

native of the North isles, but a very different man. By some means (I think, helped by the minister of his parish) he had managed to get through the University of Aberdeen, and he was a credit to it. Besides what the ordinary country school-teacher is supposed to know, he was a good mathematical scholar, with Gunter scale, sextant, and other tools of the calling. And ambitious young sailors, home for the winter, used to pay him a trifle to teach them the art of navigation out of school hours. His handwriting was splendid, almost like copper-plate, so that he used to set copies for the boys himself on quires of foolscap, which he furnished himself at half the price of ordinary copy-books (quite a consideration then) but none of his imitators ever equalled him.

He had taught for some years on another island, and when he came to us, he was a married man of 30 with two small children. He was tall and dark, with bushy hair and whiskers, and without an ounce of superfluous flesh on his bones. Before he came, the partitions and loft had been taken out of the school, as the whole building was now wanted as a schoolroom, and a temporary residence was secured in a nearby hamlet while a house for him was being built. While he was thus located, an epidemic of typhus fever went through the parish, in which he lost one of his children and he himself had a close call. When he was settled, his salary was fixed at 60 pounds a year, with house and garden and a croft of two acres, which he worked out of school hours. He kept two cows, which pastured on the parish common, also some hens and a flock of geese. The school year included three weeks holidays in spring, and the same in harvest, giving master and scholars a chance for work on their respective crofts.

Every morning before school opened, the master stood at the door to see that each pupil on entering, threw a peat into the porch for the day's fire, and any one neglecting this, had to bring two the following day or else be punished. The morning exercises began with prayer, during which all stood with bowed heads, while the master's open eyes kept vigilant watch, and woe afterwards to the boy who made a disturbance. It was the usual "long prayer" of the Presbyterian service, made up of quotations from the Psalms, as well as personal petitions, and ending with

the Lord's prayer; for like all university-trained teachers in Scotland, the master had probably been an aspirant to the pulpit of the Established Church, though precluded by two drawbacks, which will come up later. And here let me say that though Scotsmen generally object to forms of prayer, or "prayer from a book," yet each man invariably falls into a form of his own. And why not, if the heart goes with it? Did not our Divine Exemplar pray three times, saying the same words?

After prayer came the roll-call, and then the Old Testament lessons for the older pupils. These lessons began with Genesis and Exodus, passing thence to 1 Samuel, and continuing to the end of Ecclesiastes, whence they returned to Genesis again. Then followed the New Testament lessons for the younger pupils, which were confined to the Gospels and Acts. These scripture readings were accompanied by questions and comments from the master. After them came the first book, second book, third book, fourth book, fifth book, and sixth book, each in a separate class; and then the hour's play at noon, when the boys usually had football, sometimes superintended by the master, and the girls were left to their own devices. The master also made an enormous kite of oilskin stretched on a wooden frame, the string being strong fish line, and this was once left in charge of a big boy, who tied the string around the waist of a small one, and the wind being strong, he was carried yelling far over the fields, giving us a good run to capture him. Sometimes we were allowed (Tom Sawyer-fashion) to help in the weeding of the master's garden, and thus see the wonderful flowers that he contrived to grow, and on rare occasions we went half a mile off to the sea-beach for a bathe, but were apt to stay too long.

The afternoon session started with the first book on to the sixth again, thence to the "Progressive Lessons" and "Advanced Reader," and geography and grammar classes, and ending with prayer. The evening prayer was shorter than that of the morning and contained two petitions—"Carry us to our homes in peace, be with us in our retirements,"—which I always connected with the poor man himself.

Such was the curriculum from Monday to Friday inclusive, Saturday being only a half-day, was different. It began as usual with prayer and the two scripture classes.

Then followed the other classes, with spelling, the more advanced giving the meanings of the words—and then, the shorter catechism. My parents, though Dissenters, never objected to this. They knew that in spite of minor faults, its influence for good on many generations had been second only to that of the Bible. And it did us no harm, though though most of it was beyond us then, and the master offered no explanations as he sometimes did on the Scripture lessons. We were dismissed at noon with the usual prayer.

To Be Concluded



SEALED tenders addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Boat House, Torpedo Depot and Boat Slips, Esquimalt, B. C.," will be received until 12 O'CLOCK NOON (daylight saving), TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1926, for the construction of a Boat House, Torpedo Depot and Boat Slips at H.M.C. Naval Dockyard, Esquimalt, B. C.

Plans and specification can be seen and forms of tender obtained at the offices of the Chief Architect, Department of Public Works, Ottawa, the Resident Architect, Department of Public Works, Victoria, B. C., the Clerk of Works, Department of Public Works, Vancouver, B. C. and the Caretaker, Public Building, Esquimalt, B. C.

Blue prints can be obtained at the office of the Chief Architect, Department of Public Works, by depositing an accepted bank cheque for the sum of \$20.00 payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, which will be returned if the intending bidder submit a regular bid.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on the forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with conditions set forth therein.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to 10 per cent. of the amount of the tender. Bonds of the Dominion of Canada and Bonds of the Canadian National Railway Company will also be accepted as security, or bonds and a cheque if required to make up an odd amount.

By Order,
S. E. O'BRIEN,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, June 7, 1926.

Barr & Anderson Limited

PLUMBING

and

HEATING

OIL-O-MATIC and Simplex Fuel
Oil Burning Equipment

1060 Homer Street
Vancouver, B. C.