

Still another store was started at Dundas.

The merchants of Montreal and other places, seeing us getting on so well, flocked to this mine of wealth, Hamilton, and set up in opposition here and in all the other places. In a few years we began to find the truth of the old adage, "Too many irons in the fire, some will cool." The credits given by the managers, I and my sons had appointed, were too liberal, and brought on many bad debts, hence we were glad to wind up at a loss.

Adam, about 1834, bought on account of the Company a farm of 300 acres, 100 of which were cleared, a good dwelling house, large barns, and an old mill on a never-failing stream, which ran through the centre of the property. He had from his boyhood a mechanical turn, and he was anxious to erect new mills on the old site. The great difficulty was to erect a dam across the stream from bank to bank, for he determined to make it an overshot power, and it required a good height to give a racecourse to serve this purpose. The front of the dam was built of hewn stone, with a wide cart-road behind it, and the embankment to slope to the bottom of what was to form the lake or reservoir at an angle of 45 degrees. The width of this immense mound was 400 feet. The expense of building and filling it in was enormous. When it was finished the water was let in and it formed a lake a quarter of a mile long. Not a leak appearing, it was thought safe to proceed with the building of the mills for flour, barley and oatmeal, and saw mill and distillery. These were all built in hewn rubble work, and such was the expense, together with the necessary dwelling house and cooperage, that the people around that neighborhood were significantly shaking their heads and passing their remarks, wondering whoever our principal creditors would be, as nobody who had money to pay would throw it away on such extravagances. The millers around, with their shabby wooden mills, were particularly busy with their remarks, and even went so far as to fix the date when the great crash was to take place. This was even thought more probable when it was known that Colin had built a house at Hamilton on large grounds which in all, at least, cost £6,000 to £7,000. Repeatedly the appointed time for our failure passed over, and still all were paid every Saturday, and the prognostications were listened to no longer; till some knowing person at Preston let out the real secret, viz., "A London Bank had advanced the money for a mortgage on all our real estate." This was a great relief to all the former guessers, as the loss when the final winding up came would fall on those far away, who could bear it.

Our business went on tolerably well till the Fall of 1841, when the Messrs. Strang failed, for whom I had become security and helped to the amount of £8,000 to £9,000.

Next came down Messrs. Hackett & Dickinson, forwarders, whom I had been a principal means in setting up and had throughout supported. I was taken in by them to the extent of £4,000.

I was basely taken in for £1,000 by Chas. Lamontaign, in getting, through Thos. Judah, a false set of my notes for the House of Industry, which case