

**Arrival of Frontenac**  
(Continued)

spring had once more set free the blue waters of the St. Lawrence they made their way up the river in batteaux, took up their grants of land, and, in their loyal zeal, changed the name of the place from Cataract to Kingston. Their leader, Captain Grass, observes in a tone worthy of the men of the Mayflower, "I pointed out to them the site of their future metropolis, and gained for persecuted principles a sanctuary, for myself a home." Other settlers are long followed, bearing names still well-known in Kingston, and founding families imbued with strong Tory predilections, communicating to the place a conservative character, which it long retained.

**Under the Brave Loyalists.**

For years life at the new settlement was primitive enough. For lack of a mill, the settlers had to grind their corn with an axe on a flat stone, or with pestle and mortar. The clumsy axes and unpracticed hand of the military settlers made but slow progress in clearing the land. Their farms, too, were often sacrificed to their necessities, sold sometimes for a horse or a cow, or even half a barrel of salmon. The first beef, accidentally killed by a falling tree, was long remembered by those who had the privilege of sharing it. In 1788, "the famine year," the death was so great that starving families flocked in from the surrounding country, where roots and leaves were eaten by the people.

Gradually Kingston became a place of some importance. The original log-cabins gave place to houses of limestone, of which there was abundance to be had for the quarrying. A grist mill, built by the government in 1772, about six miles up the Cataract, and worked by a pretty cascade tumbling out of a picturesque gorge, added to the importance of the town. As the settlers grew a little richer and able to replace their home-made clothing by imported fabrics, and the exports of flour and pork increased, new shops were started, and the principal thoroughfare—now called Princess street—received the name of Stone street. The place resumed much of its old consequence when it became a naval and military station under the British flag. This honor was first conferred on Carleton Island, near the opposite shore, where the ruins of extensive fortifications excite the wonder of visitors and of picnic parties to this day; but when the island was discovered to be within the American lines, Kingston was chosen, and it retained the distinction, until the final withdrawal of the British troops from Canada.

**The Loyal Defence of Canada**

"The war of 1812" brought Kingston to the front, as the chief Canadian stronghold on Lake Ontario and the rival to the American arsenal at Sackett's Harbour. The government

dockyard occupied the low-lying peninsula opposite the town, which is now graced by the fine Norman structure of the Royal Military College and its dependent buildings. The dark green reach of deep water between the college and the glacis of Fort Henry was the naval mooring ground, where, in our days of piping peace, nothing more threatening than the skiffs of cadets threatening to be future Hanlans are seen, lay formidable battle-ships. One of them,—the St. Lawrence,—built here in 1814, cost the British government half a million sterling. In all probability, the wood was sent out from England. During the same war, Fort Henry—the modern successor of old Fort Frontenac—was commenced, at first as a rude fort of logs with an embankment. The woods, which clothed the long sloping hill and the adjacent country, were cut down to prevent the possibility of surprises, and a chain of those essentially Colonial defences, known as block-houses, connected by a picket stockade defended the city. One ancient specimen of the little wooden forts still remains. Subsequent-

ly, the block-houses gave place to a cincture of massive Martello towers and stone batteries, which present an imposing appearance on approaching Kingston from the water, though to modern warfare they are no more formidable than the old defences of logs. Twenty years after the war, the present Fort Henry was also built, a most important fortification in those days, with its heavy guns and mortars, its advanced battery and its casemated barracks, providing accommodation for a large garrison.

Kingston was in a lively state during the exciting times of the rebellion of 1837-8. The 26th Regiment of Regulars had been withdrawn, to do service in parts of the country more vulnerable, and the defence of the ancient stronghold of Frontenac devolved upon the volunteers. They responded with alacrity to the loyal call, and at one time 800 men were in garrison here, while others had been sent nearer to the "seat of war." The corps quartered in Kingston included:

At Fort Henry—Capt. Strange, Askew, Meagher and Macfarland's com-

panies, of Frontenac Militia, the regular Royal Artillery, 100 Lennox and Addington Militia, under Col. McKay, Captain Wheeler and Lieut. Shorey. At Tete de Pont Barracks—A Company Artillery, Kingston, under Capt. D. J. Smith, Lieut. Mowat and Ensign Muckleston.

In other quarters—Frontenac Dragoons, under Lieut. Thomas Wilson and Cornet Yarker, 200 volunteer marines under Royal Navy officers.

A night patrol of citizens was also kept up. Col. Bonnycastle was in command. Col. Angus Cameron was Garrison Adjutant. The Marines sustained a guard at all entrances to the town. All loyal inhabitants wore a white band on the arms, a very silly and easily counterfeited precaution.

**Forewarned, Forearmed.**

The rebellion excitement reached its height in February, 1838. One Sunday evening it was reported that the "patriots" and their United States sympathisers were moving upwards on the ice to attack the city. At once the main streets were barricaded. Though the

next day dawned without any sign of an enemy, the false alarm brought the highest measures of precaution into play. Volunteers were called in from the country, and an ice entrenchment was erected on the harbor in front of the town. On Tuesday fresh activity was engendered by a report (also false) of the landing of rebels on Howe Island. The services of 140 Indians who came forward from the Mohawk reserve were accepted, and every male inhabitant called out as a reserve force for defence. The town was divided into six wards, each with a Captain and Lieutenant to drill and organize, and all under command of Doctor Sampson. The excitement was kept up by the authentic news of the assembling of over 1,000 of the "enemy" at Clayton, from which they crossed to Grindstone Island and encamped. The Kingston dragoons and Mohawk In-

dians were sent out to reconnoitre; the rest of the militia were kept under arms; the male inhabitants to the number of 700 rallied and slept beside their arms in the Court House. But then the Belleville Rifles, Indians, and other volunteers under Major Fitzgibbon and Lieut. Jackson were advancing from Gananoque upon the rebels, and five feeble men, had incontinently fled back to the American shores. The valor of their leader, Van Rensselaer, had oozed out; he and Mackenzie each blamed the other for the failure, alleging cowardice and desertion. It was the first and last feeble kick of the rebellion in this quarter, though two sleigh loads of rebels were about the same time captured en route from the north of Addington to join the host that it was expected had already captured Kingston. They were afterwards

tried and lightly sentenced. The patriots caught at the Windmill and in flagrant acts of rebellion generally were their fellow prisoners at Fort Henry, and, save those who escaped with Montgomery, were by no means so leniently treated. The gallows on Fort Henry Hill, with its gloomy spectacles, once six in a day, mutely proclaimed that rebellion is a dangerous and ignominious thing when unsuccessful. And yet the ill-advised, quixotic and ragged crew were all our friends, in that they hastened the political freedom of Canada, by preparing—yes stirring England into granting responsible government.

**In Hollywood.**

Harriett: Are you going to marry again?  
Eunice: Oh, let's not talk shop!  
—Life.



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