

strong will, high temper and proud disposition, was of such vital importance.

Young Gowan had the advantage of a sound education in Ireland, completed under the Rev. Dr. Burnett of Dublin, a well-known educationalist of the day. In his sixteenth year he began studying medicine under his uncle, Dr. Robert Burkitt, but the condition of Ireland about that time became so unsettled, and life and property so insecure, that his parents determined to try their fortunes in the New World, and disposing of their property, emigrated with their three children to Canada in the Spring of 1832. The family sailed from New Ross in one of the small vessels of those days,* but when about one thousand miles from land they encountered a violent storm, which carried away the masts and left them drifting helplessly in mid-ocean, where after some days they were providentially sighted by a Spanish galleon which supplied them with jury masts, and with the aid of these they were able to reach Waterford. Scarcely had the vessel entered the river when she was boarded by officers of the law, with a warrant to arrest on a charge of murder, some of the steerage passengers, who had hoped to escape to America. The Captain had suspected that these men were criminals and had kept secret the fact that he was returning to Ireland, fearing these desperate characters would have taken possession of the ship and, perhaps, murdered the crew

* Fuller particulars of the voyage will be found in Appendix B.