

fitly recall the couplet applied to somewhat similar ones—judging from the report of the settlers in the Highlands of Scotland a century previous.

"Oh if you had seen these roads before they were made,
You would hold up your hands and bless General Wade."

The vehicles, not much less cumbersome than the old French diligences, the drivers not remarkable like the French postillions for the quaintness of their costume, but to a recently-imported Englishman, for their strange vocabulary well described by Haliburton in the "Sam Slick" paper. The remaining portion of the journey by lake steamers, which certainly had the merit of being larger and better appointed than those at that time running between the port of London and Calais, or Dover and Boulogne. The city of Kingston at that time was a rival of Toronto, and had, I think, a larger population, including two regiments of the line, a company of engineers and a battery of artillery; there was also in harbor a small gun-boat, named, if my memory serves me, the "Bull Frog," and commanded by a Lieutenant Clarke; the presence of the troops contributing to make the city a pleasant residence for young people; Dr. Sampson, an ex-army surgeon, being the chief practitioner. The Royal College of Surgeons was not then in existence, but was established by royal charter, I think, somewhere about the year 1845. From Kingston to Toronto the journey by steamboat, was then, as it is now, in ordinarily fine weather, a pleasant one, and the line of boats on the route not so very much inferior to those at present running. A short time before my visit the very suggestive name of Muddy Little York had been exchanged for the more euphonious Indian name, Toronto. The city, like Kingston, I found enlivened by the presence of troops at the old Fort. The doctors, even then, were more in proportion than the number of residents. No medical school then existed, but for licensing aspirants to practice, an Examining Board had been constituted, composed at the time, of Drs. Widmer, Diehl, King, Gwynne, and Rolph, my venerable friend, Dr. Workman, subsequently added. Somewhere in 1845 temporary accommodation was found for the Medical Faculty of King's College in the park, the first in the Province of Ontario, Rolph School of Medicine following some years subsequently, as also Faculty in Medicine of Trinity College in 1853. In the cities of Upper and Lower Canada of that

day were to be found able practitioners, chiefly hailing from medical colleges and schools in Great Britain; the first graduates of McGill University, if I mistake not, dating only from 1834. Some ten years previous there had been in existence a school of Medicine in the city at which some very eminent men were instructors; chief among them, Drs. Stevenson, Holmes, Caldwell, and Robertson. Whether Laval University had a Medical Faculty at that date I do not now remember. In addition to British graduates, members of London, Dublin, and Edinburgh Colleges of Surgeons, and Apothecaries' Hall, there were then practicing licentiates of Toronto Examining Board; a good many American graduates were also to be found scattered through the Provinces, and of unlicensed practitioners and quacks, pure and simple, an unlimited number. The practice of Medicine, as followed by these pretenders to medical science, was remarkable for its simplicity, viz.: calomel and bleeding, the latter *pleno rivo*, and frequently repeated. Want of success in treating their patients was frequently attributed to their not having survived long enough for a sufficient administration of the former. The indiscriminate venesection then in vogue was undoubtedly open to question: whether its complete abandonment in recent years has been judicious, is, I think, fairly a matter for doubt. Profuse sweating by vapor baths in which hemlock had been steeped, and other powerful derivants, now also in great favor by so-called "herb doctors," were largely patronized by the credulous and ignorant, who had frequently exhibited to them drugs more potent than catnip tea—hellebore and aconite, to wit. A good many years subsequently, as most of my medical brethren present will remember, the homeopaths and eclectics obtained from the Government of the day the power of appointing a Board of Examiners in their respective creeds, without possessing schools for the teaching of their dogmas, and as from these various licensing bodies a most dangerous laxity in the examination of the numerous candidates for legal qualification for practice ensued, the universities and colleges, with a disinterestedness that cannot by the general public be too highly commended, voluntarily surrendered the license to practice that previously their degree had conferred, and the Ontario Medical Council with exclusive examining powers for practice was established very greatly to the advantage