

We talked late into the night of our journey, of the Assembly, of Red River, and of the future. There was plenty of work awaiting us, he informed us. My companion was to occupy Portage la Prairie. The College must be begun immediately. We retired to rest in Kildonan's hospitable manse, and soon enough found that there was plenty to do in the spiritual harvest field of this new land. On the following Sabbath we attended one service in Kildonan, being in Winnipeg the other part of the day. Kildonan Church struck us as something different from what we were accustomed to even in our oldest Canadian settlements. It is just in shape and general appearance like the country parish church in Scotland, as if indeed Kildonan in Sutherlandshire had been transplanted to Red River. I remember well the high pulpit, now gone, and Dr. Black ascending it in gown and bands, and feet shod in moccasins, which everybody wore then, and which the doctor, to the end of life, preferred to shoes. The church manse, school and partly finished college building, were the visible embodiment of Presbyterianism on Red River.

Our missionary pioneer saw little, or comparatively little change in the Red River settlements between 1851 and 1870. Progress was very slow. There were those in the settlement who would have preferred to have it so remain. As I remember hearing Dr. Black once say, "There are some animals that prefer to lie in peace at the bottom of the pool, to be undisturbed." It is true during this period the village of Winnipeg was begun. An adventurous mortal named McKenney, was the first who dared to face the adverse public opinion that it was impossible to live away from the river bank. This revolutionary event took place in the year 1863, when the building now used as an auction room on the corner of Main Street and Portage Avenue was built. It was prophesied that it could not withstand the wind, and would be swept away. It did not require props. Further, it was