

with the degree of Master of Arts. It was in the second year of his course at Aberdeen that he met with one who, far away on the plains of Rupert's Land, was to be his intimate friend and companion, whom indeed he was to call his "alter ego." This was John McCallum, of whom we shall speak more fully, and who it will be remembered founded the school, which became in time St. John's College in this city. Scotland was then, as now, sending up its young men to the great metropolis, which contains more Scotchmen than Edinburgh; and in 1825 both Thom and his fellow student McCallum found themselves earning their bread there as classical masters in schools at Woolwich and Blackheath respectively.

About this time, a great outflow of the British people was taking place to the New World. In the year 1831, upwards of 30,000 people left the British Isles for Canada. Over pressure of population and political discontent were no doubt the chief factors in this great emigration. In the following year, a popular movement to Canada was headed in the south of England by Lord Egremont, and three ships carried the Sussex colony to the St. Lawrence. To the enterprising mind of young Thom the opportunities said to be afforded by Canada were a great attraction, and so taking the last ship of the season (1832) the *Rosalind*, from London, after a rough passage, the vessel running aground at Anticosti in the St. Lawrence, the young adventurer reached Montreal. Carried away by the New World fever in the following year, his friend, McCallum also accepted the task, under the patronage of the Rev. David Jones, the Hudson Bay Chaplain at Red River, of founding a boarding school for the children of the Hudson Bay company officers and others at the headquarters of the company; and sailed by the company's ship early in 1833 to come by way of Hudson Bay, to the scene of his future labors. Young Thom established in Montreal a paper called *The Settler*, of which he was the chief editor and principal contributor, aided by some members of the "Beefsteak Club" which then existed there, of which the late James Charles Grant was one. He also entered on the study of law in Montreal, and with such diligence, that having his time shortened by one year because of his degrees, he was admitted to the bar of Lower Canada in the year 1837.

To any of Mr. Thom's friends it was evident that there was in him to the end of his life a strange restlessness of disposition. It agrees completely with this that he should not have settled down to the routine of a lawyer's life. His disposition led him to take great interest in public affairs. He was in mental characteristics something of an independent thinker, and yet his conclusions were usually rather staid and ordinary. His mental bias was evidently that of a radical, while his social disposition led him to somewhat cling to prevailing ideas and customs. In method, he was a radical; in fact, he was conservative. It will be necessary to bear in mind this somewhat striking inharmoniousness, in order to understand some of the episodes of his life. Affairs in Montreal at this time were in a strained condition. It was shortly before the rebellion of 1837. The British colony in Lower Canada held the reins of power; the French Canadians were in a highly dissatisfied state. Louis Papineau was stirring up his French compatriots. In his seditious career he came out boldly