

Glengarry, near Cornwall, later and permanently in Dundee, Huntingdon County, on the opposite side of the St. Lawrence.

Here he spent several years of his early life, helping his father clear up the new farm, during which time the "little learning obtained before moving to the forest farm" was nearly forgotten. At the age of sixteen he was unable to read correctly a "chapter in the New Testament." "I wept over this sad fact and went to books and paper and pencils and slate, but at very serious disadvantage; fingers were stiff with long use of farm implements, and much more, the mind was like an uncultivated field of hard soil and full of wild weeds and briars and thorns. To make a start in pursuit of knowledge I bought or borrowed, (I do not remember which), as my first books, Webster's Speller, Murray's Grammar, somebody's arithmetic, slate and pencils, so went to my hard work in the log school-house, among the little boys and girls, whom I thought very learned, as I heard the little *savants* read and parse and spell me down every day—for they were sure to give me the place of honor at the foot of the class, though head and shoulders above them all. But there was no help for this state of humiliation, but to grin and bear it and plod away—and it has been but plodding ever since that day of small things in 1828."

After a year or two he entered the academy at Fort Covington, N. Y., four miles distant. While here his conversion occurred, which he ever after regarded the principal event of his life, and to which he makes the following reference—"That important, solemn event was, I trust, by the grace of God, my salvation, through faith in our Lord Jesus. At the time of which I am speaking, there was little or no religious influence or principle in all that part of the country—work, sport, folly, vanity, if not worse, were the order of the day, by young and old. For many years my father was the only person who made any open profession of sacred things or had family worship."

For several months previous to his conversion he passed through great distress of soul and spiritual concern. The awakening influences which led to this troubled frame of mind he attributes, under God, to the visits of several Scotch Baptist families living twenty miles away. "They seemed to be godly persons and were accustomed, when they made visits to our