

it with intense interest. That old Statesman's picture of poor Queen Mary made a painful impression on my youthful mind, which no after readings, however favorable to her, were ever able wholly to remove. Next winter I attended a school for a while kept by one Andrew Blair, where New Glasgow is now. The school was kept in a log-house, near where Charles Sutherland's house was afterwards built. This was certainly the *first* school that was ever kept in New Glasgow. Blair was a near relative of the Blairs on the west side of the river. He was a nice young man, and I liked him very much. I was then about fifteen years of age. My next school was kept at New Glasgow by the late James Crerar, Esq., of Merigomish. He was a good teacher, a good scholar, but very short-tempered. Nevertheless I made good progress in reading, writing, and especially in arithmetic. Mr. Crerar was himself a good arithmetician and mathematician, and delighted to impart his knowledge to all who wished to learn. My failing in this respect was, that I aimed at learning too much at once.

A year or two after this I attended a school at Irishtown, kept by Angus McPhie, a young man of excellent parts, and a first-rate teacher. Of all the schools I ever attended, Mr. McPhie's was my favorite. He was a relative of the McPhies of Barney's River, and I think his people resided at Cape George. I was warmly attached to this young man. I could never learn what became of him after he left here. Some years after this I attended school at Halifax, both at the Free School (National) taught by Mr. Wells, and at the Acadian School, taught by Mr. Bromley:—the first, on the Madras system, (Dr. Bell's); the second, on the Lancastrian system.

Although I had to work very hard at home, (my father being an old man, beginning on a new farm, and I the only son stopping with him), nevertheless I studied hard during the intervals of schooling. Books were scarce and money not easily got by the like of me; yet I managed to get some good books some way. From the late Rev. Dr. McGregor I borrowed many books; among the rest an Encyclopedia, in two large volumes. *I read it all*, and mastered a good deal of it, and made it my own. Any books that would be of service to me, if the Doctor had them, were at my disposal. I cannot look back, even at this distant period, (1868), without expressing the deepest gratitude for the many acts of kindness and attention shewed me by that venerable clergyman; and it is the more fitting that the remembrance of Dr. McGregor's kindness to me in years

long passed away should come fresh to my memory just now, seeing that I have this day attended the funeral of his youngest son by his first marriage.

I said that the History of Scotland by Buchanan was about the first of my readings. I afterwards read Robertson's Histories of Scotland, of Charles the Fifth, and of America. I read Hume's, Smollet's, and Ashburton's Histories of England, and latterly Macaulay's. I read Russell's and Allison's Histories of Europe, and the Lives of many Statesmen and Warriors,—each embracing much of the history of their respective times. I read Histories of Greece and of Rome, besides Rollin, Mosheim, and Josephus. I read Histories of France, of Russia, and of the Scandinavian nations, and of all the voyages and travels I could get hold of. I read all of Guthrie's Geography, (a large work containing sketches and statistics of every country of the world then known,) in three months, and studied the charts, so that I understood the position of all the main-lands and islands on the globe. I read Reid, Stewart and Brown on Moral Philosophy, with much advantage; and of all the Physical Sciences I learned a good deal, except Botany and Phrenology. I acquired such general knowledge of these things as to enable me to speak intelligently of any of them; and this knowledge was attained before I was thirty years of age. My acquaintance with the laws of motion among the Heavenly Bodies enabled me to understand the nature of the calculations of Astronomy. I could (and did) calculate Eclipses of the Sun and Moon; and I understood Navigation, with the methods of finding the Longitude at sea and on land. I taught school for eight years; four on McLennan's Mountain and four at New Glasgow. Those years spent on McLennan's Mountain were in many respects the happiest of my life. I was then between twenty and twenty-five years old; entirely my own master; no other care or trouble; every spare hour in the woods with my gun, or at Sutherland's River with the fishing rod. Finer men than the first inhabitants of McLennan's Mountain could not be found anywhere. Of the strictest integrity and greatest moral worth were those old mountaineers, and their words were surer than the bonds of the average men of the present generation. How fondly I look back on those joyous times, and on those grey-headed patriots!

About A. D. 1815, Religious questions began to disturb the community, principally denominational questions. The original inhabitants were mainly from the Highlands of Scotland, and belonged to the Established Church. Very