

## THE STORY OF HIS LIFE.

There are many versions of Mr. Eaton's career, but probably the most correct was one which was issued by his own firm a few years ago in connection with the development of the business. In this it was stated:

Timothy Eaton was born in Ireland, at Clogher, thirty miles from Belfast, and not far from Slemish, famed in mythology as the place where St. Patrick herded sheep during his sojourn in Ireland. Mr. Eaton's forefathers migrated from Scotland nearly two hundred years ago. They, with many other Scotch families, formed a settlement, and for several generations engaged in agrarian pursuits.

He was the youngest of a family of nine. Before his birth his father died, and his widowed mother faced the world with a dependent family and nothing to support it. She was ambitious for her children, however, and managed to give them the advantage of such education as could be acquired at the National School in Clogher. Farming in those days was not conducive to the acquiring of great wealth. The most favorable years found the toilers little wealthier than before, and when calamities in the form of crop failures befell, they were in dire need. The year 1846 was one of the darkest in the history of Ireland. The potato crop was ruined with rot; other crops were partial or total failures, and starvation stalked throughout the land. Those were able emigrated; the others bore their sufferings patiently.

### EMIGRATED AFTER APPRENTICESHIP.

Among those who left for other lands to seek their fortunes was the eldest member of the Eaton family. About the same time Timothy, the youngest, was apprenticed to a draper at Portglenone, a small market town on the banks of the River Bann, celebrated as one of the best fishing streams in all Ireland. Portglenone itself was notorious for the free fights that characterized every market day, fights that at last became so furious that the market was abolished altogether, and only within the last few years has permission been granted for its re-establishment. At the end of five years, the term of apprenticeship, Timothy Eaton was given his wages, which amounted to something like £100, and with this he took passage to Canada.

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