

activity; and in the frame of mind in which I found myself, I was the more disposed to accept employment in Canada.

Among the many schemes contemplated by General Simcoe, for the benefit of the province, was that of establishing Grammar Schools in every district, and a University at their head, at the seat of Government. Anxious to complete as soon as possible so beneficial an object, the Governor gave authority to the late Honourable Richard Cartwright and the Honourable Robert Hamilton to procure a gentleman from Scotland, to organize and take charge of such College or University. These gentlemen, whose memories are still dear to the province, applied to their friends in St. Andrew's, who offered the appointment first to Mr. Duncan, then to Mr. Chalmers, neither of whom were yet much known, but both declined. Overtures were then made to me, and, suffering severely under my recent disappointment, I was induced, after some hesitation, to accept the appointment.

I sailed from Greenock towards the end of August, 1799, under convoy; but such was then the wretched state of navigation, that I did not reach Kingston, by the way of New York and Montreal, till the last day of the year 1799, much fatigued in body, and not a little disappointed at the desolate appearance of the country, being, throughout, one sheet of snow. But a new and still more severe trial awaited me. I was informed that Governor Simcoe had some time before returned to England, but of which I had received no information, and that the intention of establishing the projected university had been postponed. I was deeply moved and cast down, and had I possessed the means, I would have instantly returned to Scotland. A more lonely or destitute condition can scarcely be conceived. My reasonable expectations were cruelly blighted—a lonely stranger in a foreign land, without any resources or a single acquaintance. But my return was next to impossible, and it was wisely ordered. Mr. Cartwright, to whom I had been specially recommended, came to my assistance, and sympathised deeply and sincerely in this to me unexpected calamity, and after a short space of time, proposed a temporary remedy. My case, he acknowledged, was a most trying, but not altogether hopeless; and he submitted an arrangement which might be deemed only temporary, or lasting, as future events should direct. Take charge, said he, of my four sons, and a select number of pupils, during three years; this will provide you with honourable employment and a fair remuneration, and if, at the expiration of that period, the country does not present a reasonable prospect of advancement, you might return to Scotland with credit. He further added, that he did not think the plan of the Grammar Schools and University altogether desperate, although it might take longer time to establish them than might be convenient or agreeable. In my position there was no alternative but to acquiesce, and I was soon enabled to return to a healthy cheerfulness, and to meet my difficulties with fortitude and resignation. In the meantime, a strong attachment grew up between me and Mr. Cartwright, whom I found to be a man of great capacity and intelligence, of the strictest honour and integrity, and, moreover,

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