

As to what I said in my last letter about getting more land I hear that Gartshore intends to put up a Saw Mill on his lot. If this is really the case of course I cannot do as I formerly proposed ; but I shall soon know ; and I am now aware that Mr. Valentine, to whom I have spoken on the subject, would exchange in the manner I mentioned to you, except that he would wish to keep the part of the Lot (about Twenty acres) on the north side of the Irvine ; for which he would give me an equivalent. In case, however, I shouldn't get this, (as Mr. Fergusson thinks that there would be no fear but my present lot would sell, even after there is a clearance on it) I am thinking of looking at Lots 3 and 4 in the 14th Concession, which though pretty far off, wouldn't be very objectionable if Gartshore had his Saw Mill up on the Esk ; and that stream running through them, I have little doubt but they will be good. Mr. Fergusson had formerly been thinking of McDonald's Lots for me, which you will observe, are Nos. 12 and 13 in the 2nd Concession, and quite close to Fergus ; but there is, I think, a great objection to these, altho' McD. wants to clear out. This is that Col. Clark, who died a short time ago, the Proprietor, altho' he has left an immense property, has left his affairs in terrible disorder. McD. has never paid a farthing on his land ; of course he has forfeited his right, and at present Mr. F. says it wouldn't be safe to treat with him about them. There are ten acres cleared and a fine creek on the Lots.

I suppose before this you will have heard of poor Melvin's death, which happened on the 26th of last month. He was buried at Fergus on the 1st of Dec. His new house was almost if not altogether finished, but I believe he had not got into it, but died in the shanty. This is now the third burial there had been at Fergus, Mr. Allan's child, and a journeyman millwright being the other two. You will see by my Plans that a man of the name of Tytler has the adjoining land to Melvin's. I happened to meet him a short time ago, when he told me that he used to live in Milne's house on the Waterside at the corner of our gate. I believe he is a mason.

As I have not been chopping yet myself, you will be asking how my choppers are coming on. They put up a shanty and worked for about a fortnight, but they have been away for some time, and it was only the other day that I heard that they are working just now for my neighbor, Mr. Walker. By the by, a brother of Mr. Walker's, by name Alexander, has taken the half nearest the 15th Concession of the Lot, below his brother's.

Mr. Fergusson came up to the St. Andrew's dinner with his son, Neil, and went down again two days after. He and the rest of the family are quite well, except Mrs. F. who had a bad cold at the time. The Dinner to which we sat down at four o'clock on the 30th of Nov. was excellent, and we had a most pleasant evening. Mr. Fergusson discharged most excellently the duty of chairman, and we had many