

THE BANISHED BRITON AND NEPTUNIAN

A record of the life, writings, principles and projects of Robert Gourlay Esq., now Robert Fleming Gourlay.

(The coat of arms has the motto Profundus ceruit.)

Boston, Printed by Samuel A. Dickenson. 1843.

(In very fine print the verses which no doubt expressed the feelings of this man of many tribulations who had labored so long for the benefit of his fellow men and yet had succeeded so badly) the quotation is from the book of Job, 29th and 30th chapters. "Oh that I were as in months past as in the days when God preserved me when his candle shined upon my head and when by his light I walked through darkness—as I was in the days of my youth when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle—when the Almighty was yet with me—when my children were about me—But now they that are younger than I have me in derision whose fathers I would have disdained to have sit with the dogs of my flock."

This copy which lies before me—I know not where is to be found another has inscribed on its first page "To David Thorburn, M.P.P., with Mr. Gourlay's respects." There are twelve numbers of the Neptunian filled with letters, petitions ~~innumerable~~. He seems to have had a *cacoethis scribendi* as a friend of mine called this itch for writing, there are letters to all sorts and conditions of people 13 to Sir Francis Bond Head whom we may well call a feather head, 10 to the Duke of Wellington, 7 to Sir R. Jackson 4 to Lord Durham 4 addresses to Parliament, 2 to Lord Sydenham, 2 to Sir George Murray, 1 to Sir George Arthur, 1 to King William 4th, 1 to Queen Victoria, 1 to Wm. Lyon McKenzie, Hon. Jno. Nelson, Sir Jno. Campbell. No. 1 commences with an address to the Hon. House of Representatives of Massachusetts in 1843 giving an account of his life and difficulties, tells of his efforts to relieve the poor and of his scheme of emigration and now the late treaty with Great Britain has renewed hope and he ventures to lay his projects before the people of the U. States. Then follow testimonials which he had gathered in 1831 on applying for the Chair of Agriculture in Edinburgh University, 16 from farmers in Wiltshire, 10 from University Professors, 7 from clergymen of the church of Scotland, others from business men, farm servants, practical farmers, all bearing witness in his favor to his wonderful knowledge of agriculture, political economy, emigration, poor laws and speak of his powers of elocution, his patriotism, ability, good humor, equanimity, unimpeachable integrity and, that he has the sentiments and manners of a gentleman. One letter is signed Thomas Chalmers afterwards the celebrated Dr. Chalmers. The letters written by him are dated from