

A late writer in reference to this subject, and his statement is just as applicable to Hamilton as to any other township says: "The pioneer days of Ontario's early settlement are fast receding from view, but I sometimes think it would be well to recall some of the heroes and heroines of that past, for theirs' was a life-long consecration to the good of those who succeeded to the rich inheritance, conquered from the forest. The luxuries which we now demand as necessities, were to them unknown, and their toil was long and arduous. Mechanical appliances to lighten labor were almost unknown, but theirs was a community of interest that united scattered settlements in one common brotherhood. And then there were social gatherings where hilarity was unbounded. Bees for every conceivable purpose were organized—husking corn, paring apples, cutting logs, raising buildings, logging, quilting, were each in turn the occasion of festive gatherings. And when lads and lassies gathered in the large kitchen and danced to the rollicking tunes of some amateur fiddler, there was no occasion for pity nor anyone who thought their lot a hard one."

It has often been remarked of Upper Canada, that the first settlers were not destined to be the permanent occupiers of the land, and that in the course of a few years the original colonists were almost superseded by an entirely different class of persons. Some became discouraged by the hardships they were called upon to endure and left, others after making a clearance sold to some new comer and went anew to the bush. Clearing a farm from the forest and working a farm after it is cleared are two very different occupations. We have heard pioneers say they would much rather go into the bush and chop and log and clear up land than plant and plough after the land was cleared. As a class the old settlers were a hospitable race, they welcomed you to their homes with utmost cordiality and cheerfulness, and shared with you the best they had even if their pantries were not overfull.

ASSESSMENT OF 1826.

Through the kindness of Mr. J. Williams, we have had an opportunity of examining the collector's roll of this township for the year 1826, at that time Cobourg was included in the