

fellow, and he had opened it early on the passage, and had been helping himself to it all the voyage out. When we got into the St. Lawrence, I went to examine the order our things were in, and found the cask open, and all the bottles, with the exception of a few, gone. There was nothing on board the vessel but the common rum of the crew, and the captain was constantly drunk, but it was with my rum, as he, I found out, had been in the habit of taking a bottle every night. I made a good deal of noise about the theft, and let him know I was well aware of how it was all gone. In our rank of life, with so large a family, as a matter of course we had a great many packages, clothes, furniture, &c. In order to be revenged on me, the base villain went to the Collector of Customs, and made oath that he knew I had concealed amongst my luggage, a large number of smuggled articles. My things were put under seizure and everything tossed and tumbled about, but nothing was found. The Collector sent for me, and excused himself, saying, from the nature of the accusation, had he not taken the steps he did, it might have cost him his situation. He advised me to prosecute the Captain. I contented myself with writing a simple statement of his conduct, which was certified by two of the passengers and the Collector, and sent to the owners of the brig at Greenock. He was dismissed from the vessel and so disgraced, that he was compelled to leave the Clyde forever.

My sons, Colin and Adam, proposed settling at Hamilton, and opening a general store on an extensive scale, which they alleged would serve several good purposes, such as doing away with the necessity of my giving such very general credits over the Upper Province, and that they being there, would be at hand to look after my interests. I was to continue my business at Montreal, under the name of Adam Ferrie & Co'y, of which I was the sole company, and to supply their stores with everything; to be a partner holding half of the concern, which was to be carried on under the name of Colin Ferrie & Co'y. They took stores which were soon filled, and the business was going on well. In 1830, the firm bought a large piece of ground in the very centre of the then "small place," and had a big store built thereon. We did well in it. Nothing would satisfy them, but that we should have a number of country stores to be supplied from the depot at Hamilton.

We purchased ground six miles above Galt, close to the Grand River, and on the road leading to Guelph and Lake Huron, and built houses for trade and storage. Adam was to have the management of this establishment under the name of Adam Ferrie Junr. & Co'y. This business did well. I may here observe, this is now the Town of Preston. This shows what can be done in a young country by spirited individuals.

They also bought a new brick store and dwelling in the Town of Brantford, filled it with goods of every kind, and gave the management of the establishment to a Mr. James Muirhead.

Another store was started at the Village of Nelson, and the management given to Mr. L. Cooper, under the name of Ferrie, Cooper & Co'y.