis, the venerable elocutionist and Shakespearian student, George Robinson, and Prof. Ashley, Toronto University, were present. Our university men as a rule have been conspicuous by their absence, whether governed by the indifference, not only manifested but testified to, by Sir Daniel Wilson in the matter, or for other clauses, cannot be said; but save by Prof. Clark, of Trinity, who represented the universities at the reception, no sympathy has been shown in a quarter where high intellectual gifts and attainments are supposed to be best appreciated. No doubt sex stood in the way. The paper on "More Pedagogy in Universities and Schools," written by Mrs. Bundy, of Illinois, and read by Mrs. Parker, the wife and assistant of Mr. Parker, the founder of the Normal School of Chicago, was a powerful and well supported plea for the education of teachers in teaching and a chair of Pedagogy (the second *g* was pronounced soft by the speakers, except Miss Eastman, who retained the older fashion*) was spoken of as a vital necessity in our universities. In Toronto University, though there is no chair, the principle is acknowledged, and the Education Department has for a year or two required that graduates who entered our High Schools as teachers, should take a Normal course in teaching of at least six months.

One or two notable incidents connected with the meetings of the Women's Congress are worthy of mention. One was the presence as a delegate of Dr. Martha Mowry, of Providence, R.I., the first woman medical practitioner in the United States. In Toronto she met the first medical practitioner in Canada, Dr. Emily H. Stowe, who became a member of the Association, which is a branch Sorosis, and through whose zeal and endeavour the Association became our visitors. Many of your readers will know that the theatre of our Normal School is richly decorated with

*The system sound is undoubtedly in accord with the best usage. Of course in Greek *g* is always hard, but in English words derived from Greek, it is hard only before *a*, *o* and *u*.—ED. D. I.

busts standing on brackets about the walls—representing devotees of the arts and sciences best known to English literature and history, beside royal personages of esteem. Here are Brougham, Nollekens, Cowper, Sterne, Charles I., Oliver Cromwell, Rowland Hill, O'Connell, Disraeli, Prior, Pope, Whewell, Lyndhurst, the Duchess of Kent, the Dowager Duchess of Gloucester, the Queen, Prince Albert—as English people best love to call him, Empress Eugenie, the Princess of Wales, Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, and a hundred more, all excellent and authentic likenesses. On Wednesday afternoon such a glory of sunshine rested upon the head of Queen Elizabeth that the President, poet as she is, stopped the proceedings in order to call attention to it, and accept it as a message of congratulation to themselves from one of the strongest-minded and ablest queens that ever sat on a throne. I must leave other able papers than those I have referred to untouched, space being too limited, and notice the last that was read at this Congress—"The Study of American History"—by Mrs. Kate Tennant Woods, Massachusetts, because in it the writer drew attention to the fact that while large sums are spent and great interest exhibited in the ruins and remains of the Old World, as it is called, enquiry has led to the conclusion that America is the Old World, and we know that Central America is full of the remains of peoples whose monuments equal in grandeur and value of any records yet discovered.

The perfect self-possession, grace and high breeding both of manner and speech of these ladies were very generally remarked upon. Except in an isolated case or two, there was no Yankeeism. English ears could, however, discover the slightest tincture of the dialectic peculiarities that had distinguished the forefathers of some—nay, most of these ladies; Mrs. Howe's speech was the perfection of elegant English as her manner is the perfection of breeding. It is evident that the learning these ladies undoubtedly possess is not a veneer put on over common or cheap education, and the most exacting could find no fault either with manner, speech or deportment.

Seeing that I have written so largely on the subject of the Association, believing your readers would be sufficiently interested in it, I must defer one or two other matters until another opportunity. I ought not, however, to omit saying that during the session of Friday afternoon a telegram was received, addressed to the president, from Lady Aberdeen, who was travelling in British Columbia, expressing her regret at her inability to be present, and wishing the Association a successful and agreeable visit. It is needless to say that the telegram was received with much applause.