

Cornwall, father of the late Dean of Montreal, the only other Scotch ministers at that time in these inland Provinces. He took a leading part in all movements for promoting a wholesome state of society. To this end he connected himself with various organizations, the Freemasons among the rest. His, too, was the first name on the roll of the Montreal Curling Club, organized in 1807. In 1809 he succeeded in establishing a literary society, having its headquarters in this city. Dr. Wilkie will tell us its history. "He coveted the society of well-informed persons, and the free communication of ideas. Hence sprung up in his thoughts the conception of the Symmathetical Society, formed for the purpose of promoting mutual improvement, and possibly to be the germ of some greater association. He laid hold of the thought with eagerness and communicated it to a very few gentlemen, in whom he had confidence, in Montreal, and to one or two residing at a distance. The proposal was zealously embraced by the few friends to whom it was explained, and carried out with considerable regularity for a few years. A number of essays were furnished from time to time by each of the gentlemen associated, and these were pretty fully discussed at the meetings of the society. Remarks were likewise communicated in writing, and a regular account of all the transactions recorded by one of the members, appointed to act as secretary. A few of these papers were afterwards printed in the "Canada Review," in 1824. The subjects discussed were chiefly scientific, literary or commercial." His biographer tells us:—"During his whole life he was wont, when his health permitted, to take daily exercise in the open air. . . . In his rambles he used to carry a small hammer, with which he amused himself in examining the interior appearance of stones and rocks. If this was not done in a strictly scientific manner, it served at least to diversify his recreations and give them activity. Sometimes he collected plants and flowers, and he had ever a just appreciation of the beauties of natural scenery." "Sometimes he was joined" in his rambles "by one or more of his clerical brethren, who, it is well known, were always attracted by his lively conversation." He kept a diary from the time he was 22 years of age, and in it he made notes especially of the state of the weather, to the influences of which his frame was keenly susceptible. This record he kept up till within 48 days of his death.' It was probably not very scientific, as he is not