

# GRAVES AND INSCRIPTIONS IN THE NIAGARA PENINSULA.

By JANET CARNOCHAN.

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*"Books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones and good in everything."*

Sermons in stones ! Yes and far more : History, pathos and humor, morality, religion, patriotism, warning, inspiration, what shall we not find ? But of the nameless graves, whether in consecrated ground, or in the plain, the cultivated farm once the scene of bloody warfare, in the ruined fort, or in many a lonely spot we can never or rarely know the story. Many of these form a page of history never to be wholly deciphered, but let us try while we may, imperfectly though it be, to place on record, from moss grown stone defaced by time or perchance ruder touch, the names and what we can piece together of the early pioneers, whether men or women, poet or artisan, soldier or priest, legislator or farmer, teacher or sailor, and from these pages of the past we may learn lessons for the present or the future, lessons of courage, of unselfishness, of generosity, of friendship, of patriotism, of duty, of religion. Then they died, shot down by stealthy Indian, or French or American foe, as now they give up their young lives on Africa's arid veldt, but each inspired by the same adventurous spirit which has made the Briton, be he Celt or Saxon, the pioneer in the world's progress, one of the factors in that "morning drum beat which encircles the globe" and proud that he is one of a nation "on whose dominions the sun never sets."

While most of the graveyards in the Niagara peninsula have been visited and such help used as could be obtained from tablets on the walls of churches, monuments, church registers, tradition, historical records, it has been found that there has been as much change in the fashion as there is in dress or buildings. At one time the stately periods, or long high sounding phrase,