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Charles Dedrickson, Editor.

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# CANADIAN Historical Quarterly.

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## INTRODUCTION.

**D**URING the history-making period of Canada in the early part of the present century, men were too busy to write history. The sword was their weapon, not the pen, and when peace was restored after the border warfare, farms that were wasted had to be cultivated, houses that were destroyed by fire had to be rebuilt, and ruined industries had to be restored. During this period, when stirring events were fresh in men's memories and relics of the great struggle were to be found on every hand, no one had leisure or interest enough to write an account or collect the memorials of the heroic deeds of the immediate past. History and News, necessary as they are to one another, have never pulled together or been very fast friends. News belongs to that indefinable Present, which has no real existence, but is only the ever-advancing border line between all that has been and all that is to be. News is ardent, requisitive and hopeful. History lags behind, tries to choose its pace, to select and order its material and to dominate over the

silent, still and unresisting realm of the once mighty Past. But, unfortunately for the early history of Canada, news-gathering had not in those early days become a profession or calling, so that History has to grope in the dark and seize such waifs and strays as have escaped the destroying finger of time. It is still a fact, however, that even after the lapse of nearly a century much important information is being unearthed by the indefatigable labours of the enthusiastic members of the various Canadian Historical Societies, and from time to time papers of great value are read—and pigeon-holed. It is the object of the HISTORICAL QUARTERLY to collect these papers and put them in an abiding form for the education of the growing generation and to furnish a wealthy storehouse of facts for the Canadian historian. We solicit the hearty co-operation of all those who love Canada, who reverence her past and look with hopeful eye to her great and rapidly developing future.

THE EDITOR.

# CANADIAN Historical Quarterly.

DECEMBER, 1899.

## AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

*Their Origin and Development in Ontario.*

THE following very interesting paper was read by Mr. Thos. E. Champion, of Toronto, before the Ontario Historical Society:

It is now more than fifty years since the first Provincial Agricultural Exhibition was held in Toronto. It took place in the Government House and grounds at the corner of Simcoe and King Streets, and was a very quiet and unostentatious affair. Nevertheless, it was the precursor of what has developed with the growth of the Province into the magnificent collection of live stock, machinery, domestic manufactures and fine arts that we now see around us.

The Exhibition now referred to was opened on Wednesday, October 21st, 1846, and remained open for that and the following day. Seeds, fruit, ladies' needlework, etc., were arranged and exhibited in the various rooms of the old Government House, the agricultural implements were in the yard immediately adjacent, and the cattle, horses, sheep, etc., in the grounds. The first intention had been to exhibit the cattle in the grounds near Caer Howell, but almost at the last moment this plan was abandoned and notification was given to the various exhibitors by hand-bill. The first day was fine but

somewhat cold, and the same atmospheric conditions obtained the second day. It is interesting to quote what one of the newspapers of the time had to say respecting this exhibition. It spoke thus: "One of the most practical and important results of this exhibition arises from the fact of its furnishing a standard by which to measure the actual state of the agriculture, arts and manufactures of the country. The bringing together of the various productions of art and ingenuity and comparing them with productions of former periods will enable us to form a tolerably correct estimate of the progress we are making. "Some excellent specimens of cattle were exhibited. It is true they were mostly the offspring of cattle imported from England, and we are warranted in saying on the authority of Canadians, who were once English farmers, and who are competent judges on the matter, that some of the cattle exhibited were fully equal to any produced in England. It has been customary to speak of cattle as being 'good for Canada;' but we are approaching that state when Canadian cattle will bear a comparison with that of any country in the world. In sheep and horses, the last few years have produced a marked,

but not so decided an improvement as that in the cattle; or at least there is this difference, that while some of our cattle will compare favorably with the best English specimens, these others will not. Some pigs exhibited were of a large size, and were said to be of good quality."

From these remarks it will be easily learned that the first Provincial Exhibition was a decidedly primitive affair, and the country is to be congratulated on the enormous advances that have been made in the fifty-three years that have elapsed since it took place. According to the prize list there were only eleven prizes given for horned cattle, four for sheep, two for pigs, five for horses, sixteen for horticultural products, twelve for seeds and roots, and ten in the ladies' department for useful and ornamental work. In domestic manufactures, woollen and flaxen goods and potteries, there were ten, five and fifteen prizes offered respectively, and there were one or two other classes in which prizes were also awarded. Among the prize-winners are to be noticed the names of John Helliwell, for a Hereford neifer; Ralph Wade, of Port Hope, for sheep; J. G. Worts, of Toronto, for pigs; George Leslie, of Toronto, for apples; Joseph Pape, of the same city, for celery; Richard L. Denison, for white turnips; Captain Alexander Shaw, for spring wheat; St. George Scarlett, who is still living in Guelph, for Indian corn; and Miss Thomson, who also is still living and residing in Toronto, for a pencil sketch. On the evening of the first day, at half-past seven o'clock, between 200 and 300 persons sat down to a public dinner in one of the rooms of the old Government House. The President of the Association, the late Colonel Edward William Thomson, presided, and among those present were: Mr. William Henry Boulton, the then Mayor of the City; Chief-Justice (afterwards Sir) John Beverley Robinson; the Hon. Adam Ferguson, the Hon. Robert Baldwin, Mr. William Hamilton Merritt, and others. The toast list was a very long one, no less than twelve

different bodies being toasted, commencing with Her Majesty the Queen, and ending with the Press. In the light of recent events the following toast, which was ninth on the list, may be quoted. It was this: "Great Britain and the United States. May that friendly intercourse which now subsists between the two countries be perpetuated; and may there be no rivalry between them, other than a desire to promote to the greatest extent the prosperity and welfare of the citizens and subjects of their respective countries."

In the sentiments expressed by the Provincial Agricultural Association at its first exhibition fifty-three years ago, on this subject, I am quite sure that the Ontario Historical Society will cordially acquiesce.

It was decided when the Provincial Exhibition was inaugurated that it should travel annually from town to town in the Upper Province; accordingly, in the next year, Hamilton was the place selected, then Cobourg, then various other towns, and in 1852 it again came to Toronto.

The Exhibition of 1852 was held on a large space of open ground which then existed on the spot where now runs McCaul and the upper portion of Simcoe Streets. The principal entrance was situated almost where Erskine Church now stands, and outside was an immense space of open ground. It proved a great success during the four days it was open, some 40,000 people visiting it. As an instance of how in the few years that elapsed between 1846 and 1852 the country had prospered; in horned cattle alone no less than 105 prizes were awarded in 1852 against eleven in 1846, the principal classes exhibited being Durhams, Devons, Herefords, and Ayrshires. The principal prize-takers in these classes were: Baron de Longueuil, of Kingston; Nathan Davis, of York; Ralph Wade, of Cobourg; John Howitt, of Guelph; John Wade, of Port Hope; Colonel Thomson, of Toronto; J. P. Gage, of Wellington Square, now Burlington; J. B. Ewart, of Dundas, and

the Hon. Adam Ferguson. The President's prize of \$120 for the best stallion was taken by Thomas Blanchard, of Toronto Township, while for the best saddle horse Mr. E. C. Jones, of Toronto, was the successful contestant. The Canada Company's prize for wheat, amounting to \$100, was awarded to Mr. J. B. Carpenter, of Townsend, while R. L. Denison, of Toronto, took the same Company's prize, amounting to \$24, for the best 112 lbs. of flax.

I quote the *Examiner* for a few remarks. It says: "On Thursday and Friday mornings the show was opened with an imposing procession of several thousands, horses to the number of eighty, and cattle of the different classes, including Durham, Devon and Ayrshire bulls, cows, horses, oxen, etc., besides a large number of carriages and horsemen. The procession, which was preceded by a band, formed on the County of York Show Ground, near the gaol. The display of horses, as it moved along King, Yonge and Queen Streets, to the Exhibition Grounds, was perhaps the most attractive sight to agriculturists at least, and we doubt not also to citizens, that was to be seen during the Fair."

Five more years passed away before Toronto was again visited by the Provincial Exhibition and in that five years many important, even startling changes took place. Up to that date it had been the custom whenever such buildings were required to accommodate machinery, agricultural produce and other articles unsuitable to be shown in the open air, to erect wooden buildings on the site chosen for the Exhibition, and these were removed as soon as they were no longer useful. In 1857, though, a new departure took place and the building known at the time as the Crystal Palace was erected. This stood about 500 yards directly

south of the centre dome of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum; as nearly as possible the centre of the building was situated where the King Street viaduct begins on the east. There was really very little glass used in the construction of this pavilion, it was crystal in little else than name. In its centre, on the ground floor, was a large fountain, in the basin of which during the week that the Exhibition was open, gold and silver fish were placed, and there they swam about to the great amusement and delight of the younger portion of the visitors to whom, even then, it had already developed into a very great show. It is not necessary for me to go into the history of the decadence of the Provincial, and the rise of what we now know as the Industrial Exhibition. The latter is an outcome of the former, which, as the country developed, had outgrown its usefulness; it was too strong for Toronto and the district immediately surrounding it, and not strong enough for the whole of the Province, consequently, local exhibitions and fairs in the smaller towns were instituted, and these towns gradually withdrew their support from it.

In this necessary fragmentary address I have only been able to give an account of the early Exhibitions in the most sketchy manner. I have been compelled to omit the names of many worthy agriculturists and public men who were associated with the development of these earlier shows, and who, in that and other respects, rendered splendid service to their country. Should any person, though, who has heard me, be at all desirous of obtaining further facts I shall be delighted upon his applying to me either personally or by letter to supply him with all the information that I possess.



## SOME ACCOUNT OF BYTOWN.

(*Read before the W. C. H. S. of Ottawa.*)

IT will be evident that the writer has attempted, in the preparation of this paper, rather to suggest certain lines of investigation than to present an exhaustive study of the settlement of one particular corner of Canada. Parkman has made the voyages of the early explorers up the river of the *Outaouais* delightfully familiar to us all; other historians have been attracted by the romance and excitement of those brave, adventurous days; but no one has reproduced in a more vivid and inimitable fashion than Mr. Benjamin Sulte the inhospitable shores and warring Indian tribes of Champlain's day, the voyageurs and traders who followed him, the first sparse settlements in the Lower Ottawa, down to those times of happy augury when Philemon Wright and his associates founded Hull on the opposite shore. Nor does he end there. As he tells it, the story of the building of the Rideau Canal, which gave a reason for the coming together of the village whose evolution still goes on before our eyes, is full of romance and incitement to patriotic pride.

I fancy the much-talked-of trip into the Yukon is little more hazardous than the hard journey up the Ottawa was in the days of the first French explorers. The island Allumette, the headquarters of the Algonquin Indians, was then within the confines of nowhere-land, and Champlain, as we all know, made men marvel at his hardihood in daring to push his way thus far. He was probably only the third European who passed the "Place des Rideaux," and saw the Chaudiere in the beauty we can only imagine. To the Algonquins, whose hunting-grounds at that period were the valley of the Ottawa, the Chaudiere and its neighbourhood were places of importance. There are many interesting, shadowy

bits of history gathered around the meeting place of three rivers. It is always mentioned in the annals of explorers, and we discover that we cannot flatter ourselves that we were first to perceive the commercial advantages of our city. Long ere a white man dreamed that there were such rushing waters and vast stretches of hill and valley waiting to be preyed upon, these very places, we are told, were the goal of yearly trading expeditions of Indian tribes who lived thousands of miles apart. All kinds of produce changed owners here—the tobacco of distant Virginia, the pumpkins and squashes and melons of the agricultural Hurons, and the bark canoes of the more southerly tribes for the warm, beautiful furs of the Algonquins and the tribes still further north. These annual fairs continued for many years after the French had established trading-posts along the St. Lawrence. But not only were these places of note as centres of Indian trade; we find, too, that whenever the Chaudiere is spoken of by early French writers there are hints of the veneration with which the Algonquins regarded it. It was a religious shrine, where, no matter what danger of lurking foe, a propitiating sacrifice must be offered. That oftentimes there was a real danger, many tales of bloodshed happening with such a beginning testify.

We have all heard of the proposed Georgian Bay Canal, but, I wonder, are we all aware that such a trade channel would be but a return to the route which was the customary one for two hundred years that we know of to the Georgian Bay and the country beyond. How many trains of Indian canoes and Indian braves have passed along this thorny way of many portages! What a procession of heroic missionaries have paddled these waters



and torn their bare feet on the rocky shores, going some of them to death, and some of them to tortures worse than death? What stout-hearted *cour-ours-de-bois*, what cheery voyageurs have floated by into the north and west to the life of the woods! Oftentimes of a summer night the waters, and the wind in the trees along the shores of our river seem to be murmuring and whispering stories of those dauntless travellers.

It seems a strange thing nowadays to remember that hardly more than seventy years ago these regions were known as the Upper Ottawa, and still considered a wild, inaccessible district. Philemon Wright's account of his exploration of the township of Hull, and ultimate settlement there, makes interesting reading. He tells us that when he first came to spy out the land in 1799, in order to obtain any idea at all of the nature of the country, he had to climb one towering tree after another. Had he climbed to the top of a rugged pine on the heights, let us say, of Ashburnham Hill, what would he have seen? No Gothic architecture, certainly; rather, forest, swamps, brushwood and beaver meadows. At his feet, stretching southward, he would see the primeval forest; to the north beyond the terraced hill slope, low ground covered with dwarf cedars, juniper and brush—what we now call the flats; then the sweep of the river as it rushed through the wooded isles strung across to the north shore, where his proposed settlement was to locate. Eastward the mists were rising from a swamp covering the acres between what is now Lyon and O'Connor Streets, possibly reaching as far south as Maria Street, and if he looked closely he might trace an outlet to the waters of this quagmire, as they flowed down what is now Queen Street, and rushed over the steep at the rear of what was to be the site of the Russel House, into the pond which eventually changed into the canal basin. Had he followed the creek's course, he would have discovered the beavers keeping their dam at the eastern end.

This creek, which controlled the geography of Lower Town, and decided the situation of the earliest buildings erected in Bytown, flowed diagonally across Rideau Street, along King Street, until it lost itself in the universal swamp of Lower Town. Along the Lower Creek, which Colonel By utilized as a by-wash for his canal, just beyond the settlement, wild duck and plovers were plentiful in the '30's. As for Upper Town, listen to W. P. Lett:

“ For when across the Sapper's bridge,  
The prospect was a fine beech ridge,  
And 'Gibson's corner,' in old time,  
For squirrel hunting was most prime.

“ Then the deer  
To Bank Street church's site was near,  
And ruffed-grouse, wrongly named partridge,  
Whirled and drummed between the ridges.

“ And when the swamp down Slater Street  
Was cleared, a dozen snipe would greet  
At every step the sportsman's eye,  
Oh! glorious spot of days gone by!”

The countryside was full of wolves and deer. My grandmother, who married in '34, used to tell my father tales of many a day spent alone in the log-house of those days, with the wolves howling madly around, the fiercest of them thrusting their noses against the window-pane. That was within eight miles of Ottawa. Nearly all the old settlers could boast of a bear-fight. Mr. Sulte writes that, as late as 1860, a deer was seen from the windows of Parliament to leap into the river, pursued by hunting dogs.

The enterprise of Philemon Wright prospered, and in the course of a few years a little village grew up at the foot of the Gatineau hills, until, in 1820, there was a population of 703 souls. But the bluffs of the opposite shore were still solitary, and no sign was visible of the fast approaching change. Meanwhile the surrounding country was gradually being settled. It was in 1811 that Ira Honeywell made his way through the wilds from Prescott, cleared a farm and made a home on the south shore above the Chaudiere. Others followed until, in 1818-19, we find a succession of farms along the river front. It is interesting to know

that the names of these first settlers are : Holt, Honeywell, Moore, Mc-Connell and Thompson, their land ranging in the order named. We realize how young we are as a people, remembering that the first white child born on the south shore was a John Honeywell, only in 1811. It was Martin Moore, the historian of the County of Carleton tells us, speaking of these settlers, who drove the corpse of the Duke of Richmond with a double yoke of oxen from Chapman's to the "Landing." The mention of the latter place brings us to the founding of Richmond in 1818.

For two centuries "La Place des Rideaux" had been the only name to distinguish a large stretch of country. Nepean and Nepean Point came into use at the beginning of this century and for some years following 1818, the place we now call "Le Breton Flats" went under the more euphonious name of "Richmond's Landing." The summer long, the wives and children of those Richmond pioneers tarried there, and had a taste of cold and hunger, before their soldier husbands and fathers succeeded in building a road and making ready log-cabins, preparatory to transporting them to the pretty spot chosen for their settlement. Richmond was a place of importance until the advent of the Rideau Canal caused a town to spring up which overshadowed and killed its growth.

The townships around Nepean were also being slowly inhabited. The Billings of Billing's Bridge settled in Gloucester as early as 1812, soon followed by three families of Dow's.

To go back a little, the township of Nepean had been surveyed in the last decade of the eighteenth century. It was laid out in concessions, which fronted, half of them on the Ottawa, and half on the Rideau river. The land on which our city now stands was originally comprised in six lots, three lots of concession C and three lots of concession D, the boundary line between them being Cumberland Street. The first of these to leave the possession of the Crown, were the two lots cover-

ing about six hundred acres, extending north and south, from Maria as far as Ann Street, and east and west from Concession Street to the Rideau. These were patented by the Crown to Grace McQueen in 1801. Her family held them until 1832, when they were sold to Colonel By for £1,200. In 1802, Jacob Carman took out a patent for two lots similar in size, a long strip of land which stretched from about Pooley's Bridge to the Rideau, between Ottawa and Cathcart Streets on the north, and Wellington and Rideau Streets on the south, including, as you may perceive, Parliament Hill and Major's Hill Park. This property changed hands for £10, and was again taken possession of by the Crown in 1823, at a price something more than £700. There remain the two lots running between these two properties, one of them to become the business centre of Ottawa. This slice of land, the well-known Sparks estate, was originally the property of John Honey Burrows, who sold it to Nicholas Sparks in June, 1826. The rest of the city proper, what we now call Sandy Hill, was patented to Lewis T. Besserer as late as 1827.

It is not known that Jacob Carman ever settled upon the rocky shore of which he held the title deeds. The earliest note of habitation are lumber shanties about 1816, in Lower Town. At the coming of the Richmond settlers there were three householders at the "Landing," who might be called the advance-guard of our city—Caleb T. Bellows, who kept a dock and a little store; Isaac Frith, who kept a tavern, and a genial settler by the name of Ralph Smith, whose hospitality Mr. Lett has immortalized in his "Recollections of Bytown." Mr. Burrows lived for a short time on the uncleared land he eventually sold to Mr. Sparks, the only settler in a wilderness of forest and rugged hills. He had come out to Canada in 1818, and settled on a farm between Hull and Aylmer. After Colonel By's arrival, he was appointed on the engineering staff of the Ordnance Department, where he remained until

his death in '48. He built the first Methodist church, which had the honor of being as well the first of any creed erected in Ottawa, at his own expense. It was a little frame building on Chapel Street, just beyond Rideau, and gave its name to the former street. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire a few months later. Of him the late Mr. Lett wrote :

“ John Burrows too, with serious air  
Sang hymns, and offered frequent prayer,  
And taught a Sunday-school with might,  
To spread religion's early light.”

Let me speak for a moment of the hard life of those days before 1827. To begin with, the first houses of even those who afterwards became wealthy and influential, were log-cabins, built with one room, kitchen, dining-room and sleeping-room, downstairs, and usually a garret above, oftentimes exposed to the weather. There were no churches and few religious services, even on the Hull side. An itinerant preacher, the first to penetrate into these backwoods, has left us an interesting account of his visit. “ Where the city of Ottawa now stands, or near it,” he writes, “ there was in the spring of 1816 a small village known as Hull. With no land road from below, it could only be reached by water, a distance of forty miles. Represented as all but destitute of Christian ministrations, the author of these reminiscences decided to reconnoitre and report.” After describing the canoe trip and a night in the woods, he continues : “ day-light sees us leading for the ‘ carrying-place,’ (an alias for the writer's destination) which was gained in season to assemble the settlement for an evening sermon. It was listened to by some who had never heard one before, with avidity and tears.” Two years pass before a regular travelling preacher is appointed, one Rinaldo Evarets, who used to come by way of the Upper Rideau settlements, and thence alone in a canoe. He is said to have been the first clergyman in all Nepean. But churches were not the only lack. The dead had to be ferried across to be buried on the Hull side. Matrimony

was a problem, solved as a rule by bringing a justice of peace from a distant settlement. Such a marriage was not legal in Lower Canada, and hence a romantic fashion said to have been on occasions adopted by the Hull settlers, of having the ceremony take place in the winter time, on the ice in the middle of the river. We are told that the first school in this part of Nepean met at the house of Mr. Burrows. In 1828 it was still the rule to send Bytown children across to Hull to school. Indeed, there were only five regular teachers in all Nepean as late as 1833, including the village of Bytown.

The trade which was to bring wealth to the Ottawa valley was begun in 1806, when Philemon Wright, daring man he was, took the first raft of timber down the Ottawa and St. Lawrence to Quebec. With few exceptions, the whole population, on the Hull side at least, were henceforth interested in lumbering.

Oxen were in general use to clear the land and to draw the caravans of travellers from one settlement to another. I wish I had time to picture what hardships a journey to Perth, the seat of justice for the county until 1842, meant in those days. You can imagine something of it when I tell you that there was no sign of a road and that the services of a guide were needed. The first steamer was put on the river in 1819, previous to that time travelling was done in *butteaux* or barges.

The birth year of Ottawa is properly 1826, when Colonel By came out to take charge of the construction of the Rideau Canal. He straightway set about building three barracks to house his soldiers, on the hill where the Parliament Buildings stand, and fixed his own habitation on the next hill, Major's Hill of to-day. It was a house set among the trees with a ravishing view from the verandah, as Bouchette tells us, who doubtless enjoyed it as he smoked his pipe in the evening time, never dreaming of the lumber piles and sawdust that were to mar the enjoyment

of his successors. Sir John Franklin happened along on his fateful voyage to the pole, and laid the corner-stone of the canal locks in August 1827, and the work was rapidly pushed forward. A settlement at once sprang up. Upper Town was first laid out into lots, just a few streets, Wellington, Vittoria, Tyon or Sally, and Kent, and just a few blocks on each. These were soon taken. The following spring ('27), Lower Town was well-drained into the canal basin, and at once surveyed. In 1828, and thereabouts, there were one hundred and fifty houses in the place, a few on Wellington Street, half a dozen on the flats, the rest divided between Corktown, Sussex and Rideau Streets. Corktown was a wild, lawless place along the border of the canal, from Bates' wholesale grocery over to Maria Street, a row of labourers' huts, built in the mud. There were civilian barracks in the neighbourhood of George and Rideau Streets, two frame buildings facing one another, built to accommodate the canal workers. In 1828, the workmen of the Hon. Thomas McKay erected the "Scotch" church, now St. Andrew's. It was not until '32 that Nicholas Sparks gave the land on which the first Anglican Church was built, on condition that he and his heirs were granted a pew for all time.

As soon as the building of the canal became determined upon, it followed that a bridge must span the Ottawa, and the islands below the falls offered natural stepping-stones for such an undertaking. It was not so easy a task as one might think to keep a bridge across the Chaudiere. The first one attempted broke and three workmen were drowned. The second, when nearly completed, was blown down stream by a gale of wind. There is a picture of the Chaudiere in existence, taken in 1828, entitled "The Bridge over the Ottawa at Bytown," where, instead of the Suspension bridge of today, there appears a perilous-looking affair built with an invex curve. This must have been the second bridge. The third had better fortune and endured

for twelve years when it followed the example of its predecessors.

The earliest map of Bytown reveals its progress. The "Scotch" church seems out of bounds, Sussex Street is only a few yards long, a path is traced leading through the woods to Colonel By's residence, the direction of Sapper's bridge is incorrect, there is no centre town at all, and certain of the few streets laid out have since changed their names. According to the sketch it would seem that the river flowed north! The canal was completed in 1832 and at once all the trade between Upper and Lower Canada went past Bytown. For years the chief amusement of the townspeople was to watch a procession of boats slowly making their way through the locks. Bytown was never a compact, orderly appearing place. In the beginning its growth was of such a mushroom character, that its houses were hidden from each other by the forest, people had not time to clear a way. A similar state of things lasted for many years. A distinguished traveller has left this record of his impressions as late as '54: "There has been as yet no time to pave the streets, and in bad weather they are in a desperate condition. Only near the houses there are run what are called 'plank roads.' As for gardens, fruit trees or flowers, no one has had time so much as to think of them, and the old rough boulders and masses of rock are lying about still, among the groups of houses, and firs and other forest trees are springing up again out of the stumps. Here and there amongst elegant colleges and churches are to be seen fragments of the primeval forest, lofty pines and firs and thick underwood that occasionally may give shelter to a bear. By and by they will be changed into gardens, but as yet the unbroken mass of the primeval forest fences in the town on all sides, and if you get a view of it from a high point you see for miles and miles nothing but a sea of wood in which the town lies like the nest of a heathcock."

For the first twenty years of Bytown's life, the division into Upper and

Lower Town was very real. Up to 1847 there was not a house in Centre Town save the barracks and the stone hospital on the hill. Crossing Sapper's bridge the road wound round the foot of Parliament Hill, behind the Russell, skirting the old cemetery, curving outward to Albert Street, and striking Bank Street at the south-eastern corner of Wellington St. A log fence enclosed the government land, with a stile at each end and a rocky foot-path between. For years this government property extended out to Ann Street, and it was the original intention to use it as a reservoir for the canal. Those were halcyon days for government officials, who were allowed privileges of pasture for their cows in the enclosure. Mr. Sparks regained possession of Centre Town as far as Maria Street, after a protracted lawsuit, and at once laid it out in lots. The business centre of Ottawa was from that time decided.

I fear that I have wearied you, and yet I have not done more than attempt

to indicate a few of the many salient points of local history which it would be instructive to develop. I have said nothing of the "Shiners," a not very creditable episode in our history, of a hundred other incidents in the changes which have come about, but I hope that I have said enough to convince you that there is no better study than that of local history to awaken a national sentiment, and an ardent wish for the well-being and advancement of the home city.

*F. Gertrude Kenny, B.A.*

Ottawa.

[We beg to suggest that the subject of this very interesting paper be pursued by Miss Kenny and others until a full story is told of Ottawa, our national Capital. As Miss Kenny truly remarks: "There is no better study than that of local history to awaken a national sentiment."—EDITOR.]

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## A VISIT TO THE GRAVE-YARDS OF NIAGARA.

THE Niagara Historical Society this year, instead of holding a public meeting on the 17th of September in commemoration of the first Parliament in Upper Canada, held in Newark, now Niagara, in 1792, resolved to visit not only the beautiful St. Mark's cemetery, strewing flowers on the graves of military heroes, as on previous occasions, but also to visit the other graveyards of the town in loving remembrance of those, in whatever walk of life, men and women who had "served their day and generation well." Here are buried many who helped to make history for our country, whether as soldiers or priests, judges or business-men, and to know the history of this spot is to know a good part of the history of Canada.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, in front

of the Historical Room, stood a bus and two other conveyances which were soon filled with members and friends laden with baskets of flowers, or carrying bouquets, the rich autumnal tints prevailing.

First, St. Mark's cemetery was visited, a spot which Dean Stanley said, standing in the midst of the silent records of the past: "This is a piece of old England itself; do not allow it to be altered." A spot which, with its beautiful, drooping weeping-willows, magnificent elms, remains of rifle-pits used in the war of 1812, the picturesque old church of grey-stone, has witnessed so many wild scenes, sad scenes, when fire and sword predominated in turn. Here the ashes of Indians, the redman and the white, Protestant or Catholic alike lie; the spot having been first an

Indian burial ground ; then for forty years at least the only place for interments in the town ; St. Andrew's and others not having been used until after 1831.

First we visited the graves of four heroes, who gave their lives in defence of the town on the 27th of May, 1813, when 7,000 American troops attacked our forces, numbering only 1,400. To the grave of one of them little Mildred Randall, the great-granddaughter of Capt. Martin McLellan, sent flowers gathered and arranged by herself. The marble slab, which had fallen down some years ago, is now placed in the entry at the north door of the church, and has this inscription : " In memory of Capt. M. McLellan, Chas. Wright and Wm. Cameron, 1st Royal Lincoln Militia, who gloriously fell on 27th May, 1813, also Adj. Lloyd, of 8th King's Regt."

" As livid lightnings dart their vivid light,  
So poured they forth their fires in bloody fight ;  
They bravely fell, and saved their country's cause.  
They loved their Constitution, King and Laws."

Not far off lies old John Wray, who faithfully served the church for fifty years as clerk, dying in 1846.

No stone yet commemorates Dominic Henry, an old soldier under Cornwallis, who was the light-house keeper here from 1803 to 1814 ; nor his wife, the heroine who served out refreshments to our men when fighting to repel the invaders on 27th May, 1813, and to whom the Loyal and Patriotic Society granted £25 as an acknowledgment in 1818

Capt. Copeland Radcliff, a young naval hero, who fell at Fort Erie while boarding a vessel of the enemy in 1814, is remembered in one tablet by his brother officers, and another by his relatives.

The following quaint lines keep alive the memory of Thomas Easton, trumpeter, H.M. Royal Artillery drivers.

" Here lies within this silent grave  
A Royal soldier, brisk and brave,  
Who suddenly was snatched away  
From off this sodden foot of clay."

Two youths, aged twenty and twenty-one, Wm. Joliffe and John Midgely, who belonged to the band of the 76th Regiment, died in 1825. There is nothing to show the grave of one who has several claims to be remembered, Capt. David Thompson, of the King's 8th, who wrote a history of the war of 1812 ; he afterwards taught a school in Niagara for many years. So are the dead forgotten, but we would fain keep their memory green in this humble tribute. Rev. John Burns is buried here ; he was the minister of St. Andrew's church from 1805 to 1817 ; was taken prisoner by the Americans and preached to his captors. A patriotic sermon, preached by him at Stamford in 1814, has been printed by the Lundy's Lane Historical Society. Andrew Herm, the projector of the Niagara Library of 1800 to 1820, also its secretary, treasurer and librarian, as well as being the secretary and treasurer of St. Andrew's church, lies here, beside him his four wives. He fought not in the battlefield, but waged a good fight as the editor of a paper and publisher of many books, fighting the giants Ignorance and Indifference.

A modest stone keeps green the memory of John Clement, the " Ranger John" of Mr. Kirby's fine poem, the " U.E. Loyalists."

The three rectors of St. Mark's in the century from 1792 to 1892, Rev. R. Addison, Rev. Thos. Green, Rev. Wm. McMurray, D.D., all lie here, referred to in the " Centennial," a poem by the present rector, Rev. J. C. Garrett, as

" The holy priests quaint Addison, mild Green,  
McMurray honored—"

Col. Kingsmill, who was in the force guarding Napoleon at St. Helena, and Col. Elliot, a veteran of the Peninsular war, lie here. The two flat tablets hacked with the hatchets of the American soldiers who used the church as a barracks in 1813, commemorate two merchants, Charles Morrison and Geo. Forsyth, who died in 1802 and 1806 respectively.

In the graveyard of St. Vincent de Paul's Church are the graves of Lieut.-

Adj. McDonell and Col. McDougall, the latter of whom fought at Lundy's Lane, lay all night on the battlefield, carrying to his grave the bullet never extracted. A document in the historical room is his warrant for raising a regiment, signed E. McDonell, Prescott, 1813. Father Lynch lies here, who was beloved by all, Catholic and Protestant alike, and whose grave is kept bright with flowers in loving remembrance. Here also lie the remains of old Mrs. Stevenson, who was so noted for her benevolence and her kindness to prisoners in Niagara gaol in the old days when debtors were imprisoned.

To the west of the town is St. Andrew's Cemetery with its belt of solemn pines. The first buried here was John Crooks, the earliest Sunday School teacher in the town. The death of Mrs. Young, who left a handsome legacy to the church, and of her husband, whose body rests in the depths of Lake Ontario, is commemorated by a tablet in the church. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, U. E. Loyalists, who came in 1788; Dr. Whitelaw, a learned man who taught the Grammar School for nearly twenty years; Wm. Duff Miller, for fifty years an office-bearer in the church, as was also John Rogers for the same time; Donald McDonald, of the 78th Highlanders; John Meneilley, stationed so long at Fort George; Judge Lauder, and Dr. Campbell, the skilful physician, all lie here "where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap."

In the Methodist churchyard, John Boyd (father of Sir John Boyd) who for many years taught in the Grammar School in Toronto, the old Blue School, was interred.

Not far from this is the spot where formerly stood the Baptist church, occupied first by both white and coloured Baptists, built by the exertions of Henry Oakley, a white man, who came here in 1814, and had charge of the stores at Fort George and afterwards became a preacher in the church. A child of his lies buried here among the dusky Africans. Here lies, perhaps, as great a hero as any, Herbert

Holmes, a coloured man, teacher and preacher, who lost his life in an attempt to free an escaped slave from being returned to bondage. He, with another coloured man, was shot down and both lie buried here and deserve that we should place a flower, even after sixty years have rolled away, upon their unmarked grave. There were at one time between three and four hundred blacks here who had followed the north star to liberty.

Butler's grave was our last objective point, a spot not easily found. The farm originally owned by Col. Butler has been divided and sold, the line fence running exactly through the graveyard. Leaving our conveyances we climbed fences, skirted flats and ascended slopes. An advance party of three took different routes to survey and, when the spot sought for was found, to report. Beautiful old trees stand on a plateau from which in every direction a fair scene of rolling meadows, fair orchards and meandering streams meet the eye, "woods over woods in gay theatric pride." The inadvisability of private burying grounds is shown in this sadly neglected spot, for here the hand of the spoiler has been; trees were cut down, which in their mighty fall broke and destroyed the tombstones, and street gamins have been known to enter the vault and carry off the bones interred there. Some years ago when the place was visited inscriptions were copied. Shortly after when, with the late lamented Mrs. Curzon, another visit was paid, a scene of desolation met the eye. Stones had been broken into fragments and the vault desecrated. Here Col. Butler was buried in 1796 and now no stone is to be found to mark the spot. The vault belonged to the Claus family. Daniel Claus, son-in-law of Sir William Johnson, and Superintendent of Indians, was buried here and a large boulder has been placed at the entrance of the vault to protect it from sacrilege.

A copy of the deed granted to F. Butler, J. Muirhead, W. Claus, J. Claus, Ralfe Clench and A. Frill, by Thomas Butler, giving the exact size

of the boundaries of the enclosure, is in the Niagara Historic Room. Ralfé Clench, who was a member of Parliament and fought at Queenston Heights, is buried here. There is a monument to him in St. Mark's Church as there is to Col. Butler and many must have read and been impressed with its striking "Fear God. Honour the King." An attempt was made some years ago to transfer the bones of the "Rangers" to St. Mark's, but it was found impossible to locate the graves. A slight fence surrounds the Butler burying place, and also that of the Clench family; but many of the broken stones in the rest of the ground are fast disappearing. Some of the inscriptions may still be read, as those to Butler, Muirhead, barrister; and James Muirhead, surgeon. The following is a fair sample of those

old inscriptions:—"Here reposes Maria A. Caroline, the Generous-hearted, High-souled, Talented and Deeply lamented wife of Major Richardson."

Cannot something be done to place in order this spot, where so many of those famous in early Canadian history have found their last resting place?

Could in any place besides Niagara be more fittingly held a Decoration Day, to remember and honour the graves where lie the remains of military and naval heroes, scholars, statesmen, judges, priests, U. E. Loyalists, heroes and heroines, a noble bead roll?

"Somewhere surely afar  
Is practiced that strength, zealous, beneficent,  
firm."

*Janet Carnochan.*

NIAGARA, ONT.

## EARLY MISCONCEPTIONS OF CANADA'S CLIMATE.

"AFTER all, what signifies a few acres of ice and snow," is the saying attributed to the French monarch in signing the treaty under which New France passed under the rule of Britain, often quoted as an evidence of the ignorance prevalent in high quarters as to the climate and value of Canada as a rich and fertile country. That this ignorance was not confined to its former French masters is curiously indicated by the instructions issued by the British Government to James Murray, the first British Governor of the Province of Quebec. This somewhat long document, bearing date December 7th, 1763, sets forth very minutely the duties of the Governor in relation to the requirements of the newly acquired territory. The conception of the climate and needs of the country entertained by the statesmen who drew it up was evidently altogether different to that held by its former owners, though just as wide of

the truth. It seems a rather curious circumstance that, contrary to the current notion of the modern untravelled Britisher, that Canada is a land of almost perpetual snow, the authors of Governor Murray's instruction imagined it to be at least a semi-tropical region with characteristics similar to those of the Southern States or the West Indies. No other inference can be drawn from several passages in the document with respect to the introduction of negroes for the cultivation of the soil.

Clause 50, respecting the granting of land to settlers, for instance, contains the following:

"It is therefore Our Will and Pleasure that all and every Person and Persons who shall apply to you for any Grant or Grants of Land, shall previous to their obtaining the same make it appear before you in Council, that they are in condition to cultivate and improve the same by settling thereon in



proportion to the quantity of Acres desired a sufficient number of White Persons and Negroes."

Again, in clause 72, which enumerates a number of subjects upon which the Governor was directed to report to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantation, we find that inquiry is to be made as follows :

"What is the number of inhabitants, Whites and Blacks, distinguishing each? What number of the former is capable of bearing Arms, and what number of the latter is annually necessary to be supplied in Proportion to the Land cultivated?"

Apparently the Government of that day had the impression that Canada was a colony of slaveholders in which a steady importation of negroes was necessary to maintain the standard of agricultural production and fill the places of those annually used up by the severity and hardships incidental to plantation labor. Ignorance of Canadian conditions at that early stage was neither surprising nor discreditable, but it is surely a little singular, in view of later misconceptions, that it should have assumed this particular form.

PHILLIPS THOMPSON.

TORONTO.

## AN EARLY BURGLARY.

WHILE the skilled burglar is essentially an outcome of modern complex civilization, he made an early appearance in the history of Canada. We have the record of a skilful and successful robbery in Port Hope in 1829. Captain C. A. Williams, of Toronto, has a copy of a proclamation, in which a reward of \$500 with additional sums in English currency is offered for the conviction of certain persons who succeeded in robbing Commander John T. Williams, a leading citizen of Port Hope, of the large sum of five thousand pounds and also stole from the till of the hotel where Commander Smith resided some forty pounds. As one of the links with the past, of which there are none too many preserved in this country, and inasmuch as several of those named in and subscribing to the document have descendants well known to the present generation, the following reproduction of the document cannot fail to be interesting :

500 DOLLARS

**REWARD.**

DARING ROBBERY  
AT PORT HOPE.

WHEREAS on the night of Monday, the 24th day of August, the Mansion House Hotel at Port Hope was feloniously entered, and property in Cash and Notes to the amount of £5,000 stolen from the suite of apartments occupied by JOHN T. WILLIAMS, ESQUIRE, the property of the subscriber.—There were also stolen at the same time, out of the Bar of the said House, Cash and Notes belonging to MR. ROBERT SMITH, the Inn-keeper, to the amount of £40, and about 20 yards of Blue Cloth.

The above Reward will be paid by the Subscriber to any Person that will give such information of the Robbery as may bring the Culprits to Justice and conviction.

JOHN T. WILLIAMS.

*Port Hope, Aug. 25, 1829.*

In addition to the above Reward, the undersigned Magistrates and Gentlemen of this vicinity, offer the sums opposite to their respective names, on conviction of the person or persons who committed the said Robbery.

John D. Smith, J.P.	£12	10	0
David Smart, J.P.	12	10	0
William Ouston	12	10	0
Charles Fothergill	12	10	0
G. B. Boswell	12	10	0
Erasmus Fouke	5	0	0
T. Ward	12	10	0
M. F. Whitehead	12	10	0

*Printed at the U.C. Gazette Office, York.*

Commander Smith, of Her Majesty's Navy, the victim of the burglary, came to Canada in 1813, at the close of the

Border War with the United States, and commanded the British war schooner, *Surprise*, which was stationed on the Upper Lakes. He afterwards settled in Port Hope. The late Col. Williams, who commanded the Midland Battalion during the campaign against Louis Riel in the North-West, when he led the charge against the rifle pits at Batoche and whose death, after the close of the rebellion, was so generally deplored, was a son of the Commander. Captain C. A. Williams, who possesses the proclamation, is another son.

First among those whose names are attached to the proclamation offering a supplementary reward is that of Mr. John D. Smith, J.P. The original

name of the village where Port Hope now stands was Smith's Creek, and it was named after Mr. J. D. Smith. One of his sons was the late Hon. Sydney Smith, who at one time held the office of Postmaster General in Sir John Macdonald's Cabinet, and another is Judge Smith, of Lindsay.

Mr. David Smart, J.P., another subscriber, was the father of Col. Smart, formerly of Port Hope, but now living in Chicago.

Mr. G. B. Boswell, was the ancestor of ex-Mayor Boswell, of Toronto, so well known as Commodore of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club.

Despite the reward offered the bold burglars were never captured.

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## SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

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### Canadian Historical Quarterly.

THIS is a Specimen Number of the proposed CANADIAN HISTORICAL QUARTERLY, to be published by The Hunter, Rose Co., Limited, and edited by Charles Dedrickson, in the interest of the Historical Societies of Canada, with the object of preserving in a permanent form the many valuable papers which are read before the different Societies, and now, too often, have only an ephemeral existence. It will also promote intersocial correspondence.

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