

six years, took place in St. Luke's Church on Tuesday the 12th inst. Mrs. Robinson was the oldest inhabitant of Waterloo at her death, having come to live here in the year 1821. She was born in Newfane, Vt., U. S., came to Canada with her husband and lived for a short time at South Stukely, then moved to Waterloo, where she has resided ever since. Her husband died in 1851. The family of Mrs. Robinson consisted of nine children, only four of whom survive her—three sons and a daughter. Two of her sons are prominent clergymen in this diocese. Mrs. Robinson has been widely known for her charity. Every good object brought to her notice was aided by her liberality. She sent none away discouraged. Her Christmas donations to the missionaries around her, to whom she gave on the principle of scarcely letting her left hand know what her right hand did, will make those she cared for feel that they have lost a very dear friend. Many mourners followed her remains to the grave.

ONTARIO.

THE LATE MR. JOHN FENNINGS TAYLOR, FORMERLY CLERK OF THE SENATE.—Mr. John Fennings Taylor belonged to what may be termed the pure middle class of the English people. He was born on the 26th January, 1801, and consequently had passed the age which man may hope to reach without labor or sorrow. His grandfather, Mr. Arthur Taylor, was a freeholder of the counties of Suffolk and Essex. In the former county he and his forefathers for several generations owned a farm called the Brook Farm, situated, we believe, near the borders of the two counties and a few miles from the town of Hadleigh. In the latter county he owned some freehold property in the town of Harwich.

A reference to the town of Hadleigh may excuse the mention of what by some may be regarded as a fond conceit, but what the late Mr. Taylor cherished as a precious family tradition that rested on a basis of truth. The writer is aware that he had reasons for doing so, and such reasons as would not be dismissed as inconclusive by persons who are not only insensible to the worth of local and hereditary legends. Mr. Taylor had been told, and as the testimony came from the earlier generations of his race, he reverently believed it, that his family was united by collateral or direct descent with the Rev. Rowland Taylor, D.D., who, when rector of the parish was, as one of the earliest of the Marian martyrs, burnt at Hadleigh in the year 1555. Forty-five years ago a rude monument, which has since been replaced by a more elaborate one, marked the spot on the neighboring common where Dr. Taylor's martyrdom took place. It was an unequally shaped boulder like stone, one side of which had been chiselled and made comparatively smooth. In the neighborhood it was called "the martyr's stone," and bore the following suggestive but rude inscription:—

A 1555
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Mr. Arthur Taylor had three sons and one daughter. The youngest of the sons, George, married Catherine, a daughter of Mr. John Fennings, a gentleman of some estate, and that time a resident of the town of Harwich. The issue of this marriage was two sons, the younger being the subject of this notice, and several daughters.

Parenthetically it may be observed, and the York Pioneers will probably appreciate the parenthesis, that the influences which seem to control the movements of individuals, irrespective of any plan of life made by, or for them, are occasionally curious and sometimes remarkable. In the present instance we shall merely state the facts and leave conclusions to those who may trouble themselves to form them. A little more than a century ago those who controlled affairs in the revolted colonies of North America addressed a passionate appeal to the Protestant inhabitants of the British Provinces to unite with them in their rebellion against the British Crown, promising if they would do so to crush Roman Catholicism in Lower Canada. On the other hand the Roman Catholics of Lower Canada who were suffering under the weight of intolerable disabilities, had applied to the British Government for redress. The Home Government was in a great straight. The Roman Catholic population of Lower Canada represented an important force, and there could be no doubt they were suffering under acute religious grievances. On the other hand to give relief to such sufferers, like putting a match to powder, would, it was feared, result in a serious explosion. However, the case was urgent, so in 1778, in the 18th year of the reign of George III., a bill was introduced by Sir George Saville, entitled an "Act for relieving His Majesty's subjects professing the Popish religion from certain penalties and disabilities," etc. That was the match. It had been applied by Lord North's Ministry, and the dreaded result followed. The bill became law. In one sense the time was inopportune, as the English army for the most part was in the rebellious colonies. Discontent in England soon took the shape of tumult, for in 1779 the revolt known as the Lord George Gordon riots took place. The regular force at that time stationed in London was a battalion of the West York Militia, one of the officers of which was a Capt. John Denison, a cadet of the great Yorkshire family of that name. After the Gordon riots were suppressed, the West Yorkshire Battalion of Militia was ordered to Languard Fort, a fort on the eastern coast hard by the town of Harwich. Here Capt. Denison met the only daughter of Mr. Arthur Taylor. After a time the meeting ended in marriage, and the marriage eventually landed them in Upper Canada. On the independence of the thirteen colonies being recognized, the army was reduced and the militia disbanded. It is not easy for military men to adapt themselves to the occupations of civil life. This difficulty was experienced by Capt. Denison, and consequently he was in the exact frame of mind to see other lands and settle in a new one. The opportunity arrived. Protestant feeling, which had been sorely outraged by the Act of the 18th, George III., was partially appeased by the Act 31st, George III. By the latter act the old Province of Quebec was separated into Upper and Lower Canada, so the members of the "Protestant religion," and of the "Popish religion," as they were respectively called, were to be enclosed in separate folds, and within certain limits had space and verge enough to carry on their spiritual and civil affairs in their own ways.

The Act 31 George III. was passed in 1791. In 1792 Captain and Mrs. Denison arrived in Upper Canada. Soon after the town of York was declared to be the Capital. Captain Denison and his family settled there. He made a meritorious contribution to the new place. Before his arrival there was, we were informed, only one horse in York; he took the second there,

and thus relieved the first from, what we must conclude, was a state of melancholy isolation.

In 1819 Captain Denison revisited his native land, and in his return to Canada invited his nephew, Mr. John Fennings Taylor, to accompany him. He did so. As Captain Denison had named Sophia the only daughter of Arthur Taylor, so, eventually, did Mr. Taylor marry Elizabeth Sophia, the only daughter of Captain Denison.

George Taylor, already mentioned, on his marriage with Catherine Fennings, occupied a farm near the Village of Dovercourt, called in the family "The Dovercourt Farm." At this farm, the subject of this notice and also the eldest son of Capt. and Mrs. Denison were born. This information may be of use to that estimable antiquary, the Rev. Dr. Scadding, for it has been preserved at Toronto by Colonel Richard Lippincott Denison, who has named his place of residence "Dovercourt," while the road which runs from south to north through his property is called Dovercourt Road.

Mr. Taylor arrived in Upper Canada in the year 1820. In the following year he entered the service of the Legislative Council. A little later he was articulated as an Attorney-at-law to the late Hon. William Warren Baldwin, more familiarly known as Dr. Baldwin; but though he fulfilled the term of his articles he never practised. On the contrary, he steadily continued in the service of the Legislative Council, and at the re-union of the Provinces in 1841 was Deputy Clerk of that honorable House. On the organization of the Legislative Council of re-united Canada he was appointed one of the two clerks assistants. In 1850, on the retirement of Mr. de Lery, he was preferred to the office of Clerk of the Legislative Council. On the Confederation of the Provinces in 1867, he was appointed "Clerk of the Senate."

Besides the offices to which we have referred, Mr. Taylor was the recipient of other marks of royal favour and confidence, including among other commissions that of Lieut.-Colonel of the militia; nor is it too much to say that in all the relations of a quiet, unobtrusive life, he avoided no duty and abused no trust.

Mr. Taylor was accustomed to say that during all the years of his public service he had not, till the session when his health failed, been absent for one day during the sittings of the Legislature. This amiable observation had its root in the goodness of his constitution as well as in the clearness of his conscience. Nevertheless, there are very few in whose official lives the sense of duty would take such a stern and exact form.

Towards the end of the session of 1870, Mr. Taylor was disabled by severe illness from attending to his duties in the Senate. He had completed the fiftieth year of his public service, and following the instincts of his character he would have striven manfully against being put out of commission and into "ordinary." His friends, however, suggested to him that in the interests of his family, if not for his own personal comfort, he ought to seek the retirement which, by a life of faithful service, he had richly earned. He accepted their advice, was placed on the superannuated list, and from that time to the close of his life he lived in the retirement of his family, occasionally seeing old friends whose recollections like his own were chiefly drawn from the earlier days of Canadian history, but

"Old times are changed, old manners gone," and Mr. Taylor in several ways was a fair representative of both. He was hearty