

so it seems to the eye accustomed to the uniform frontage presented by Toronto. The height, position and the concomitant advantages resulting from these, and a few other peculiarities to which we shall presently allude, compel us to give the preference to Kingston over any other city on the Lake.

Our loyalty is not to be impugned, and therefore in wishing that the example so judiciously established in the case of Toronto in changing its name should be followed as regards Kingston, we cannot possibly be understood to imply anything but a wish to see a decided character given to the nomenclature of a country, whose history will hereafter afford so many points of interesting inquiry to the historian and antiquarian. The associations connected with the aboriginal names are so remarkable and the words themselves so euphonious and striking, that this alone would induce the desire to retain for Kingston its Indian appellative *Cataraqui*.

The geographical position of this city, clearly establishes its claim to be considered what it undoubtedly still is, the key-stone of military defence at this end of the Lake. The crumbling ruins of Frontenac mark the keen perception of the early French settlers, and the fortifications of Fort Henry, unsurpassed in America, prove how well the Government understood its superior advantage in this respect.

On first landing from the steamer, the attention of the visiter is at once arrested by the peculiar sombre hue which everything around him seems to wear. It is impossible to divest the mind of a feeling that the inhabitants have put their city into half mourning; and it is a long-time before the eye becomes familiar with this appearance, which is due to the bluish limestone, of which it is built.

But while we are startled by the uniform sobriety of colour, we cannot fail to admire the substantial character imparted to its buildings by the stone with which they are constructed. Lying on a bed of stone, the material is easily and economically obtained; indeed, in many instances, it may truthfully and literally be said, that dwellings are hewn out of the rock. The care and finish with which the abundant stone has

been wrought into form, is highly creditable to the parties concerned, and nowhere in Canada can a better piece of masonry be seen, than that exhibited by the City Hall, with the fortifications in front of it. The streets are laid out with as much regularity as the nature of the locality would permit, the situation being on a narrow and angular promontory, running out into the Lake, and forming the western bank of the *Cataraqui*.

Evidence is to be discovered of the successive checks which Kingston has received, from the external influences which have controlled its destinies, but we rejoice to think that its course is now onward, that under steadily increasing commercial relations, it will soon regain its wonted prosperity. At a time when between this point and Montreal and Albany, communication was infrequent and expensive, and scarcely a town existed to the westward, it rapidly assumed an importance which its physical advantages amply justified, and even at a later date, when the tide of emigration had set in strongly towards the west, it still retained its superiority over the other and newer cities, by becoming the place of trans-shipment for imports and exports. The war of 1812, while it disturbed, for a season, the mercantile enterprise of the place, brought with it other sources of wealth and influence. It now became the principal seat of military and naval operations, and the noble fortifications on Point Henry, with the large body of soldiery stationed there, were good reasons, one would imagine, for making it also the seat of Government of the Province. After a season this result was compassed, in spite of the outcry of its propinquity to a hostile frontier. Then it was that an impulse was given to it, which bid fair to render it the capital indeed of the West. This hope was, however, blighted—the Union of the Provinces, and the mutability of human opinion, combined to remove this cause of prosperity, and for a time the city felt severely the consequence of hasty and overstrained speculation. Nor was this the only adverse cause at work to mar its fortunes. The improvement in the navigation of both Lake and River,—the construction of the Canals on the St. Lawrence, by which vessels of considerable tonnage could pass directly through to Montreal; and latterly the discovery of the practicable navigation of the once-