

I proposed a dissolution of the partnership, and that if he would quietly agree to this, I would forgive him all the harm he had done me, and grant him a full discharge. But some of his blackguard and dissipated acquaintances advised him not to do it.

I found out plenty of his transactions so bad that I had him completely in my power. I made Mr. Walker, my lawyer, write him as to his having my orders, to take strong steps against him. He got alarmed and consulted Daniel Fisher and John Simpson, merchants, in Montreal. They heard his statements and told him he was completely in my power, and that he should instantly try and get an amicable settlement with me. When he told them the terms I had offered him they were astonished at its great liberality, and advised him to go and see if I would still consent to it. He got them to propose this to me.

The argument used by them was just what had at first urged me to make so great a sacrifice, namely, that by bad advice he might be induced to set to work and collect the immense outstanding debts and go to the United States, where he could laugh at me. I agreed to the dissolution, and it was instantly made out, signed and advertised.

I was anxious to get him away, and took and paid his passage for the Clyde. He was seized for some debts, I paid them and got him off to Quebec. He was not long away when other accounts came in, which I refused to pay.

I immediately discharged some of the useless and supernumerary hands, gave the management to my son, and set off to visit all our customers in the Upper Province. I went and returned all the way by land, and found the corduroy roads very bad. I took six weeks to accomplish the task, having gone as far west as London. I crossed many forests and by-paths where I needed a guide. The face of the country is very much changed since that time.

I found Mr. Cormack's credits had been very injudicious, none of the parties had money, and I took in payment whatever they had to offer in the shape of produce. And with all the diligence that I and my son could use, Cormack's sales were settled at a fearful loss. The greatest losses were in that part of the country from Toronto round the lake to Niagara. At this last place alone, £6,000 to £7,000 was lost, a large part of it from Mr. Cormack letting some of his cronies draw large sums on the firm without fee or reward. He had given fine dinners at all the towns on the route, and at Niagara, he gave a dinner to all the gentlemen of the town and neighborhood. They got drunk on the finest wines. A large number of them ordered horses, which they mounted in this state, and with their coats turned inside out, and otherwise disfigured, rode through the town in the light of a long Summer day. My informant said that he and the people generally, wondered who this Adam Ferrie could be, who allowed such folly and extravagance to go on.

We hurried home as large remittances as possible, but such was the pressure for money that Fall, that my friends had to sell off the "General