

Dwan; Mr. William Thomson; Mr. Joseph Lawson, the youngest son of the good layman who spoke to that strange group in the Market Square in 1830; Mr. Paterson, and an elder brother, John B. Thompson, whose sharp, keen mind is still vigorous, and who, when I asked him what he thought of the war between Japan and Russia, took out his pencil and wrote in his pungent, incisive style:

“ ‘Late at the Hague the Russian Czar
Spoke words of peace, but armed for war;
“Bear and forbear,” he sang so fair,
But what he meant was “all for Bear.”’

“ My business companions have nearly all passed away—the Walkers (father and three sons), the Cox brothers, the Hughes brothers, (Patrick, Benjamin and John) John Eastwood, Mr. Page, the Murrays (father and son), John Kay, Peter Paterson, Major Arthurs, James Scott, Cooper, Lepper, and many others. I have a faint memory as a very young boy; of Mr. McMaster, Mr. Cathcart, Sir Francis

Hincks, Robert Walker, who lived next door; and the Governor-General (I think Sir Francis Bond Head), sitting on my father’s counter talking of political matters. Our sitting and dining-room was just behind the shop (seventy years ago), and I was sent to mind the shop while my father was at dinner, “for fear any customers might come in” and they would have to wait, as we had the only shoe store in the town.

“ I quit the activities of business at the age of sixty, and have never regretted it. I was making money very fast at that time, and was fearful I might shrink in character if I followed the game any longer. I have had thirteen years of retirement and delightful travel, accompanied by your grandmother, Ruth. We together have visited Marston Moor, Cromwell’s great battlefield; Hastings, where William the Conqueror overcame Harold; also Waterloo, where Wellington fought for and gained from Napoleon the liberty not only of England, but of Europe.