

asked was never fulfilled; his repeated requests, even to be furnished with a copy of it, were steadily refused. It is presumed that he was the first manufacturer of wrought iron in the Canadas.*

Toward the close of the last century, Mr. Randall purchased one-half of the Bridgewater Works, and the grist and saw-mills at Niagara Falls, from Messrs McGill and Canby, and the other half from Mr. Elijah Phelps; took possession; carried on a large mercantile and milling business in the early part of the present century; and gave such extensive country credits as induced him, after the failure of his British and Quebec correspondents, Messrs. Burton and McCulloch, to surrender possession of the Bridgewater property for a time to meet certain Lower Canada claims.† His tenant in possession, the late J. Durand, Esquire, made over the property informally to Messrs. Clark and Street, and Colonel Clark went to England after the War of 1812, and had a very imperfect title changed into a land-patent from or by authority of the Prince Regent, Mr. R. being then in the Montreal Prison. This deed was obtained upon exparte statements.

Besides his establishment at Niagara Falls, Mr. Randall had a large mercantile concern at Cornwall, where he built the Episcopal Church. In 1807, he explored the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers, accompanied by Indians; readily perceived the value of the Chaudière Falls property at the Richmond Landing; and employed Mr. H. J. Boulton and his father, to get a patent from Governor Sir F. Gore, of 1,000 acres in Nepean, of which Lot No. 240, on the Ottawa, (some 276 acres) is now in the heart of Bytown, and Lot No. 238 close by it. Six hundred acres, rich with iron ore, in Hull, adjoining Bytown, also belong to his estate; he was the first settler in Bytown—had a store there, in the wilderness, as early as 1809—and was preparing to go into the business of manufacturing iron on the Ottawa, when he was arrested for a debt at the suit of the late Col. Thomas Clark, who visited him often in Gaol, at Montreal to induce him, for a consideration, to quit his claim to the Bridgewater Estate at Niagara Falls, but in vain.

After nearly seven years of close confinement there, and when the patent to Clark for Niagara Falls property was completed, Randall's prison doors were opened, and he immediately went to Niagara, employed the elder Mr. Boulton, then Attorney-General, to commence an action for part of his damages, and got £10,000 of a verdict, which was set aside by the King's Bench Court, in banc; in another suit, damages were also given him, and the case was left to an arbitration, at which nothing was done.

When the senior Mr. Boulton was placed on the King's Bench, he advised Randall to fee his son, Henry John, which he did: the father then handed over all the papers in Randall's matters to his son, and took the Niagara Circuit where Randall's case was by far the most important, though he had determined not to try it, but to throw it another year back; the son asked Randall for his note for £25, for crossing from Toronto to Niagara, under these circumstances; got it; and then the father refused to hear the cause. Mr. H. J. Boulton also got of Randall a mortgage on Lot 11, in Nepean, for a balance of charges alleged to be due to his father, the Judge, on the unfinished lawsuit, and on account of the son's labors as Attorney in the same cause.‡

Randall had struggled for justice against the wealthiest men in Canada West, till he was penniless; Boulton knew this, and assured him he would never desert him. There was no Court of Equity during Randall's lifetime into which he could bring Colonel Clark's title to Niagara Falls estate; and in April 1819, Boulton turned round upon him, claiming about £50 for his father's services; £47 for attending at an arbitration not gone into; about £16 of interest, and the above note for £25; in all about £142. Boulton sent him (Randall) a summons for these law costs, and then

* In his petition to Sir F. Gore, 1800, now on file in the Executive Council Office, Mr. Randall states that the first wheaten flour manufactured in Upper Canada for the European market, was ground at his Bridgewater Mills. See documents—letter K.

† Na. Burton and J. M. McCulloch, merchants, Lower Canada, in 1800, 1801 and 1802.

‡ See documents,—letter C.