

Mr. Gore first came to Canada, and for some time afterwards, in a part of the country remote from the seat of Government ; and during the remainder of his first administration I was a student at law, or, in plainer phrase, a lawyer's clerk, too young to give much attention to public measures, or to be able to appreciate the conduct and motives of public men. In September 1815, I went to England, to keep my terms in Lincoln's Inn, and left Canada on that occasion, a few days only, I think, before Mr. Gore arrived there to assume the government a second time. His return to Canada must have taken every one by surprise, for it was not anticipated when I left Toronto, though he must then have been on his voyage out. Before I returned, in November 1817, Mr. Gore had retired from the government, so that I was not in Canada at all during his second administration.

I saw him in August, 1806, as he passed through the village in which I was at school, on his way from Quebec to Toronto, with his secretary, Major Halton, having then just arrived from England. He went to the parish church there, of which the present Bishop of Toronto was then rector. All persons who saw him, I think, were very favourably impressed by his firm, frank, manly bearing and appearance.

Upper Canada was at that time, one great wilderness—everything was in a very rough state. The population of the whole province did not exceed 40 or 50,000, dispersed over a country as large as Great Britain, or very nearly so. Kingston, the largest town, had scarcely 600 inhabitants ; York, the capital, probably not 500 ; Niagara, about as many ; and besides there were but four or five inconsiderable villages.