

workmen were drinking David's health with some money which he gave. Rodger Black gave us each a present, to David *Gems from American Poets*, and to me *Gems from British Poets*, and I got from my Uncle Alec a pocket compass which also answers as a sun-dial.'

On the morning of April 22, they were up at six making their final preparations. 'After taking farewell of our friends, our mother, brothers and sisters, David and I, accompanied by our father to Glasgow, left Kirkcaldy perhaps for ever. We crossed the Firth to Edinburgh, and left by the five o'clock train for Glasgow.' The following day was spent in Glasgow, making final preparations for the long voyage by sailing ship to Quebec. In the year 1845 a voyage across the Atlantic was not such a simple matter as it is to-day. Sandford Fleming, who was to do so much to increase the means of communication, had to be satisfied with the leisurely speed of an old-fashioned sailing ship. We of this generation, who have become so accustomed to the marvels of luxury plying almost daily between the opposite shores of the ocean, can hardly realize that the whole story of ocean navigation by steam lies within the bounds of one man's lifetime. When Fleming crossed the Atlantic in 1845 the dawn of the era of ocean steamships had barely opened. The Cunard Line had only recently been formed. It was then known as the British and North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and consisted of four side-wheel steamers, mere pygmies beside the great Cunarders of to-day. It is worth remembering that as this first line of ocean steamers was organized by Sir Samuel Cunard, a Canadian, so the very first vessel to cross the Atlantic by steam power was built in Canada, her hull in Quebec, her engines in Montreal, fed with Canadian coal, and navigated by a Canadian crew. The *Royal William*, for so she was named, sailed from Quebec as long ago as 1833, and made a successful though not very rapid voyage by steam to London. After leaving Quebec, she coaled at Pictou, and steamed triumphantly into the Thames twenty-five days later.

Seventy years ago, however, adventurous young men,