

object of interest to the traveler. The whole place has been glorified by the magic pen of the "Wizard of the North," in the opening stanza of "Marmion" :

" Day sat on Norham's castled steep,
And Tweed's fair river, broad and deep,
And Cheviot's mountains lone :
The battled towers, the donjon keep,
The loophole grates, where captives weep,
The flanking walls that round it sweep,
In yellow lustre shown.
The warriors on the turrets high,
Moving athwart the evening sky,
Seemed forms of giant height ;
Their armor, as it caught the rays,
Flashed back again the western blaze
In lines of dazzling light."

His father, Mr. John Thompson, who now resides in the Eastern Townships, in the Province of Quebec, to which he emigrated in 1836, was in his younger days a man of great energy and perseverance, and remarkable for cheerfulness of disposition. He was a pioneer in the locality where he settled, and has always taken an active part in its welfare, and especially in its religious life and character. He was once what is called "Precentor," Norham Secession church, and has held the same honorable position in his adopted land. Since 1844 he has been an elder in the church, and his minister, who has recently passed away, after a pastorate of 26 years, acknowledged in his last days that he had always placed great reliance on Mr. Thompson's judgment, and that his reliance had never been misplaced ; that many a time, amid the trials of pioneer life, he would have lost heart had it not been for his judicious friend and adviser. He was somewhat given to theory and invention, but, like others of this school, he found not much "money in it." His mother was a woman of great force of character, and her cousin was minister of the Dumfermline church, where King Robert Bruce lies buried, and was quite celebrated in his day. He was married to a sister of James Thompson, author of "The Seasons." For preaching a sermon on bribery, during a hotly contested election, he was brought into the Court by the Laird whom he had offended. He was defended in the trial, by Boswell, the well known author of the life of Dr. Johnson, but judgment went against him. When Boswell reported the case to Johnson, the "great moralist" expressed an opinion in favor of the minister, and the reasons for his judgment in the case are also set forth in his life by Boswell.

Rev. John Thompson was but a child when, with his parents, he came to the new world, and settled in Leeds, Lower Province. Here he spent his early days, and received such education as could be gained at the common schools. One of his teachers, however, was a man of great learning, and had been educated for the Church of England. He was also a doctor, but lacking "push," he became a teacher in a poor country school. His last country-teacher was an Irishman, and had his own notions about progress, as well as punctuation. When the