

At the time of the construction of the Burlington Bay Canal, the outlet was deepened, so that vessels could pass through it. Since then it has been further improved, and is now a capacious canal, affording ample space for the passage of our largest lake steamers.

The Beach varied in width at different places, from twenty or thirty rods to a quarter or, perhaps, a little over a quarter of a mile. Deposits gradually accumulated upon the narrow ridge of sand, and formed a soil in some parts which, in process of time, became covered with grass, wild flowers and clumps of plum and other wild fruit trees, with fantastically twisted trunks, their foliage affording a delightful shade, and altogether constituting the beach a strange combination of bleakness and beauty.

Here the early settlers used to procure an abundant supply of the very best varieties of fish, such as salmon, white-fish, salmon-trout, etc. Water-fowl, too, were most abundant upon the bay, and the adjacent marshes, and afforded the people great relief in times of scarcity. Even to this day the Beach is a valuable fishing ground, although the fish are not so plentiful as formerly, and that aristocrat among the finny tribes, the salmon, has almost entirely disappeared from its waters.

The Beach, in the days of its pristine glory, was a favorite resort of the Indians. Here they came for generations, with their wives and little ones, and feasted on the treasures of the land and waters. The children sported without care, while the warriors and hunters rested and slept beneath the inviting shades of the spreading, though short and gnarled oaks, and other forest trees, stunted with the contest which they had maintained for their lives with the fierce wind which swept over them,—now down from the bay, then up from the bosom of broad Ontario.

At the northern end of the Beach, the famous Indian Chief, Thayendanagea, or Captain Joseph Brant, as he was more generally called, established himself after the close of the Revolutionary war. His residence stood upon the bank of the magnificent lake, fronting its lovely waters. To the east the land was heavily timbered, and to the north and north-west extended a fertile plain. When this wild and romantic region was

occupied by its original possessors, while the braves were away on the war-path, or the hunters roaming about in the forest, here the feeblér portion of the tribe planted their corn, and subsisted upon the fish which swarmed in the adjacent waters, or the wild fruits which grew spontaneously on both sides of the bay.

A large tract of fine land in this place—long known as "Brant's Block," was granted by the Government to the Chief, in acknowledgment of his services to the Crown during the Revolutionary war. And here the haughty Chieftain, who had carried himself with the same self-possessed dignity in the highest circles of the British Empire, as in a council with his own warriors, yielded to the foe which vanquishes all men, and closed his strangely varied and diversely estimated life.

Near the spot thus made historic, now stands Wellington Square, one of the busiest little towns to be found on the western end of the lake. It is a shipping port, whence the products of a large extent of rich agricultural country are shipped for Europe.

"Brant's Block" was long since surveyed and sold. It is now studded with comfortable farm houses, stately mansions, extensive orchards, and highly cultivated fields. The dwellers within its bounds may truly say,—
"The lines have fallen to us in pleasant places."

There is a suggestive Indian legend told, of events said to have transpired here :—

Many, many snows before the pale faces arrived, two large tribes—between whom the most friendly relations existed—were fishing and hunting along the shores of the Lake. One of these tribes occupied the north shore, from the Beach to the Credit; the other the south shore, from the Beach to the mouth of the Twenty Mile Creek. It would appear that without any mutual understanding between them to that effect, both tribes simultaneously determined to remove for a time to the Beach. Each abandoned their respective camps about the same time. The old men, the women and children taking the canoes, and the young men going round by land. As the two fleets of birch bark canoes neared the Beach, each set of voyagers descried the other. They landed at points