

HISTORICAL SKETCHES

He'd turn about, and wheel about,
 And jump just so,
 And ev'ry time he'd wheel about,
 He'd dance Jim Crowe.

It would be a mistake to suppose he would go through such performances to please himself. No, it would be at the request of others. He would exercise his gifts and do much to "drive dull care away," and let no "holy Willie" censure him for having done so. For he had the esteem of the worthiest men in the community, and by none was he more esteemed than by our minister, Rev. Angus McGillivray. Even Lord Brougham, when addressing the House of Lords, on one occasion, quoted from Jim Crowe. Fraser was also possessed of poetical gifts; he could turn anything into rhyme. This, combined with his unrivalled powers of mimicry, rendered him a general favourite among us rustics of the upper settlement.

When these sketches are completed it will be seen that Springville need not be ashamed of its sons. Had there been no Springville there would be no Thomas Fraser, foreman, and New Glasgow would have no one to build iron steamers. Had there been no Springville there would be no Graham Fraser. Had there been no Graham Fraser there would be no Steel Works. Had there been no Steel Works there would be no Trenton. If there was no Trenton there would be no H. R. Grant. Had there been no Springville, New Glasgow would today be without a Postmaster. Had there been no Springville Literary Society there would be no Rev. Alex. McLean, and just think of it, had there been no Springville, the world would not be benefitted—its literature would not be enriched by these immortal Historical Sketches.

There was a time (when 'twas for Greece I fought)
 When Hector's prowess no such wonders wrought.

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