

cows and a small plot of land and to report upon plans for bettering their condition. He made a report in March, 1801, which the Secretary published in 1802 without consulting him or giving him an opportunity to revise it. This excited Gourlay's anger at the time, but afterwards he speaks of this publication with great pride, and notes Young's "singular pleasure in inserting it" in his "Annals of Agriculture." (10). He tells us that in 1801 he devoted his life to bettering the condition of the poor in England, (11) and there is much in his after-life which indicates his honesty in this assertion.

He returned to Scotland in 1801 and accepted the farm of Pratis from his father; he was "the young laird" and his father's heir (12) and became an extensive farmer. In 1799 (October 10th) he had received a Captain's Commission to command a Corps of Volunteers in Fifeshire, but by reason of his long absence he had resigned it. When war was declared in 1803 he preferred to join a troop of Yeomanry Cavalry as a private to receiving a renewed Commission in the Volunteers. In 1807 the officers of the Yeomanry failed to appear for duty, and Gourlay withdrew from the troop after vainly endeavouring to persuade his comrades to deposit their arms in the County Hall, informing the Government at the same time that they would resume them on a moment's notice and those who were under arms would cross over to France to put down the power of Bonaparte. (13) His Commission as Commandant, Gourlay appeals to time and again in his after career.

In 1807 he married Jean Henderson, a widow, whose mother was a sister of the Hon. Robert Hamilton of Queenston, and she, herself, a second cousin of William Dickson and of Thomas Clark. She owned about 400 acres of land in Dereham Township, County of Oxford, Upper Canada, and in 1810 Gourlay bought from the heirs of her first husband and paid for in Edinburgh an equal quantity of land adjoining hers. (14) On his marriage his father settled £300 a year upon him and also gave a "heritable bond" for £4,000 in favour of the children of the marriage, Gourlay joining therein, although he claims that as he was his father's heir it was not necessary.

In 1808 he fell out with the Earl of Kellie. (15) The Earl, whose predecessors had sold all the estate except the Manor House, was a heritor of Fife; occupying the chair at a meeting, February 15th, 1808, of the heritors, he adjourned the meeting while Gourlay was speaking. This Gourlay took as an insult, and at the next meeting demanded a public apology; this being declared out of order, he withdrew. At the next meeting he put a written question to the clerk whether a president could adjourn a meeting *proprio motu*; this the chairman, Mr. Wedderburn, waved aside. At the next meeting Lord Kellie was in the chair, and Gourlay asked the same question; and entered his protest upon the books against Lord Kellie's irregular conduct towards him.

The matter rested for some months. In October, 1808, when Gourlay was about to leave the country, he sent a written demand to the Earl for a public apology "in terms clear and explicit," saying "it is