

promises to supply farm produce ; and when, through the failure of the crops in bad seasons, such promises could not be re-deemed, the stock—sometimes even the farm itself—had to be sacrificed to meet the creditors' claims, and went to enrich the Kingston merchants.

But Kingston had to be resorted to for other and more interesting purposes than those of trade. It was one of the five places early appointed for the issuing of marriage licenses, and was, moreover, for a number of years, the abode of the only clergyman in Upper Canada, the Rev. John Stuart, D.D., who has been called the "father of the Upper Canada Church." He, too, was a refugee from the United States, where he had suffered some persecution on account of his monarchical principles, and came to settle in Cataraqui, or Kingston, where he had received a grant of land, and where he afterwards became Chaplain to the Garrison ; having been also, for a time, missionary to the Mohawks of the Trent. About the time when he came to settle in Kingston, 1785, he says : "the town increases fast ; there are already about fifty houses built in it, and some of them very elegant. We have now, just at the door, a ship, a scow, and a sloop, beside a number of small crafts." Dr. Stuart was the first teacher, as well as the first clergyman in Upper Canada, for, finding that there existed no school for boys, he opened an academy in the year following his arrival. The schools of the district of Kingston are noticed by Rochefoucault on his visit in 1795. Kingston was probably the first place in Upper Canada to make provision for the education of the poorer classes, when, in the early part of the present century, a number of its leading citizens subscribed to establish schools for the poor, at which the fees were merely nominal, and which, previous to the establishment of the present Common School system, proved a very efficient substitute. One of the original subscribers was the son of Dr. Stuart, who, inheriting several

of his father's traits of character, as well as—nearly—his unusual height, succeeded to his charge, and, as "Archdeacon Stuart," was long and affectionately known as one of its most prominent characters, until his death in 1862, at the age of 86. His curious mania for *building* has left substantial memorials in a part of the buildings now composing Queen's College, and in a handsome but unfinished edifice of large size in an out-of-the-way corner of the town. A considerable portion of the present city was once the property of the Archdeacon, being part of his father's grant, and was disposed of by him in small building lots, chiefly to artisans, his benevolent nature taking no small pleasure in seeing them settled in homes which were entirely their own.

The society which grouped itself around Archdeacon Stuart and his amiable wife, some forty years ago, was of a kind which deserves some honourable mention, as a type which has grown but too rare in Canada. The business men of those days, in Kingston at least, were not too much engrossed in the pursuit of riches to take a vivid and active interest in philanthropic objects affecting the physical and moral well-being of their fellow-citizens. Hearty, genial Englishmen, as were some of them, and thoughtful, practical Scotchmen, as were others, they worked bravely and harmoniously side by side, leaving pleasant memorials of their united labours, as, for instance, the schools just referred to, and the very well conducted General Hospital.

The social condition of Kingston was also affected, in no small degree, by the circumstance of its always having been, under the British, as old Fort Frontenac was under the French, a naval and military station. For a short time Carleton Island, near the American shore, took its place as a station for troops and shipping, but when it was discovered that the Island was within the line of the American territory, Kingston resumed its importance as a garrison station.