

III.

EARLY LIFE.

I was born in the Township of Toronto, County of York, on the 16th of August, 1824.

My father's farm was situated four miles below Oakville on the Lake shore road, and consisted of eight hundred acres, originally a U. E. Loyalist grant. After my grandfather's removal from Fredericton to Toronto in 1809, he felt anxious that my father should take up a grant to which U. E. Loyalists were entitled and advised him to go West of Toronto in search of land. He accordingly set out on horseback, travelling along the Lake shore, and swimming the Humber, Mimico, Etobico and Credit and came to Merrigold's Point. Thomas Merrigold was likewise a U. E. L. and had settled at this place some years before, having like my father and grandfather, come from New Brunswick, where he had first gone on leaving the United States. My father told Mr. Merrigold his errand, viz., that he was in search of land to which he was entitled as a U. E. L. Merrigold knowing the nature of the land near to his own farm said, "Why not take this land next mine?" This advice was acted on. My father selected