

Scotland. Mr. Alexander decided to remain in Canada and resolved to abandon his academic studies and at once begin the work of making his way in life. He obtained a position in the milling office of Mr. W. P. (now Sir W. P.) Howland, at Waterdown near Hamilton. He remained here about a year, leaving at the end of this time to take a position at Meaford in the business of Mr. W. B. Taylor, wheat merchant. In the Spring of 1862 there was quite an excitement in Ontario over the discovery of gold in Cariboo and the Saskatchewan valley and a great deal of talk about organizing parties to go overland to the mines. The people in the east did not then possess a very accurate knowledge of the geography of north western Canada and the distance between these two localities was not regarded as very great. Several of Mr. Alexander's old schoolmates had announced their intention of joining any party which might be formed and as he himself had been pondering deeply over the matter he decided that he also would make one of such an expedition. At length a large party was formed in Toronto and on the 3rd of April, (St. George's day), a start was made on the passage across the continent. Mr. Alexander's immediate friends with whom he shared his tent were two sons of an old country gentleman named Hancock, a brother of professor Hinds and a young barrister named Carpenter. The party travelled by way of St. Paul and after leaving this point directed their course towards Fort Garry. They sailed down the Red River from Georgetown on the first steamer ever placed on that route. It took them six days to accomplish the journey but owing to the social qualities of the passengers the time was anything but tedious. One of the passengers on this trip was the present Archbishop Tache, who, on a visit to the Pacific province last summer, met and remembered Mr. Alexander, after a lapse of nearly twenty years, from having made this trip with him. When the party reached Fort Garry Mr. Alexander and his friends pitched their tent on what is now Main street. At this point the party split up and took different routes. The one with which Mr. Alexander and his friends remained struck due west and crossed the Assiniboine at Fort Ellis, and the south branch of the Saskatchewan at Clarke's Crossing. From here they journeyed on to Fort Edmonton through plains hitherto almost unvisited by white men and still teeming with herds of buffalos and all imaginable species of wild game. On reaching Edmonton another split occurred in the party