

Bon Accord

(The following chapters in form and substance are, for the most part, from an interesting sketch written by Miss Tytler, and from notes made by her sister, Mrs. Kirkman, then (1900) teaching in the Seaforth Collegiate Institute. Both ladies died a number of years ago.)

I.

How Bon Accord Was Settled

Some seventy years ago in a city of bonnie Scotland a small party of friends were in the way of meeting occasionally to read and discuss any information that they could obtain in the far off land of promise, America. They were well-educated, intelligent, respectable people, with sufficient means to enable them to emigrate comfortably and to purchase land. They were led to think by the glowing accounts sent home by those whose interest it was to sell land that if they once owned a few hundred acres of land in Canada they must needs be independent, and they finally resolved to send one of their number to see, judge and purchase a block of land, one direction being that there must be church and school within reasonable distance.

The gentleman sent out by these good citizens of Aberdeen was Mr. Geo. Elmslie, who came out in the year 1834. After his arrival in western Canada he met in with another Scotchman, Mr. Alexander Watt, on a similar quest, and they travelled in company, by way of Brantford, through Zorra and North Easthope. In some places they could have got the requisite block of land, but they deemed it not so well watered as they wished. At last after long wandering, they were led to decide on the part of the Township of Nichol lying on the banks of the Irvine, then a fine large woodland stream, even in the drought of summer, very different from the tiny streamlet which, in