

Mt. Forest.

Granny Horsburg, a Remarkable Woman—The Horsburgs, of Horsburg Castle, Scotland—Ten Years Alone in the Wilderness—An Attractive and Flourishing Town.

Nearly seventy years ago, or to be more exact, in the summer of the year 1838, there might have been seen, along the Indian trail, leading from Hamilton on Lake Ontario to Owen Sound on Georgian Bay, tramping by day and camping at night in the dense forest, a man and a woman, who had both passed life's meridian, without losing their energy of mind, or vigor of body. They had left behind them in Berwickshire, Scotland, on the banks of the Tweed, a grown son and a grandson in his infancy, and come to the wilds of Canada in hope, perhaps, of recouping the lost wealth of the House of Horsburg, of Horsburg Castle, which traced its ancestry back to the days of William the Norman. This man, William Horsburg, was a direct descendant of that ancient family. The basic fact that this section of the wilderness, and the first forest monarch that bowed his head to kiss the foot of advancing civilization, was felled by the axe of this descendant of the Horsburgs. He was the first and only settler in this section of the wilderness for many years. That first tree was felled on the west side of the Owen Sound trail—now road—that runs along the brow of the hills on the south side of the river, and then he cut the first hole in the forest, and erected the first hut of logs, to be seen on the site of the present town, or in its vicinity, for more than a decade. The daily life of the lone family, waiting in the wilderness for the coming of a neighbor, if all its incidents could be gathered, would make, no doubt, a romantic story of patient labor, of a larger chiefly furnished by the fish from the Mattawan, or Saugeen River, but a few steps from the cabin, the pheasants and deer of the forest, and the vegetables they cultivated among the stumps. But the descendants of the Horsburgs kept no journal, and it is from the memory of a grandson it is learned that, having made his family self-supporting, he left them and wandered to Michigan, returning after seven years to remain for a few years, and then enter upon that journey "from whose hours no traveler returns." Now this cabin was long the wilderness tavern and named the Blue Bonnet, giving food and shelter and tobacco to the weary traveler, who followed the trail. During the long years of Horsburg's absence, and probably after his death, his wife, who came to be known as Granny Horsburg, was the hostess of this primitive tavern, and she alone appears to live, a graphic picture in the recollections of the few oldest inhabitants. She is described, when very old, as vigorous, bronzed by the sun to the complexion of an Indian, and carrying a long staff in her hand. She had been a woman, when hostess of her tavern, who, to meet the demands of her pioneer guests, often tramped seventy-five miles along the trail to Brantford, her nearest depot of supplies, and returned with a load of twenty pounds upon her shoulders. The woman of to-day, with the muscle and the fortitude to accomplish such a task, would arouse the world's wonder. If pluck and endurance might render a woman famous in the humble walks of life, Granny Horsburg should live in the memory of the citizens of this beautiful town, whose name she should have been Horsburg. Notwithstanding the town, with its electric light and

its efficient water works, both owned by the corporation; its long business street of white brick, many-storied buildings, its cement pavements of many miles in extent; its fine schools, churches and town hall, its delightful residences, with their well-kept lawns, their shrubbery and shading trees tell their story of changed conditions and modern comforts. Notwithstanding, too, it boasts of its great Weir wardrobe factory, with its numerous storefurnishing inventories; its Leslie Bros. sash and door factory; its Mount Forest Carriage Factory Co., employing 100 men; its oat mills, chopping and flouring mills, woolen mills, saw mills and other industries, which demonstrate that all things have become new, yet from our too selfish, matter-of-fact era, the memories and romance of the old time should not be banished. There is always a halo about the past, that serves to brighten the present. We appreciate the comforts of to-day by contrast with the discomforts of yesterday, and those who risked the dangers, performed the labors and endured the hardships, which paved the way for this modern era, should be remembered. The town should be called Horsburg.

Save this little story of Granny Horsburg there is little now that can be recalled of the very beginning of the hamlet on the south side of the river—the modern town grew upon the north side—but there is a lively recollection among the old men of some fifteen years later, when religious prejudices and whiskey in combination resulted in many a street fight in the little village. "And one of those fights," said Mr. Alex Allan, "cost me \$15. We are all peaceable people now, and all those old and foolish differences, if not forgotten, have been forgiven. I was in some of them myself. But in only one was there ever a life lost. It was a foolish quarrel over a mere opinion of the parties differed both in politics and religion, and so did the crowd. While two were fighting and the excited crowd was swaying someone stabbed Edward Cosgrove with an umbrella. I never heard of a fatal result from such a weapon before nor since. It entered the man's temple, the surgeon removed a section of the bone, with the hole thru it, in hope of saving his life. I was in attendance, and it was given to me to hold. I offered to return it to the surgeon, but he told me to keep it. In a short time the man was dead. Then a man named McEachern was arrested and after several trials acquitted. Every time I was called with that little shell of bone, and it cost me in expenses, I would have before the court would let me throw it away. There hasn't been a 'discussion' wide stick for over 30 years. The follies of the past and the lessons of the present, even John Barleycorn seems impotent to stir up a row. The river is an industrial feature of the town, with its three power-heads, and helps to render the town picturesque and desirable for residence. The town owns its electric plant and is prepared to furnish power for light industries, which ought to flourish here, where there is nothing new to employ women and girls. It has both the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific roads, furnishing ample and competing facilities for transportation, and is contemplating the building of a spur track connecting both roads with the industrial area. Its officials seem to be progressive, and on the alert, and all conditions seem favorable to its growth. Canada is importing large quantities of what are called sanitary or breakfast foods from Michigan. Why, in the midst of this rich grain country, should they be imported in such a town as this? W. J. S.

KEEWATIN REPORTED.

New C. P. R. Liner Arrives in the Gulf.

MONTREAL, Sept. 23.—The C.P.R. steamer Kewatin, bound for the lakes, where she will in future navigate, is reported in the gulf, and will proceed to Quebec to go thru the process of being cut in two for the trip up the river to go thru the canals.

The Assiniboia, a sister ship, has about completed that process at Quebec, and will start west in a few days.

The Kewatin and Assiniboia are modern freight and passenger steamers, equipped with every known convenience. They will run on the Owen Sound-Port William route, with the present vessels of the line—Manitoba, Athabasca and Alberta.

The Assiniboia is expected to make her first trip from Owen Sound early in November.

MR. BYRNES GOES WEST.

OTTAWA, Sept. 24.—(Special.)—John Byrnes, chief of inspection of the trade and commerce department, leaves tonight for the Northwest to visit the grain elevators in the wheat district.

Assignments. G. W. Bradshaw, goods' furnisher, College-street, assigned to R. Tew yesterday. F. Keel, a jeweler doing business at 162 East Queen-street, assigned to E. R. C. Clarkson on Saturday. Keel also had a branch store at 612 Dundas-street.

Members of the Standard Stock and Mining Exchange.

HAMBERS & SON, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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