

his death in '48. He built the first Methodist church, which had the honor of being as well the first of any creed erected in Ottawa, at his own expense. It was a little frame building on Chapel Street, just beyond Rideau, and gave its name to the former street. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire a few months later. Of him the late Mr. Lett wrote :

"John Burrows too, with serious air
Sang hymns, and offered frequent prayer,
And taught a Sunday-school with might,
To spread religion's early light."

Let me speak for a moment of the hard life of those days before 1827. To begin with, the first houses of even those who afterwards became wealthy and influential, were log-cabins, built with one room, kitchen, dining-room and sleeping-room, downstairs, and usually a garret above, oftentimes exposed to the weather. There were no churches and few religious services, even on the Hull side. An itinerant preacher, the first to penetrate into these backwoods, has left us an interesting account of his visit. "Where the city of Ottawa now stands, or near it," he writes, "there was in the spring of 1816 a small village known as Hull. With no land road from below, it could only be reached by water, a distance of forty miles. Represented as all but destitute of Christian ministrations, the author of these reminiscences decided to reconnoitre and report." After describing the canoe trip and a night in the woods, he continues: "day-light sees us leading for the 'carrying-place,' (an alias for the writer's destination) which was gained in season to assemble the settlement for an evening sermon. It was listened to by some who had never heard one before, with avidity and tears." Two years pass before a regular travelling preacher is appointed, one Rinaldo Evarets, who used to come by way of the Upper Rideau settlements, and thence alone in a canoe. He is said to have been the first clergyman in all Nepean. But churches were not the only lack. The dead had to be ferried across to be buried on the Hull side. Matrimony

was a problem, solved as a rule by bringing a justice of peace from a distant settlement. Such a marriage was not legal in Lower Canada, and hence a romantic fashion said to have been on occasions adopted by the Hull settlers, of having the ceremony take place in the winter time, on the ice in the middle of the river. We are told that the first school in this part of Nepean met at the house of Mr. Burrows. In 1828 it was still the rule to send Bytown children across to Hull to school. Indeed, there were only five regular teachers in all Nepean as late as 1833, including the village of Bytown.

The trade which was to bring wealth to the Ottawa valley was begun in 1806, when Philemon Wright, daring man he was, took the first raft of timber down the Ottawa and St. Lawrence to Quebec. With few exceptions, the whole population, on the Hull side at least, were henceforth interested in lumbering.

Oxen were in general use to clear the land and to draw the caravans of travellers from one settlement to another. I wish I had time to picture what hardships a journey to Perth, the seat of justice for the county until 1842, meant in those days. You can imagine something of it when I tell you that there was no sign of a road and that the services of a guide were needed. The first steamer was put on the river in 1819, previous to that time travelling was done in *butteaux* or barges.

The birth year of Ottawa is properly 1826, when Colonel By came out to take charge of the construction of the Rideau Canal. He straightway set about building three barracks to house his soldiers, on the hill where the Parliament Buildings stand, and fixed his own habitation on the next hill, Major's Hill of to-day. It was a house set among the trees with a ravishing view from the verandah, as Bouchette tells us, who doubtless enjoyed it as he smoked his pipe in the evening time, never dreaming of the lumber piles and sawdust that were to mar the enjoyment