

OUR OWN COUNTRY.

TORONTO AND ITS VICINITY.*

I.



PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, TORONTO.

THERE are few cities in the world that are more admirably situated or more naturally adapted for an all-the-year-round residence than Toronto, the Queen City of the Lakes. Situated as it is, in the heart of the temperate zone, its climate tempered and made equable by the broad waters of Lake Ontario, with a beautiful harbour which renders boating and bathing safe and pleasant pastimes during the summer months, together with many other advantages, Ontario's capital can hold her own against the world as an ideal home.

The summer climate of Toronto is remarkably healthful and equable, and is one of the finest in the world. The days are bright and sunny. There is almost invariably a cool breeze from some quarter, and the nights and mornings are cool and

delightful. There are no diseases due to climatic influences, such as malaria or hayfever. Sunstroke is almost unknown in this region. The rainfall is not excessive, an occasional thunderstorm only serving to cool the atmosphere and refresh the foliage. The average summer humidity is about 71°. The streets are well shaded by luxuriant and ornamental shade trees. There are no cyclones, hurricanes, or very high winds. Wild flowers in endless variety bloom in the parks and neighbouring woods and ravines from May to October. Almost every plant that requires a hot summer can thrive in Ontario. The proximity of such a large body of fresh water as that of Lake Ontario undoubtedly assists largely in equalizing the temperature.

The area within the city limits is

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