

it. They had no text books. He gave them the Mother's Catechism, the Shorter Catechism, and necessary supplies he had brought from Scotland. All progressed rapidly in reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic, each striving zealously to be at the head. Very soon a large class read fluently in the Bible, the highest reader used. In winter when the grown pupils attended, having to work in summer, grammars and geographies were procured from Perth. Mud, wolves, deep snow and storms would not keep the scholars at home. Some walked five or six miles every morning and evening and were never absent nor tardy. Steady advances in knowledge rewarded their persistence. The school improved greatly after moving into the building that was our dwelling for a year, before we occupied this two-story house. From that unpretentious school, with its long benches and desks of split logs, its utter lack of maps and apparatus, its poverty and general wretchedness, young men went forth to prepare for the ministry, to acquire a profession, to engage in business and to fill positions of usefulness. Young women were equipped for teaching or other duties. In father's absence, visiting the sick or making pastoral calls, one of my sisters took charge of the school. A big leather strap hung on the wall, but it was never needed. Pupils underwent too much hardship, in order to attend at all, to be indolent or disobedient. The privilege cost too much real labor to be esteemed lightly. The benefit to the community of that school, which in summer was sometimes held in our barn, for greater room and better air, could not be estimated. It continued until the public school system was adopted and schools were established throughout the township. With father, it was purely a labor of love, as he never received a penny for his years of teaching in Beckwith.

One of these early pupils was the son of Donald McLaren. The parents urged father to take the boy into his house to do the chores for his boarding and attend school. The lad, who came next day, knew scarcely a word of English. He stayed with us for years, making fine pro-