

**TORONTO "CALLED BACK" AND
EMIGRATION: WITH
REMINISCENCES OF A RECENT
TRIP TO GREAT BRITAIN AND
IRELAND**

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Toronto "Called Back" and Emigration: With Reminiscences of a Recent Trip to Great Britain and Ireland by Conyngham Crawford Taylor

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CONYNGHAM CRAWFORD TAYLOR

**TORONTO "CALLED BACK" AND
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TRIP TO GREAT
BRITAIN AND IRELAND**

1. Great Britain - Queen Victoria and Edward VII, 1850-1900.



VICTORIA
1837-QUEEN & EMPRESS-1887

TORONTO "CALLED BACK"

AND

EMIGRATION

WITH

REMINISCENCES OF A RECENT TRIP TO GREAT
BRITAIN AND IRELAND

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE VISIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN TO WALES,
THE MERSEY TUNNEL, MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL, AND A VISIT TO
THE MARQUIS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA, AT CLANDEBOYE,
WITH A BEAUTIFUL LITHOGRAPH PORTRAIT OF

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND EMPRESS

ALSO

*Engraved Likenesses of His Excellency Lord Stanley of Preston, Governor
General; and E. F. Clarke, Esq., M.P.P., Mayor.*

BY

CONYNGHAM CRAWFORD TAYLOR.

(OF HER MAJESTY'S COMINGS),

Author of "Toronto 'Called Back'."

TORONTO:

WILLIAM BRIGGS, Publisher.

METHODIST BOOK AND PUBLISHING HOUSE:

1890.

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PUBLIC
LIBRARY



Entered according to the Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety, by CONYNGHAM C. TAYLOR, in the Office of the Minister of Agriculture, at Ottawa.

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PUBLIC
LIBRARY

TO

His Excellency Sir Frederick Arthur Stanley,

BARON STANLEY OF PRESTON, G.C.B.,

Governor-General of Canada, etc., etc.

As many of the reminiscences in these pages have their centre in Lancashire, where the names of "Stanley" and "Derby" are as familiar as "Preston" itself, and having had occasion to refer to the fact of your Excellency occupying at present the distinguished position of the popular representative of Her Majesty in this Dominion, and knowing the interest you take in all that appertains to the growth and progress of Toronto, and of Canada generally, this brief record of my recent visit to Great Britain and Ireland, and my humble efforts to make Toronto better known, is respectfully dedicated to your Lordship, by your loyal and obedient servant,

C. C. TAYLOR.

35 Grosvenor St., Toronto,

September, 1890.

25.
1.
1890



HIS EXCELLENCY SIR FREDERICK ARTHUR STANLEY.

BARON STANLEY OF PRESTON, G.C.B.,

GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA.

INTRODUCTORY.

PREVIOUS to 1886, the commercial history of Toronto had never been written. Everything previously published was either purely topographical or political, with reminiscences of persons and places, interesting for local information.

Rev. Doctor Scadding's history is deservedly valuable in these respects, and also Doctor Mulvaney's "Toronto Past and Present," and Mr. Dent's Semi-Centennial volume. Although neither of the last was from personal knowledge of the events narrated, they have contributed to the same local description of Toronto, yet in continuous intercourse with Great Britain since 1847, I have never met with a copy of either of the above works in any library or public institution on the other side of the Atlantic. The general facts as to the growth of Toronto, from the time it was known as "Muddy York," have been repeated and reiterated in pamphlets, Christmas numbers of newspapers, and advertising literature of all kinds, but nothing beyond what was ephemeral, or at best only for casual reference, and, only arresting the passing notice of the readers, to be thrown aside, as of no further interest.

Who has travelled amongst strange cities, and at his hotel was compelled to resort to the local history of Chicago, Buffalo, St. Paul and scores of other cities, and has not, after skimming over the leaves mechanically, felt relieved on laying them aside and flying to something more interesting and instructive, to pass the weary hours, forgetting all about the oft-repeated history, because entirely local? Thomas Carlyle says, "The editor of books may understand withal that if as is said 'many kinds are permissible,' there is one kind not permissible, the kind that has nothing in it, '*le genre ennuyeux*.'"

Having been struck with this fact, and being constantly reminded by everything around me of the wonderful growth and progress of the city which I had witnessed during forty years, especially in the importing trade, and the development of its manufacturing industries, and everything suggesting the contrast between 1886 and 1847, I commenced to write for private use only, my reminiscences of my first impressions of Toronto, then my experience as a wholesale importer, and in "calling back" from memory the history of trade, I found that I was in possession of some facts, that were not generally known and certainly had never been recorded, amongst which were the following:—

The commencement of commercial travelling, having been the first to undertake the enterprise, before any railroads were thought of, and having taken orders for our own firm from Quebec to Windsor, thus making Toronto, even then, a distributing centre, I had the pleasure of inducing buyers from as far east as Brockville to visit Toronto for spring purchases for the first time.

The want of a good hotel being felt by the merchants, we were amongst the first to take debentures in the Rossin House, and subsequently to sell to Mr. Rossin at 50 per cent. loss, so as to prevent the hotel from being closed up.

We were amongst the first subscribers to the mercantile agency of R. G. Dun & Co., years before Mr. Wiman became connected with it.

In the same way I was amongst the first subscribers to the Gas Company, which was formed in 1848.

Having entered goods at the Custom House before any of its present staff were connected with it, I was familiar with its history.

Nevertheless, I did not presume at first to publish what I knew of these matters, until I had ascertained that my chances of finding any assistance from my contemporaries were so slight as to convince me that all I knew would be left in oblivion did I not put it in the hands of the printer.

I waited on the late Senator McMaster and others for confir-