

MEGANTIC MORE THAN FORTY YEARS AGO.

BY ARCHIBALD M'KILLOP.

[A portion of the County of Megantic, Quebec, was settled more than forty years ago, by a colony of Highlanders from the Island of Arran. Their descendants are found all over the Dominion, and many in the United States; but the larger number remained within the bounds of the original colony. Of those who were heads of families among the original immigrants, only one couple now remain.]

Old Megantic's banks and braes,
Lovely lakes and balmy bowers,
Where in childhood's happy days
We have culled the fairest flowers.
See that mountain's towering head—
See this vale, so green and low;
Mountains rise and valleys spread,
Just as forty years ago!

Here the silvery streamlets pour
Down the dewy dell at morn;
There the mountain torrents roar
Laughs the loudest laugh to scorn.
Here, when young, I loved to roam,
Nature's wildest charms to know;
Here our fathers found a home,
More than forty years ago!

Where the hills of Arran swell,
High above Lochranza's shore,
Few there are that live to tell
Of the friends they saw no more,
When from Scotia's favored strand,
Still unstained by conquering foe—
Sailed that hopeful, hardy band,
More than forty years ago!

Dark and dense the wild woods lay,
Gaily green for leagues around,
Here the savage beasts of prey
Undisturbed asylum found;
Then with pioneering toils
Stalwart arms, with many a blow,
Felled the woods, and burnt the piles,
More than forty years ago!

Now the ploughman guides his steeds
Where the great old woods have been,—
See our gardens, orchards, meads—
Oh, what changes have we seen!
Ordered by unerring law,
Seasons come and seasons go;
Gone the rarest sights we saw,
More than forty years ago!