

Bedeque and its People.—IV.

BY H. H. HOOPER.

"It is the spot—I know it well,
Of which our old traditions tell."—Bryant.

WHEN Thomas Hooper and his two sons, Major and Thomas, settled on the farm, they built a log house on the site of the present shop. It was used as a dwelling until the summer of 1790 when the present house was built. They had a genuine "house-warm" when it was complete and the family moved into it, and it was also the scene of many of the celebrated "fulling bees." The old log house was burnt late in the fall of 1833.

Prior to the arrival of Thomas Hooper the former owner had lived in a house that stood on a hill a few rods from the shore, being near to a spring, which at that time was quite a distance from the shore, and a pleasant walk through the woods was necessary before reaching it, but the elements have washed away the bank so that to-day it is on the shore, and here, too, many a crank used his "mineral rod" and spade, delving for the celebrated Captain Kidd's hidden treasure, and like most cases, ended in failure.

Here on this hill overlooking the beautiful bay, where the salt sea breezes blow, surrounded by the dense and scarce unbroken forest, once stood the humble home of the hardy Acadian. No doubt it was the scene of many festivities, many happy and unrecorded events, save that stored in the vivid memory of childhood. Here the merry children played on the shore

"And built their castles of dissolving sand,
To watch them overflowed, or following up
And flying the white breaker, daily left
The little footprints daily washed away."

Undoubtedly it was also the scene of many a hard winter's struggle. It must have cost them, as it did the loyalists, many a pang at parting, and leaving behind the fruit of years of toil.

At the time of the arrival of Thomas Hooper all that remained was the blackened site. The evidence is still there,