

the large quantity of intoxicating liquors drunk at them ; as also at weddings : some five, six, seven or eight gallons at each wedding ! Nevertheless there were not (in proportion to the population) nearly as many drunken persons then as now. Then, every person took his glass, from the minister downwards ; yet I am sure I was twenty years of age before I saw any man really drunk. It was fashionable to have liquor in every house, and to drink it at all times ; but it was not fashionable to be drunk. That was deemed disgraceful. There were more *Clannishness* and *Rivalries* among the people then than now. The men of the East River felt themselves bound to maintain the glory of the East River against all the neighbors and the rest of the world. So did the people of Merigomish, Little Harbor, Fisher's Grant, Pictou, West and Middle Rivers, feel bound to uphold the honor of their respective *countries* against all gainsayers. This sort of *clannishness* and separatism was the fruitful source of much fighting and bullying. Each Clan or Section had its Bullies and its Courts and Militia Musters. These would have their fights. These sectional distinctions were maintained to a ridiculous and mischievous extent, but they have all died out long ago.

The last sixty years have realized a great change in the weather. Formerly we would have great falls of snow, and steady frost during the winter months. The snow commonly began in November, and there would be snow-falls every now and then during winter. In the Spring the snow would be from three to four feet deep. Thaws were rare. The snow lay on the ground till some time in May ; but the heat of the sun was so great, and so little frost in the ground, that vegetation was astonishingly rapid. The Spring heat would often be such that no work could be done in the middle of the day with oxen. Thunder-clouds with rain were more frequent in summer than now. The weather in summer and winter was less changeable. There was no weevil destroying the wheat in those days ; but mildew and smut were common. Wheat and potatoes were the principal crops. Wheat produced great returns, and potatoes would grow and prosper wherever there was sufficient soil to cover the seeds. From 800 to 1000 bushels was a common crop of potatoes, but very little oats or barley was cultivated.

The mode of living was then very different from what it is now. Potatoes were then the "staff of life," and they were used at meals three times a day. "Potatoes and pork" were the principal food. Fish were also plentiful and cheap, and were much used. A barrel of

the largest and fattest mackerel could be had for twenty shillings. Tea was very little used ; its price then was about twelve shillings by the pound. It came down to seven shillings and sixpence, at which price it remained until the monopoly of the tea trade was taken from the "East India Company." The late James Carmichael, Esquire, was the first merchant settled at New Glasgow, and the only one that sold groceries on the south and east side of Pictou harbor ; yet he was doing business for years at New Glasgow before he could retail *one* chest of tea in twelve months. Living was comparatively cheap, both as regards food and clothing ; the latter consisting chiefly of homespuns for men's and women's dresses.

The leading men on the East River were Rev. James McGregor (Minister) ; Thos. Fraser (Elder), grandfather to the present Frasers on the west of the river, opposite New Glasgow ; Squire McKay, Donald McKay (Elder), Colin McKay ; Donald Fraser (Elder), Fish Pools ; John Fraser, Esq., McLennan's Brook ; Donald Fraser, miller ; Alex. Grant, Grant's Lake, East Branch, and some others of less note ; all good and pious men, I believe. There were then only three clergymen in the County of Pictou : Rev. Mr. McGregor, Rev. Mr. Ross, and Rev. Mr. McCulloch—hard working, earnest and steady men. The County of Pictou, as well as Nova Scotia at large, owes much to the unremitting labors of these three clergymen. I was intimate with the late Rev. Dr. McGregor, and a man of kindlier feeling, and more desirous to do good, was rare to meet with anywhere. I owe him much for good counsel and kindness.

All the Churches then in the County of Pictou were : one log building on the west side East River, on the ground called "The Meeting-house Lot," where the Old Burying Ground now is ; a similar log house near Grant's Mills, East Branch ; a house of the same description at Middle River ; one at West River ; none at Pictou, for Mr McCulloch was preaching in a barn.

Sixty years ago there was no Bible Society, no Missionary Society, no Tract Society, no Temperance Society, no Sabbath Schools, no religious society of any kind. Nevertheless I believe there was a great deal of personal piety. There was certainly a great deal of *head-knowledge*, and too much of polemics. To maintain extreme views on certain Theological points was held to be essential to salvation ; and hence a great deal of uncharitableness obtained towards all who differed. Sectarianism ran high and bitter in those days.

Rev. Messrs. McGregor, Ross and McCulloch