

as its obsolete orthography, would have made it a sealed book to the half Scottish, half American child, had it not been for the kindness of the sergeant, who taught her to decipher words and to understand the meaning of the ancient minstrel. From this source she in part derived that enthusiastic love of her native country which ever afterwards was a distinguishing feature in her character.

In 1760 MacVicar, who had been stationed at Oswego, was sent back to Claverack to conduct a company to the former place. His wife and daughter accompanied the detachment on the picturesque and perilous journey through the wilderness to Oswego, concerning which Mrs. Grant remarks in her *Memoirs of an American Lady*, "I am convinced that I thought more in that fortnight, that is, acquired more ideas and took more lasting impressions, than ever I did in the same space of time in my life." The commandant of the post was our old friend Major Duncan of Lundie,<sup>1</sup> whose portrait is given in Cooper's *Pathfinder*, and also by Mrs. Grant, who describes him as an experienced, humane, judicious yet obstinate officer, and somewhat of a humorist withal.

In her sixth year Anne was familiar with the Old Testament, and read with eagerness and pleasure Milton's *Paradise Lost*, a poem which has daunted so many youthful readers, at the outset. Her talents, in the summer of 1762, attracted the attention of Madame Schuyler with whom she resided at Albany for several years, acquiring during her sojourn among her hospitable friends an additional knowledge of the Dutch language at that day much spoken by many of the best ancient families.

A few years after the conquest of Canada, MacVicar resigned his position in the army and became a settler in Vermont, where he received a grant of land from the British government, to which he made large additions by purchase from his brother officers. While here his worth and agreeable manners won for him and his family the esteem of all the neighboring settlers. His career of prosperity was, however, interrupted by ill-health and low spirits, and in 1768 he decided to return to his native land. Anne accompanied her parents, and at the age of thirteen she left America never to see it again. Unfortunately for MacVicar, he took his departure from the country without disposing of his property, which, upon the breaking out of the revolutionary war soon after, was confiscated by the new republican government. He was therefore compelled to depend chiefly upon his limited pay as a barrack master of Fort Augustus, in Inver-

<sup>1</sup> Afterwards Colonel Duncan, elder brother of Lord Camperdown.