

TOWNSHIP OF ALBION.

The Township of Albion comprises the north-east portion of the County of Peel, being bounded on the south by the northern division of the Gore of Toronto, on the east by the County of York, on the north by the County of Simcoe, and on the west by the Township of Chinguacousy. Albion is a township of good land, well supplied with water by the River Humber, which runs with many windings and many branches entirely through the whole length of the township, giving good mill privileges in different parts of the township. The population of Albion in 1821 was only 110, with only 62 acres of land cultivated. In 1848 the population had increased to 3,567, and according to the last census in 1871 was 4,857. Previous to the year 1819 there was no white settler in the township. In the fall of 1818 and the year 1819, Albion was surveyed by the Government, after which settlers commenced coming in. Mr. Wm. Downey, a bachelor, was the first to succeed in reaching his land in the township, where he built a house in 1819. In October, 1819, the Roadhouses and several others who had drawn land in the township started from the County of York through the Township of Vaughan, in search of their lands in Albion. They had with them about a week's provisions, and after tramping over the ridges, with which the township abounds, and through the wild and almost impassable country for several days, they were obliged to return, unsuccessful, to York. In December of the same year Wm. Downey, Joseph Hudson, Wm. Roadhouse, sr., and Wm. Roadhouse, jr., hired an engineer to pilot them, and after a weary pilgrimage they succeeded in locating their lands. From all accounts these four gentlemen were the first white settlers who ever slept in the Township of Albion. Among the first settlers besides the gentlemen already mentioned were George Bolton, Thomas Coats, John Grant, and others. About the same time James Bolton came in and settled near what is now called the village of Bolton, while on the other side of the township Messrs. Wilson, Squires and Shevins also settled at that time. Those early pioneers, although met at every turn with trouble, hardships and disappointments, persevered, the thought of making a home for themselves cheered them on and helped to drive away despondency, and although for many days their food consisted of boiled potatoes for breakfast, potatoes baked in a Dutch oven for dinner, and potatoes roasted in hot coals for supper, with an occasional piece of corn bread, the corn of which had been pounded in a large stump, they were generally a happy and contented people. When we consider what those pioneers deprived themselves of in order to settle a new country, we cannot help but regard them with admiration and profound respect. They left civilization with all its conveniences, such as railroads, post offices, the mighty telegraph, steamboats, schools, and almost deprived themselves of the worship of God for a time. Happily, however, there were ministers who delighted in hardships in serving their Master, who were not long in following those pioneers and cheering them with the ever welcome truths of that Book of Books. In passing we must not forget to mention Mr. George Taylor, the celebrated pioneer mail carrier for this part of the country. He has carried the mail regularly through the Township of Albion for the last forty-five years. He first commenced by carrying it on his back, and now he sometimes goes on horseback, gig, sled, &c. In all that time he was only assaulted once and that was during the rebellion. There are several villages in this township, the only incorporated one being

BOLTON VILLAGE.

Bolton village, formerly called Bolton Mills, is a picturesque looking village, being situated in a valley, with the Humber River flowing through it; and so completely surrounded with hills that from whatever side you approach you can see nothing of the village till you crown the heights above it. It is twenty seven miles from Toronto, and 19 from Bronte. The Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railroad has a station there. It also has an office of the Montreal Telegraph Company. The early settlers in this village and surrounding country were principally from England, and they brought with them from the old country a fondness for horticulture; consequently the grounds about the village are well cultivated and present a beautiful appearance, which shows that many a spare moment has been devoted to their favorite pursuits. Mr. James Bolton was about the earliest settler in this vicinity, he having emigrated from England and settled within three miles of the present village in the year 1819. The first start of the village, however, was the coming to it of Mr. George Bolton in about 1824, who, with the help of James Bolton, Esq., built a small frame grist mill, which had one run of stones. The mill, after it was in operation, proved a great boon to the few settlers in the vicinity, as previously they were obliged to take their wheat to Weston, a distance of seventeen miles, frequently carrying it on their backs. There being no regular road, all they had to guide them was the "blaze" marks on the trees, and they were liable at any time to be devoured by wild beasts, which were numerous at that time. Previous to 1840 Geo. Bolton started a store in a small log house. He kept it a short time and sold it to Captain Wm. Stearn, who continued the business for some years, and the necessities of life were sold and produce taken in exchange, or those who had nothing to trade were given a year's credit. At the same time he built a distillery, which was in operation for some years. Mr. Stearn was the first post master and held the position until a few years ago, when George Evans, Esq., was appointed. In the year 1840 there were only fourteen buildings of any kind that had roofs on. Mr. Thomas Rodgers had a small log blacksmith shop, and also kept a small hotel. At this time there were no churches, but a Church of England minister frequently held services in an old barn belonging to Mr. Stearn. The first school was opened in 1842, and was taught by Samuel Walford, Esq., the present clerk of the village; with those from the country and the settlement, there were from twenty to twenty-five children in attendance. The small salary which the school master received was partly paid by Government and the balance by a tax of twenty-five cents for each scholar. The school underwent various changes both as to teachers and buildings, until in 1874 the present beautiful brick structure was erected at a cost of over \$5,000. The present average attendance of scholars is 142, employing three teachers, Mr. E. Ward, head master, Miss Lizzie Starrett and Miss E. J. Alexander, assistants. The trustees are Messrs. J. Stork, T. Curtiss, W. J. Dixon, D. Morton, Dr. Bonner, S. A. Walford, secretary. The first church was built by the Congregationalists in 1843, of mud brick, which has given place to the commodious rough-cast church which they at present occupy. The next church was the English, which was also built of mud brick, but has recently been taken down and a large brick edifice built in its place. Shortly after the Primitive and Wesleyan Methodists built churches, which as the town grew larger were also pulled down and beautiful ones built in their places, that of the Wesleyans costing over \$6,000. The village from 1840

kept growing by degrees and steadily increasing in business and population, until 1872 when it found it was large enough to take care of itself, consequently it severed its connection from the Township of Albion, and became a separate municipality. Although the village is named Bolton the post office still retains the name of Albion. Every exertion has been used to have the name of the post office changed, but as yet without success. The first election for the municipal offices of the village took place in Jan'y, 1873, when the following officers were elected:—L. R. Bolton, reeve; Messrs. W. Taylor, J. Stork, J. Guardhouse and G. Smith, councillors; J. F. Warbrick, Treasurer, and S. A. Walford, Clerk. The reeve, clerk and treasurer still hold the positions, being elected by acclamation each year. There are 500 acres of land in the village, with a total assessed value of \$160,264. The population exceeds 900. Bolton is a good commercial and manufacturing town, the latter increasing very rapidly of late years. First comes the Agricultural Works of Mr. Wm. Dick. These works, which will be more fully explained on another page, are situated in the centre of the village, and were started on a small scale by Mr. Dick in 1869, since which time they have been steadily increasing in growth and popularity, until now they can be ranked among the first manufacturing of the county, which shows that energy and perseverance, with a thorough knowledge of the business, is all that is necessary for ultimate success. Mr. Dick first commenced the manufacture of plows, and has since, from time to time as the business grew, added the manufacture of one implement after another, until now there is scarcely an agricultural implement that he does not manufacture. Next in importance is Mr. Buist's woollen factory, where is manufactured all kinds of woollen goods, such as cloths, blankets, &c., besides doing a large custom business. Mr. Buist also has a good saw mill with circular saw, which cuts quite a quantity of lumber annually. He employs from eight to ten hands. The grist mill belonging to Mr. Guardhouse is an extensive affair, having three run of stones, which are worked to their fullest capacity, grinding from 100 to 120 barrels of flour a day, besides doing an extensive custom trade. Mr. Guardhouse also has a large general store, and the business done by him altogether amounts to about half a million annually. Mr. Albert Dodds started a carriage and waggon factory in 1873, which has been in active operation ever since, and has grown into public favor on account of the splendid work it turns out. For style, durability and finish his buggies are not surpassed. Mr. F. McDonald has a large brick cooper factory which, besides supplying Mr. Guardhouse with all the barrels necessary, ships large numbers, and employs from eight to ten hands constantly. Messrs. Walford & Son carry on a soap and candle factory and do a good trade, and their soap is considered superior to that made in some of the larger city factories. The tannery, which was built in 1840 by Mr. Pexman, was purchased in 1848 by Mr. J. F. Warbrick, who has carried on an extensive business since that time. He employs constantly six hands and manufactures upper and harness leather. Mr. Graham has a factory where he makes those celebrated wooden pumps. Robert Alexander manufactures and imports furniture of all kinds. The stores in the village as a general thing keep a mixture of goods and there are some very extensive establishments, and nearly every merchant is in a good sound position, many of them being wealthy. The principal general stores are those of Mr. John Guardhouse, Thomas Fisher & Co., John Shields, F. Morrow, and Wyatt and Jeffery; James Stork has a very large drug store and does a good business, not only in drugs but in fancy goods, seeds, &c. D. Percy has the harness shop of the village and he is deservedly well patronized. There are four resident ministers, Revds. W. H. Clark, Church of England; Joseph Wheeler, Congregational; Henry Matthews, Primitive Methodist and John Glover, Canada Methodist. Drs. Bonner and Sanderson are the only resident doctors. There are five hotels, Ontario House, W. J. Dixon; Exchange, George Evans; Masonic Arms, Wm. Curless; Albion, Thomas Curless, and Railroad House, John Corless. There are in the village fine Town, Masonic and Orange Halls, the Masonic and Orange Societies being very strong and in a healthy state. There is also a Temperance Lodge, but they have no building of their own. Two miles from Bolton village is that of COLUMBIA, which is situated on the 8th line. There is a stream called "Cold Creek" runs through the village and empties into the Humber, and has sufficient power to drive several mills. There are in the place a grist mill, blacksmith shop, store and post office, tannery, &c.

THE TOWNSHIP OF CALEDON.

The Township of Caledon forms the north-west portion of the County of Peel, being bounded on the east by Albion, on the north by Mono, in the County of Simcoe, on the north-west by Garafraxa, in the County of Wellington, on the west by Erin and on the south by Chinguacousy. It is divided by Hurontario street running through its centre. The concessions are numbered each way, east and west from Hurontario street, there being six on each side of the street. The Township Council meets in the village of Charleston and is composed of the following gentlemen:—D. McKinnon, reeve; A. McLaren, deputy reeve; James Bacon, James McQuarry, and Mr. Dick, councillors; David Kirkwood, clerk, and John Harris, treasurer. For the most part the township is quite hilly, but the greater part of the land is arable and well settled, and it has been growing in favor as good farming land for several years. Caledon was the last Township in Peel to be settled, as the early pioneers thought it would be impossible to live so far away from civilization. However, about the years 1810 and 1820 a number of hardy men ventured into the then wilderness and shortly after a large number followed, forming the nucleus of a wealthy community. The township is thickly dotted with thriving villages, the principal of which are Alton, Cataract, Belfountain, Charleston and Silver Creek. The village of Mono Mills embraces part of the extreme northerly point of the township and the town of Orangeville, the north-westerly point. Each of the above places are surrounded by most beautiful and romantic scenery.

ALTON.

Is situated in a valley, on the main branch of the River Credit, and is about a mile and a half from the widely-famed Shaw's Lakes, the origin of the celebrated River Credit. Those lakes are three in number and are almost circular in form. The water is pure spring, clear as crystal, the largest lake is about two hundred acres in extent, so large that a small yacht might be easily handled on it. All these lakes abound in speckled trout and are annually the resort of disciples of Isaac Walton, from all parts of the continent. A large hotel is proposed being erected close to their borders, which will be a great convenience to the many visitors who flock to this beautiful pic-nicing place. Alton was first settled by Thomas

Russell, Esq., who located in 1834 and he and his family were the only inhabitants of the immediate village for nearly three years. He also owned the land on which the village now stands. In 1837 several more families came in and in 1851 Messrs. Shrigley and Farr built a grist mill, Mr. Robert Meek opened a store, and things commenced to open up lively. It was about this time that the inhabitants thought of applying for a post office. A public meeting was called for this purpose and for giving a name to the village. After considerable discussion and a different variety of names suggested it was finally decided to call it Alton. The post office was established in the year 1855 and John Meek, Esq., was appointed post-master, who kept the position until his death, and his widow succeeded him and now holds the position. The first church in the settlement was the Congregational, which was erected about the year 1846 and is still standing, and has been used till this year, the congregation have erected a fine brick edifice which is a credit to the inhabitants of the village. There are two other churches in the town, the Canada Methodist and Presbyterian. The pride of the village is the beautiful school house, which certainly is a very commodious building and an ornament to the place. There are five stores in the village kept respectively by Robert Meek, Mrs. Haddington, E. A. Morse, Nelson Smith, and G. F. Holden; besides tin shop, harness shop, shoe stores, blacksmith and waggon shops, etc. Close to the village are situated two very large patent lime kilns, the property of Messrs. Jamison & Carroll, giving constant employment to a large number of hands. The firm does a large business with Toronto, where the lime is eagerly sought after in consequence of its beautiful whiteness; we were shown over the premises by the local manager, Wm. Hawkins, Esq. The Toronto Grey & Bruce Railway, which has a station at Alton, runs several switches to these works. There are three large grist and flour mills, that of D. & L. McKinnon being the largest and contains four run of stones. This mill does no custom work but is kept constantly grinding flour for foreign markets. Walter McClelland's mill has two run of stones and does both gristing and flouring business, as does also Mr. George Alanham in his mill. Mr. Alanham has also a large saw mill attached which is constantly running. These mills together make a fine wheat market and do much towards the property of the place. The Messrs. King Brothers have started a steam furniture factory, which will no doubt reach large proportions. Their show room is in Orangeville, which is five miles from Alton. James Steel carries on the tanning business in all its branches. A. Dick has a large foundry which manufactures plows, saw mills, cultivators, and a general jobbing business is done. There are two hotels in the village. The "Dixie House" is a three story brick building with mansard roof, and every accommodation for their numerous guests, Mr. E. Gastley is the enterprising and obliging proprietor. The proposed Credit Valley Railroad is already graded through Alton, and when in operation, must rapidly increase the prosperity of the place. Most of the early settlers of the village has passed away, but their mantles have not unworthily descended on the shoulders of such men as Messrs. John Clarke, Robert Meek, James McClelland, Walter McClelland, and our obliging friend Doctor Riddall, whose names will descend to posterity for their liberality and zeal, in promoting the prosperity of the village, it being now one of the smartest villages of its size in the County of Peel.

CATARACT,

commonly called Churches' Falls, is about 3½ miles from Alton and is romantically situated on the banks of the River Credit. It is destined to be a junction of the northern branches of the Credit Valley Railway, *i.e.*, to Fergus and Orangeville. There is something of a romance connected with this place, which many of the older settlers will remember. In the year 1818 when the territory now forming this county and the county of Halton was a dense wilderness, except a few concessions along the lake shore which were thinly settled. These few settlers were suddenly attacked with a most violent gold fever. By some means it came to be understood that the mountain running behind the settlement was full of gold, and immediately a large portion of the male population abandoned all other work, and marched to the backwoods where they spent weeks and months in search of the yellow nuggets, but without success. One of the keenest of these gold hunters was an active young Scotchman by the name of Grant. He was a clerk in the store of Matthew Crooks of Flamboro' West, when hearing of the wealth that was to be found in the wilderness, he started in pursuit, and spent many days and nights in fruitless search for gold. He paid particular attention to the hills and valleys of the Credit, and doubtless spent some time in examining the holes and crevices about the "Devil's Pulpit," but no gold was to be found. He found the Credit Falls, however, and in the immediate neighborhood a spring of salt or brackish water, which he concluded could be turned into gold. The territory was surveyed during the next year, and the lands brought into the market, when Mr. Grant prevailed on Mr. Crooks to purchase the lands which contained the falls and the salt spring, and to furnish him (Grant) with authority and money to develop the riches of the premises. Men were set to work digging and boring for salt, and others employed in the erection of a saw mill, to supply lumber for the splendid town that was thought would be speedily erected, and that was going to be called Gleniffer. The utter failure of the whole plan, however, is pretty well known; no salt of any consequence could be obtained; and the saw mill after being used for a few years, to very little advantage, was finally deserted and allowed to rot in peace, and the place for years afterwards was a desolate wilderness until purchased by Mr. R. Church, in the year 1858, who moved there from the neighborhood of Cooksville, and certainly from all appearances his task must have been almost huculean. He must have spent almost a fortune in clearing up and making roads in a locality once so very wild; for from the views we had of the river, winding its tortuous course some hundreds of feet almost in immediately below us where we stood, and the difficulty the C. V. R. evidently had in its construction through this part of the country. Mr. Church's task, as a first settler, must have been prodigiously difficult. Mr. Church built a brewery which he ran for some time, but at present is closed. There is a large flour mill situated a couple of hundred yards above the celebrated water fall, which is about thirty feet in height, viewing which, from a point farther down the glen, you get a most charming piece of natural scenery, which on account of its beauty has been photographed and sketched by many visitors from a great distance. At the village in addition to the mills already enumerated, there is a large general store and post office, presided over by John Howard, Esq., who is also the Montreal Telegraph agent. There is a large woollen factory, a saw mill, and two hotels, besides several handsome residences. The view at early morning, just as "Old Sol" is peeping above the horizon, from Mr. Howard's residence, is magnificently