

### THE PERTH SETTLEMENT

*"Behold the Tiber," the vain Roman cried,  
Viewing the ample Tay from Baiglie's side;  
But where's the Scot that would the vaunt repay,  
And hail the puny Tiber for the Tay?*

Anon.

"**A**MONG all the provinces in Scotland," says Sir Walter Scott, "the most fertile and the most beautiful is the county of Perth." If this cannot be said of Perth in Ontario, at least it can be asserted that it has much beauty and fertility of soil and is a pleasant home for Scotsmen in the New World. This was one of the Canadian settlements of purely Scottish and military origin. The names of the old town and of the river on which it is founded at once suggest the famed city and stream of Perth and Tay in Scotland. The terrible depression in trade and manufactures in the Old Land that followed the close of the Napoleonic wars produced a large class of people who were out of employment; and suffering and privation began to be felt in

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different parts of Britain and, among other places, in certain districts of Southern Scotland. Realising the necessity of some relief from this condition, the British Government deemed that it would be wise to send many of the superfluous population to Upper Canada, and not only relieve the Old Land of her burden, but also fill the young colony with loyal subjects of the Crown. As a result of this idea, late in May, 1815, three transports sailed from Greenock in Scotland, that famed port of departure for emigrants, loaded with Scottish families destined for Upper Canada.

These ships were the *Atlas*, the *Baptiste Merchant*, and the *Dorothy*. These vessels, for some strange reason, were all summer on the ocean, and did not reach Quebec until the middle of September. Arriving too late to go to the new settlements that winter, the emigrants were brought up to Brockville and Prescott, and kept there in quarters until the following spring. By April 18, 1816, they were conveyed to their future home in the back townships on the Tay and Rideau, having to travel through blazed trails in the, as yet, uncleared forest. A letter of the Deputy Quartermaster-General of October 13, 1816, describes this settlement as follows:—

*Rideau.*—This settlement was commenced on the 18th April, 1816. The new village of Perth is situated on a small river, now the Tay, formerly the Pike, which empties itself into the Rideau Lake, at about five and a half miles below; it is distant from Brockville forty-two miles, twenty-one of which is an established and good road. . . . In the village there are twenty houses, and















