

APPENDIX

NOTES

(Biographical and Literary)

"BROOKFIELD," written to commemorate Robert Randall MacLeod, and the locality of which has long been familiar walking ground to me, deals with a few incidents which appealed to me as part of the poetry of life, and only briefly and in a very general way refers to MacLeod's influence upon the larger public whom he addressed in speeches and essays and books and in letters to the press.

Robert Randall MacLeod was the son of James MacLeod, and was born in Westfield, Queens County, Nova Scotia, August 16, 1841. When he was but a child, his parents removed to South Brookfield (about five miles from Westfield), and there he grew to manhood, and after various sojourns elsewhere made it his Nova Scotian home.

Brookfield was, indeed, his *alma mater*. The rocks and fields, the woods and lakes and streams of that lovely country-side were to him an early revelation, and no doubt, with the few books he found in the pioneer homes, deepened his religious emotions and turned his thoughts towards the ministry of God. He saved enough as a lumber hand in the woods to give him a year at Acadia in Wolfville, and then taught school and saved for Harvard Divinity School, where he graduated in due course. For several years he was the pastor of a Universalist Church in Maine. Later, he read law and was admitted to the bar, but seems not to have cared very much about the practice of the law. Perhaps he was not in harmony with the conventions of pulpit or bar. I cannot think of Emerson or Thoreau or Muir or Burroughs expressing their best save in "the temple not made with hands," and MacLeod was of their company.

In 1880, he, with his wife (who was Miss Agnes Swansburg, of Shelburne, Nova Scotia) and their only child (Crofton Uniacke), went to Mexico, where, for some years, he was in charge of mining interests. He returned to Brookfield in 1887, and called that place home for the rest of his life, though a few years before his death the winters were usually spent in Winthrop, Massachusetts. He died on the 12th of February,