

Her dress also bore testimony to her force of character, for never, under any circumstances, on any occasion, however festive, was she known to wear an ornament or a fol-de-rol. No frills or laces or trinkets ever hung from her neck or arms. Her hair, which was abundant, was put back smoothly from her low, broad forehead and gathered into a comfortable knot at the back of her sensible head. Her plain linen collar was pinned on her dress with no bow or brooch to give it completeness. Her gown was invariably a brown calico with white dots, and her bonnet a black straw "poke" trimmed with ribbon which terminated in strings. She always wore stout shoes, which added force to her authority, for, when we stood up in class we fell on the luckless toes which strayed outside the chalk-mark drawn to define our position! Without warning she would plant her generous feet and heavy shoes firmly on the offending members, and a groan of distress followed which gave us an impulse towards obedience.

The dunce's cap, which was kept locked up in her desk, frequently adorned the empty head of Bobby Sills. On the first day of my experience as a pupil, the sight which greeted me was Bobby, seated on the platform on a three-legged stool, the dunce's cap perched on his red hair and his right hand held high over his head. This was an extra mode of punishment, which was resorted to when whipping failed, for the torture of aching muscles brought penitence when all else was of no avail.

Miss Macgregor's face strongly resembled that of our good Queen Victoria, and her bearing had much of the same dignity. Though she was not sought in marriage, and while she could not be called attractive in a feminine sense, Janet Macgregor was a "character" in the county, and her methods of instruction were studied and copied by the young men of the surrounding townships who were trying—sometimes vainly—to train the Canadian "Young Idea." The examinations, which were oral and not at all after the manner of the modern public school torture, were usually seasons of delight, as various games of skill

were held which sharpened the juvenile wits and memories as many modern methods hardly pretend to do.

There was the spelling-match, when the boy or the girl "who had spelled the school down" received all honor and a prize, which usually consisted of a book of poems with the name of the winner written on the fly-leaf by the inspector. There was the mental arithmetic competition, in which the fox-and-hare problem figured and which was nearly always won by Dick Addison or May Chalmers, both famous for their feats with figures. The parsing gave another exciting contest, when nouns and pronouns, verbs and adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions were allotted their lawful place and relations to each other.

I remember being called at one of these examinations when I was only a very small girl, to go to the map and bound Russia—it was as difficult a task to me then as it is to the more capacious brains of the modern statesman. Being seized with stage fright, I began to cry, and was condemned to defeat by the stern voice: "Go to your seat." But one of the young teachers who had come to sit at Miss Macgregor's large feet played the Good Samaritan and took me on his knee, dried my tears with a large red handkerchief and presented me with a huge "bull's-eye" and a copper. No modern bon-bons are so sweet as was that red-and-white treasure, and no bill, of however large a denomination, is half so valuable as that one "sou" was to the defeated and humiliated little girl who failed to bound Russia.

Our copy-books were displayed as specimens of penmanship, and, though not much could be said truthfully concerning them, there was one boy, Al Graham, who was acknowledged a genius. Such flourishes in his capitals, such long and graceful tails at the ends of his sentences, such wonderful figures of birds and reptiles were woven into the woof of his writing, that we all stood amazed at the greatness of his exploits. He invariably took the prize for writing, and we were proud to have it so, for he was the most popular boy in the school. He was the only one who had never been disciplined by