

THE CITY OF HAMILTON.

Hamilton is beautifully situated on the south shore of Burlington Bay. It covers a space about two miles in length of the level which reaches from the lake shore to the mountain, and is about a mile and a-half in width. The surrounding neighborhood is celebrated for its fertility.

The mountain is an escarpment to the broad plateau of Western Ontario, worn down by the ceaseless dash of the waters of the ancient lake. It stretches away to the east, forming the precipices over which leap Niagara and the Genesee.

North-west of the city are Burlington Heights, a wall of concrete built up and cemented together by the action of the water, in the same way that Burlington Beach, which separates the bay from the lake, is now being compacted.

In the year 1678 La Salle visited the site of the city and ascended the mountain. The first settler in the vicinity of Hamilton was Robert Land, who was born on the banks of the Delaware, and served on the side of the British during the revolutionary war. In 1778 he took up 300 acres, occupying the greater part of the east end of the city between the mountain and the bay.

Between 1796 and 1812 several settlers arrived. In the latter year the site of the city was occupied by Robert, Abel and Ephraim Land, John Aikman, Col. Richard Beasley, Peter Ferguson, James Mills, Peter Hess, Nathaniel Hughson, Daniel Kirkendall, and Capt. James Durand. A man named Barnum kept a tavern on the north-west corner of King and James streets, and owned the land from King to Merrick.

In 1814, William Sheldon, opened the first store, a frame building on