

headquarters at Hamilton. The race was then over! Soon the water-weeds began to encroach on the Desjardins Canal, and the very name was beginning to get unfamiliar, when the frightful accident of the 12th of March, 1857 [which the present writer can well recall, as he was then at Trinity College, Toronto], gave the place a renewed and a most tragic interest. The afternoon passenger train from Toronto, after entering on the drawbridge that spanned the canal at Burlington Heights, was heard to give a piercing shriek, and a moment afterwards was seen to crush through the bridge and plunge into the canal forty feet below. The evening was bitterly cold. All through the night and through the next day, and next night, the doleful task proceeded of breaking up the sunken cars and removing the now heedless passengers. What spectral vision of death the engineer, Burnfield, saw before him on the bridge when he sounded that piercing cry will never be known; for, with a heroism worthy of Curtius and old Rome, he plunged with his iron steed into the abyss.

"When it became apparent that railroad enterprise had altered 'the manifest destiny' of Dundas, the town wisely devoted itself to manufactures rather than to navigation, selecting those manufactures which form the great staples of commerce and the prime movers of industry—cotton manufacture, paper manufacture, the building of engines and boilers, the making of wood-working machinery, or carding machines, and of steel and iron tools, from the axe to the giant lathe. A fraternal relation has been established with its old commercial antagonist, Hamilton, by the laying of a steam tramway [now an electric railway in 1900]. No vicissitude of fortune can deprive Dundas of the greatest of her ancient glories, and that is her glorious scenery, which involuntarily brings every tourist to his feet as the train sweeps along the mountain terrace. Since the day, more than two centuries ago, when La Salle, first of Europeans, gazed upon this scenery—the ravine, the neighbouring cascades, the whole valley—there has been but one verdict, and against that verdict Dundas need fear no appeal."

Some interesting sketches of Ancaster and Dundas can be read in "Wentworth Landmarks," "Pioneers of One Hundred Years Ago," and "Programme for Military Encampment," already mentioned in these notes. The first pamphlet contains a number of illustrations of old landmarks and buildings in both places.