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THE REV. GEORGE DOUGLAS, LL.D.

IN the beautiful village of Ashkirk, near the romantic Tweed-side, and seven miles from Abbotsford, in Roxburghshire, Scotland, was born on October 14th, 1825, the subject of this sketch. He came of sturdy Presbyterian stock, and his youth was nourished on the lofty teachings of the Word of God, the Shorter Catechism, and the Westminster Confession; and doubtless his young soul was often stirred by the heroic traditions of Flodden Field and of Dunbar, which were both near by, and by the ballads of Chevy Chase and of the border wars.

In 1832 the Douglas family came to the city of Montreal, and in an excellent school kept by the Rev. Mr. Black, Presbyterian minister in Laprairie, young George continued his education. In course of time he became a clerk in a book-store, and probably hence derived that love of literature which has been a characteristic of his life. He was in time promoted to the dignity of bookkeeper. But a thirst for knowledge possessed his soul, and he matriculated in the School of Medicine of his adopted city, and pursued part of the prescribed curriculum.

In the year 1843 the great crisis of his life-history took place. Being then a young man, in the eighteenth year of his age, he was led by the providence of God to attend the ministry of the Rev. William Squire, in the old Methodist Church on the corner of St. James and St. Francois Xavier Streets. Under the faithful preaching of that man of God, whose memory is even yet fragrant in the hearts of many, he became convinced of sin, and was enabled to exercise that faith which saveth the soul, and