

of two small apartments inside of the main erection, built of logs; the floors were logs, the roofs were logs, and the walls were upright logs, so that the rooms were log boxes, the one being for debtors and the other for offenders against the peace and safety of the Sovereign's loyal subjects. This fabric, however, was but temporary in its character, and in 1828 the existing brick edifice was begun; the logs, when it was finished were, we suppose, committed to the flames, and the old Court House was converted into a Grammar School, and is the same fabric in which Mr. Bayly officiates as a public instructor at the present day. As we are dealing with primitive times, and times likely to have some interest in future years, it may be put on record that Mr. Heward of Toronto was the contractor for the erections, the architect was Mr. Thomas Parke, now Collector of Customs at St. Catharines, and the bricks were made by Mr. William Hales of the London township.

The construction of the County Buildings gave an importance to the place, and formed a considerable guarantee that it would swell into some magnitude, more especially as the neighboring country was so fruitful and likely to be so entirely occupied by a vigorous agricultural population. But the growth of London was slow at first, and its inland position and the difficulty of transport tended to check its expansion. It began to increase sensibly in 1828, but this became more apparent after the extensive emigration of 1832, five years after it had sprung into existence. English, Scotch, Irish and American settlers began in goodly numbers to take up the lots, and a decent village at length presented itself to the view. In the interval the original Robinson Hall, called after the late Chief Justice Robinson, a two storey frame building, had been erected on the ground where the large brick structure, bearing still the same appellation, may be seen at the west end of Dundas Street. There was now a market also;—it was situated on the South East corner of the Court House Square, nearly opposite the

American Hotel; stores had been opened by Mr. (since the Hon.) George J. Goodhue, Mr. Dennis O'Brien, and Mr. John Jennings: Mr. L. Lawrason, a settler at an early date, when he first arrived entered into partnership with Mr. Goodhue. Mr. Simeon Morrill, who located here in 1830, was one of the earliest mechanics, and still follows the business with which he started in life. The place grew with the Robinson Hall as its centre, though, till after the disastrous fire, some eighteen years from its origin, but very few brick buildings could be counted on its streets.

In these dawning days the Post Office was kept by Major Schofield, away in the forest, in a small log house on North Street, a little east of the entrance to Mr. L. Lawrason's residence, and on the same side of the street. There it can be seen to this day, and every one must be struck with the contrast between that humble log erection, and the fine structure on Richmond Street, that forms one of the ornaments of the city. The office in the woods, where Mr. Schofield had squatted, was far from being convenient for the Londoners, and on their petitioning Government, the Post Office was transferred to the village, and Mr. Goodhue, whose store was on the corner of Dundas and Ridout Streets, received the appointment as second Post Master. There was a mail only once a week, which was carried on horseback, and the denizens had to exercise what patience they could in their outlandish situation.

Things in these days were primitive enough at the Forks, for that was the designation the place bore for fully two years after its commencement.—The name was suggested by the union of the two branches of the Thames, but it passed away and its proper designation came into use. The country roads were dreadful, and people visited the "Forks" mostly in wagons drawn by oxen; money was scarce, and barter was the ordinary mode of traffic. Everything brought from a distance was at a high ransom; a bushel of wheat for a yard of factory cotton is a specimen of the prices. The storekeepers then, it is affirmed, put on