

*Sketches*  
*and Recollections*  
*of*  
*The Past:*  
*Observations and Reflections,*  
*Fun and Frolic*

*by John Oliver*

1880  
*New Glasgow, N.S.*

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Genealogy	1
Passage out from Scotland	2
Uncle John Olivers passage to N.S.	3
Alan Garvin my play fellow	
Campbele the Fatracide	4
Dr. McCulloch Death Napoleon Bonapartes D.	
Supersitions and their effect. Robert Ross & W. Talbot	5
Cheerful wood fires. George Denoon & Tom Campbell	
The first Song I heard I liked "Scots what ha"	6
The [basis?] of my mind	7
Imployment at Denoons. The Bear.	8
What it took to kill a dog. Father and the Indian	9
Rescue from a Two year Old bull	10
Learned to conquer a bulling Ram. Learning to ride. First attempt at carving.	11
Ann Grey a lesson. Robert Bone	13
Father takes up Crown land in New Annan	14
Prepares to go and live there. House burnt	15
Gives up the idea of going to N. Annan	
Goes to the Head of Pictou Harbour. Go to school. by the 3 Mile Inn. Schoolfellows John Campbell	
John Stiles William Ives. Remove to M. River	
Harsh work and poverty gave up the idea of being learned	18
Go to learn the joiner work with Wm McLaurin	
Hard times. McLaurin a drunkard. Great [bile] on my neck. I leave McLaurins and go to Leaths	
Something like comfort	19
Leithead a poor workman. I call Mrs. L bad names	
She tells her husband. John Robly Marriage	20
Leitheads sickness. My thoughts he recovers	23
Snowballing frolic. Henrietta	24
"Folleration" I fright folks pay for my folley	
"The Devil's in the boy"	26
A visit to the graveyard. Opinions about it.	

The soft soap row	27
Leatheads [pranks]. I go blindfold $\frac{3}{4}$ mile	28
John Littles quarrel and mine Rough games	31
Stealing apples	
The wonder woman. Circus	32
A young beard and a new razor	33
James Hogg. The Great Election.	
I lose part of one finger	35
Walter Scots' novels a reproof in church	
Service at Leitheads abruptly ends	37
I go home	38
Some good things at Leitheads	39
Home at my Fathers again. Collect	40
Some tools and work at home. Journey	
To Halifax. My companions.	
I go to see my Uncle Henry at Beaver Bank	42
I begin work with Mr. Colley Cartwright Halifax	43
Pendergroat's death. Bad Watter	
Dartmouth Canal go to Porto Bello	44
State of morals	45
Sabbath how it was spent Miss Marg <sup>t</sup> Millar	46
Old Wm. [Imery's] pranks. Old Tom Warwick	47
I take sick at Petter McGills	48
I go to Halifax to recruit Millars advice	49
Carusel and drinking at MGill's Saturday	50
night. Temptation resisted.	
I become a smoker	51
There was much drinking John Munro	52
and his Highlanders. Signs of a colapse	
How I employed my time after 6 O'Clock	53
I go to see my Uncle Henry before going home	
Card playing. Adam Millars	55
Old Cumberlands pretty daughter	56
Home again School	58
Amusements and recreations at M.R.	59

I prepare to go to New Annan heavy pack  
Called at James Forbises and at Blakes  
Choped land put in a crop and built a  
log house  
Employments when not working [verces]  
My chief companions  
I return to Father's after I got in the crop  
I visit Miss Susey Blake and at Forbes's  
Poem on old residenters  
Duncan Marshals marriage with Nancy Crockett  
A strange offer from Miss Crockett at the time  
The fair sex rather at discount with me  
Susey Blake and I part for good.  
Old Mr. Blake refuses to shake hands  
Henrietta Forbes an agreement we keep it  
to ourselves. Fathers advice at New Annan  
He carries a letter from me to Henrietta  
I get a letter from Henrietta  
Money scarce to put the marriage past  
Married by the Rev. John McKinley  
Visiting bad roads Delay at New Annan  
Bad roads on my return  
Father and I go to New Annan. Reception at uncle's  
Reconciliation reason of the coolnes in intrigue  
John M. Oliver forges a letter in his sisters  
name I become disgusted with my uncle family  
Henrietta and I walk part of the way to  
our home in New Annan. Stay at Baleys  
Get to our house about 2 o'clock next day  
Our first neal together Smoke seen  
William Thompson my Brother in Law  
brings a load of our effects. Discription of farm  
The names and number of my children  
Married life in New Annan

*Geniligy etc*

I was born in my grandfathers house on a place called Essenside of which he was a Tennant from the Duke of Beclough. Situated in Roxborough Shire, Scotland. This event happened on Sabbath July the 18 1813. My fathers name was Robert Oliver. My mothers Elizabeth Hardy a native of Berwick Shire. My Father was a native of Roxboroughshire.

On my fathers side  
My great great grandfather. Name William Oliver.  
His wife Isabela Elliot

On the female side  
James Douglas and Ellin Glendenning

Grand Father and Grand Mother  
John Oliver and Margaret Douglas

Mothers Side  
Gt. Grandfather and Grand Mother  
James Hardy and Elizabeth Hunt

Grand Father and Mother  
George Hardy and Isabela Graham

Father and Mother  
Robert Oliver and Elizabeth Hardy

I was the eldest child that lived There was a girl before me who only lived a few months. My father was about 26 years of age, my mother 20 at the time of my birth which was as before mentioned was July 18<sup>th</sup> 1813.

In the year 1814 my Father and Mother emigrated to Nova Scotia after a long and tedious passage of 17 weeks at Sea from Greenock to Pictou, Nova Scotia. The last war between Breaton and United States not being then concluded the British Fleet collected at the Cove of Cork. I think now called Queenstown, Irland under the protection of several vessals of war and comodore. In all one hundred and twenty seven 127 sailed sailed for British North America. A great storm came on when some days out and many of them were driven back to Banbry Bay Irland. Of this large fleet, eighty only could be counted on the Banks of New Foundland.

On the Twenty Eighth of October 28<sup>th</sup> 1814, Father and Mother, Uncle Henry Oliver and the writer arrived in Pictou. My father and uncle rented Squire Denoons farm about a mile below Pictou [written as Picou] Town for seven years. Uncle John Oliver had emigrated from Scotland two years previously and settled about five miles from Pictou at the Head of the Harbour, had a hard time of it being first robed by pirates of everything valuable. The vessal was afterward captured by American Privateers. And the crew and passengers taken prisoners and carried into Boston and were subsequently exchanged for Prisoners the British had taken.

I was about 15 months of age when we arrived in Pictou.

They then came Halifax, N. Scotia and from thence to Truro finaly settling in Pictou.

For about four years after leaving Scotland I do not remember much but I recollect quite well when my sister Margaret was born who is four years my junior. After I was four years of age I remember events that happened as well as when I was twenty.

I remember seeing my father dressed in knee britches and plaid on Sabbath days and my mother looking young handsome and girlish She was only twenty years of age at my birth.

About the fifth year of my age I contracted a friendship with a young boy of my own age of the name Alex~ Garvin an adopted son of Micheal Garvin. [He] was an illegitimate child whose mother died in giving him birth. I loved him dearly and our friendship has never been broken to this day. Often we played together sailing our toy boats with a leaden keel for ballast or sailing round the Shore in a canoe or raft catching lobsters with a split stick with a frog in the split, fishing trout in a little brook that ran into Bones Cove, picking berries, shooting with bow and arrows, firing stones out of a sling, building wind and watter mills were some of our employments. When I was about 6 years, I knew many of the people round and and could form a pretty correct [opinion] of passing events and they appear to have made as deep an impression on my mind as at any time of my life.

4

I remember when Campbel murdered his father and step mother and the sentation it caused in the community. There were many feemales who went to see the execution. And heard the remarks made of their nervious and exited State of mind afterwards and of the death of Edward Mortimer and the talk of him being often seen walking the road between his house and the Town of Pictou and that he continued to haunt the Town like a restless and unhappy spirit. Till he had a conference with first Dr. McCulloch Pictou after that his spirit hadrest and no more frequented the paths he trode when body and soul were united. What passed between the Dr. and the spirit I never heard. I suppose it was superstition and imagination and perhaps invention that gave birth gave birth to the story.

I remember also of being able to read for myself in the “Acadian Recorder” of the death of the Great Napolion Boniparte in the Island of St. Hellina.<sup>1</sup> I felt sorry to learn of his death. I thought him one of the greatest men and thought his conquerors acted meanly to him after he submitted to them. These were my boyish thoughts and age has not much changed my opinion.

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<sup>1</sup> Napoleon Bonaparte died May 5, 1821. Article in the *Acadian Recorder* appeared in volume 9, issue 32, 11 August 1821, page 3. This illustrates how long it took for news to come from the Old World to North America.π

These were the days of large wood fires with a back log often 18 inches diameter with large iron Dogs in the front to bear up the smaller wood in front and prevent it rolling forward and to let the air underneath to support the flame. Around the Cheerful Hearth neighbours would assemble the Old to hear and tell the news and gossip of the day or to tell witch Fary and gost storys. I remember siting in the corner all eyes and ears till a cold creeping Tremors would take hold of me and I would be afraid to look round. It was some years before I was able to shake of the effects of these superstitious storys. William Talbot, an Irish weaver, and Robert Ross, an ingenious turner and maker of Bagpipes and player, a man of no education so far as books were conserved for he could not read were chief Retailers of Legendry lore and Ghost storys. I wonder that my parents allowed them such licence for they both gave little credit to such tales and told us children not to belive them but they would often come uppermost in my mind especially in dark and dismal places. My Mother was of a jovial and friendly disposition and wished to make all happy who came under her influence. And my Father bore with them in their idle tales of Ghosts and Goblins though he was skeptical of the influence attributed to them by these wortheys. When I came to manhood I [always] discountenanced such talk before children especially as most unproper.

Around the cheerful wood fires of Old, Young Men and women would meet to have a good time. Laffing

“And spent the time in songs and chatter

“The rural scandal and the rural feat

“Fly harmles to deceive the teadious time

“And steal unfelt the winter hours away.<sup>2</sup>

Of the young people who used to frequent my Fathers house Was George Denoon, James Campbell, Thomas Campbel and Hannah Campbell, afterwards Mrs. Andrew Millar. And Margaret her sister afterwards Mrs. Pat Hepburn, and other proficiants in vocal and instrumental musick. These were happy times. These were informal meetings and no refreshments were given. Though it is likely there were appointments among the young people, Mother minded her work and put in a word now and then their Jollety did not seem to incommode her in the least.

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<sup>2</sup> James Thomson, *The Seasons & Castle of Indolence*. (1845). “The rural scandal, and the rural jest, fly harmless, to deceive the tedious time” from his poem “Autumn”.

The first song I remember being impressed by was “Bruces Adress”<sup>3</sup> sung by Miss Margaret Campbell. Beginning “Scots wha hae we Wallace bled”. When I was young I liked War songs far better than love songs. Such songs as Sir James the Rose, Chevey Chase<sup>4</sup>, etc. Like Norval I had heard of battles “And longed to follow some warlike lord.” To read of battles had a fasionation over me. I have read Blind Harrys Wallace<sup>5</sup> and wept for the fate of Scotlands x patriot hero. Her Ill requited Chief.  
X Burns and Thompsons Lessons

7

Theological and Metifisical works I did not. I always wanted something tangible. I found the Shorter Chaticism difficult to learn and did not like it. But I loved Poetry and the Psalms, Travels, Adventures and even Siense had its charms, Mechanics especially. My Parents would not allow me anything but religious books on Sabbath day. But Bunians “Pilgrims Progress”<sup>6</sup> was not among the prohibited number and I used to read it with great pleasure though I did not dig deeply into its Spritual meaning. I learned Psalms and [Pharfrases] with great ease but I liked the Pharaprases much the best. But the long words and condenced Stile of the S. Caticism had no charms for me. But the Bible was my delight especially the Historical Books of the Old Testament and the Four Gospels and Acts. Pauls Epistle I could not fully grasp and Revelations I could not comprehend. But I remember thinking that the ransomed had nothing to do in Heaven but to sing prases to God through Eternity. Though I liked music, I thought that would be too much of a good thing and that I would like a change. I think I knew the fate of Man and the Redemption by Jesus Christ and had faith in him as my Saviour and Redeemer as taught me by my Parents. But there was much darkness. About the fall of man, God electing some and leaving others. And how there could be three persons but only one God. Though so young I thought on these things but was not satisfied with any explanation given by my parents or others.

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<sup>3</sup> Traditional Scottish song, “Bruce’s Address to his Army”

<sup>4</sup> Lyrics can be found in Francis James Child’s *The English and Scottish Popular Ballads*. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1890. “*The Hunting of the Cheviot*” (“Chevey Chase”), Part VI, #162, 311-315 and “*Sir James the Rose*,” Part VII, #213, 155-160.

<sup>5</sup> Henry the Minstrel (Blind Harry) wrote a 12-book, 11,877 stanza poem about the life of William Wallace between 1470 and 1493.

<sup>6</sup> John Bunyan (1628-1688). *The Pilgrim’s Progress: from this world to that which is to come, delivered under the similitude of a dream...*

### *Employments at Dennon's*

I have already written something of my youthful employments with my friend Alex Garvin. But when I was alone I employed much of my time in molding clay figures into shapes of men and animals and drying them in the sun. Of my proficiency it could not be great as I was only between 4 and 8 years of age. But I remember Squire Denoon praising and purchasing some of my figures.

I learned to read very young. Father gave me an idea of the power of the letters by touching the different parts of my body and spelling them. And I learned the Alphabet very little effort. Father was about a month from home at New Annan. I was anxious to learn and my Mother taught me to read the New Testament pretty before he returned. I got great praise from my Father and others to which perhaps too susceptible

“The love of praise however concealed by art  
“Reigns more or less and glows in every heart.

### *The Bear*

A bear some way got out of the woods and Father and Uncle Henry with the Dogs got between him and the woods. He ran toward the shore and climbed an oak tree over leaning the water and when shot fell into the high tide. It was quite an exciting chase and the first bear I saw.

### *The Dog Killer*

Squire Denoon had a Dog that committed great depredations among my Father's sheep and was doomed to death. Father called him and a very powerful Highlander of the name of Shaw with a heavy hardwood [Handspoke?] struck him on the Head a heavy blow and stunned him following up the blows till I thought his head was beaten to a pulp. He was hauled away, heavy stones thrown upon him quite a pile till a person would have thought it impossible for any dog without the previous smashing to have got from under the weight. But rise he did in about an hour and half afterwards making a loud and lamentable howling near the place he was buried. They were all astonished at his resuscitation. Uncle Henry charged his Militia Musquit and stole near and fired. He jumped several feet high and fell dead but a Dog so tenacious of life was not to be trusted. A rope was put round neck and a heavy stone as much as my uncle could lift tied to the other end and then put into a boat and rowed

into deep water and thrown into the Sea. Simple as the foregoing may seem, it made an impression on my mind of the tenacity of a Dogs life and the tremendous blows the Highlander gave him.

### *My Father and the Indian*

The Indians when I was a Boy were much bolder and less civilized than they are at the present day and if they found the men from home were often bold and impudent.

10

With women and Indian came into the house and cut lots of shins dancing round hauling the watch and helping himself to anything he wished and speaking defiantly to my. However he did not carry anything but a Tobacco pipe. A few minutes after the Indian left my Father came home. My mother told him how the Indian acted. Father armed himself with a Bayonet and persued and overtook him about a quarter of a mile off. He grasped him with the left hand by the shoulder presenting they Bayonet to his heart with the right. The Indian trembled he ordered him to give up the pipe he taken he brought out a pipe but it was not the one he had taken. He was ordered to give the right one which when he had given he was threatened if he acted so again he would not be let of so easily. The Indians had a wholsome fear of my Father after this and behaved civily. My Mother was in a state when such exitement is allowed to be very dangerous. And I suppose Border blood of my Father was arroused. Though a quiet and peaceable man when arroused he feared not the face [mun, men?]

### *Rescued from two year Old Bull by my Father*

This animal had hitherto been considered quiet and peaceable attacked me at the Barn and had not my Father been near and rescued I think he would have killed me. He had knocked me down and was goreing at me with all his strength until my Father drove him off. Bulls are not to be trusted.

*I am Taught how to get the better  
Of a Bunting Ram*

I had got some hard bunts from a large Ram. My Father told me to always try and keep my face toward him. Just as he was upon the run to bunt to step aside and I could jump upon his back and strike him upon the sides of his head. I tried and succeeded compleatly in conquering him and cured him of bunting.

*Learning to Ride*

I learned very well before I was 8 years of age and had great pleasure in the exercise and could balance myself upon the horse in any position and gallop standing upon his back and would harrow and twist when I was quite young riding upon the horses back.

*The first attempt a Carving*

One day when mother was dressing Butter she said among us children in a kind of a soliliquey I wish I had a Butter print<sup>7</sup>. Mrs. Campbell gets a higher price then I do by having it in Prints and I am sure my Butter would take the market better hers.

I said I would make a Butter print, Mother. She said do John like a good Boy. Expecting little I sharpened my knife as well as I could and got a peice of nise Pine Board bent a twig and stuck pins in the ends for a pair of compases and went into secret place at the foot of the Gardin among the bushes and formed my print before I returned. I showed it to my Mother and was praised for my performance.

who with a mothers pride showed Johnys work to her female friends. One day some ladies from Town had some refreshments set before them by my mother and butter printed with Johnys Print. They praised the butter and said the Print was beautiful. Mother told them that Johnny made the butter print. When mother went into another room one of them said to the other that little Boy never made that Print. I was not more than seven years of age. I attempted two or three more and succeeded pretty well.

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<sup>7</sup> Defined by Merriam Webster as "1 : a piece of carved wood used to mark molds of butter; also : the impress made by it"

About fifty years after this Old James Bone was in my shop when I was carving. Said you were always a curious fellow from the time you were a little boy. I have a butter print you carved when you were at Squire Denoons. That your Mother gave to my Mother before you left Squire Dennons and it a nice print yet I was glad to hear of it and wished much to see it. I promised him a dollar for it and as good another as I could make but I did not Succeed in getting it. There is an Old Saying that “the Boy is the Father of the man”<sup>8</sup>. And another that “Straws show the way the currant runs.”<sup>9</sup> Which I think is a trueism. For after this I never left it off but was always carving and engraving till I became a Professional Ship Carver.<sup>10</sup>

13

### *Ann Grey*

I had overheard some talk in the house of a young Girl of the name of Anne Grey that she was a Bastard not knowing the import of the word but ready to pick up every word I heard I made a song of it running and singing Anne Grey’s a bastard over and over thinking no ill till I came to where my Father and John Murdoch were standing talking together. Father without one word struck me a fearful slap on the side of the head that laid me flat and I felt the effects for some days after the punishment for the offense was a seveare one and improper one as I did not know what I was doing or saying anything wrong. It was the trueth “but the trueth is not allways proper to be told.” I was more cautious after that in making songs I only some five years old when this happened but I always remembered it when I went to Chastize my children not to slap them on head. I suppose my Father felt bad about it as his neighbour heard it.

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<sup>8</sup> William Wordsworth, “The Rainbow”, line 7: “The child is the father of the man”

<sup>9</sup> “Straws show which way the current runs”

<sup>10</sup> James M. Cameron, *The Ships, Shipbuilders and Seamen of Pictou County*. New Glasgow: Pictou County Historial Society, 1990, p. 19. Of master workmen in shipbuilding, “three names survive, Alexander MacDonald, ships’ carpenter and carver of River John, and in New Glasgow, carver John Oliver and carpenter Thomas MacCaskill.”

## *Robert Bone*

Robert Bone a native of Dumfries Shire, Scotland was our nearest neighbour on the side toward the Beaches and lived at what now they called "Bones Cove". A sawier by trade he was a good singer and For some time Presenter in Dr. McCulloch's church. He was much addicted to drink and had to have his position. I have seen him followed by a great crowd of boys around all the way from the Town who teased him on when he would stagger his way towards home.

14

They would come behind him and touch him with a stick and then make off. He would pick up great stones and throw furiously at him but he was so drunk they always missed their mark. His wife was a fine motherly old woman. Mother and her were very friendly. Bone was a squater on Desbares Grant<sup>11</sup> and bore a grudge at my father because he purchased 20 acres of land from one Widow Duncan which he thought encroached on him.

My Father and uncle Henry Oliver were in renting the Denoon Farm. Soon after they took up what was called Kings or Crown land in New Annan in the County of Colchester 200 Acres each. And John their brother the same or 600 acres in one block. Henry being unmarried went to improve their freehold working on his own and father which Father stayed at home generally and cultivated the rented farms and carried him Suplies. The lowlands of New Annan were then wooded with heavy Pine and Lumbering was carried to a great effect and nigh my Uncle's clearing there was a great pile of hewn lumber on the tumbling bank. When he set fire to his chopping it spread and caught the timber with much difficulty and exertion he saved the pile in profuse perspiration and escalation while watching he went asleep and awoke with feaver and congestion of the lungs. My Father received a letter from Mr. [Liffier?]<sup>12</sup> informing him of his brother dangerous state. Father imediately went to New Annan and brought him home.

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<sup>11</sup> Des Barres Grant was just east of Tatamagouche. G.R. Vincent, *West New Annan*. Victoria, B.C.: Vincent, 1989,.

<sup>12</sup> Could be Lepper, Lessor, Leffier, Lessier, Leppier.

He had a very bad cough and much expectoration that neither a naturely vigorous conslection nor the aid of medicine could overcome being unable to do any work that summer and winter following in the spring he took a voyage to Scotland and was in Scotland about a year. He returned with his health improved but the Cough never left him. Uncles sickness caused a disolution of partnership with respect to the management of Denoon farm. And Uncle Henry farmed for some rich Haligonians and earned fame as a first rate Farmer and ploughman and took all the prizes at the Plowing Matches till he was finely shut of from competing owing to his unaproachable superiority in g.

Father was making preparations to go and live in New Annan upon the expiry of the lease of the Denoon Farm. But the house he had built was burned tools furniture and provisions were lost. It was thought to been the work of an ensendery to hide the robbery of the valueables it contained. This loss had the effect of prolonging his stay in the County of Pictou indeed of remaining in it till he died. He removed to the Farm his brother John located at the Head of Pictou Harbour then owned by the Rev. James Robson upon which he staid two years. I was about Eight years of age when we left Denoons. I did like it as well as the Denoons farm when at my chief employment had been reading, writing, play and running errands now my father began to teach me to work.

I did not take very kindly to hard work my heart was not in it and I felt it irksome. But Books and learning was my delight and I borrowed and read all the books I could. An Old gentleman of the name of William Beck, a Covenanter took great notice of me and lent me any book he had and he had a good many but they were chiefly theological and giving an account of their percitions [persecutions?]and hardships they endured from their enimes.

Here too I formed an Acquaintance with Man of the name of John Hyslop who stays with an uncle of his of the name of Rob Thompson. We were together as much as we could get. In some degree he filled the place of Alick Garvin my old friend. It was while at the Head of the Harbour I was first sent to school. Charles Fraser a son of Donald Fraser Lord Louet of the west river a cousin of W<sup>m</sup> Ives of Pictou. The house where the school was kept was close by the 3 Mile Inn or first by the water below Logans Tannery. Mr. Fraser was studying for the Ministry and was one of the late Dr. McCulloch pupils I had for school mates. William Ives, John Campbell afterwards the Rev. John Campbell of St. Marys, John Stiles

afterwards Editor and Publisher of the *Mechanic and Farmer*<sup>13</sup> with whom I had a bone. He struck me because I said I thought that while stuff on his bread was Hogs Lard and not Butter he very quickly came off second best.

17

I        Mr. Fraser died a year or two after this. Campbell, Ives and Stiles are all dead. I made fair progress at this school. But formed no close acquaintance or attachment. My chief favourite was a young girl of my own age of the name of Belle Beck.

It was during the time we lived at the Head of the Harbour that the newspapers were full of the trial of Queen Charlotte<sup>14</sup> for infidelity to the King.

There was much visiting and friendship between my Parents and Mrs. and Mr. Leithhead. After some years my Mr. and Mistress. [They] had been nighbour acquaintances in Scotland. My Father purchased a farm on the Middle River and gave up the idea of going to New Annan<sup>15</sup> in the Spring of 1824 we removed to the M.R. Father carried or hauled his hay or seed grain Hay tools and Furniture and whatever could be spared. And stored them in Denoon Douglas Barn till Robert Watters who leased the farm should vacate the houses. Father was very poor resulting spending so much of his time and means in clearing land and building in New Annan. The purchase of the farm at Middle River and the loss of an instalment in payment of a farmer because he could not make good the second instalment their place was about a mile from Dixon or Barrys Mills. It was hard work and poor fare and clothing for some years.

18

But by dint of industry and care, Mother being an excellent manager and Father being a good farmer, the debt was paid and another purchase made of a 140 acres more this second purchase by the sale of 200 acres of New Annan property and some half from Uncle Henry.

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<sup>13</sup> John Stiles started *The Mechanic and Farmer* in Pictou in May 1839 after he took over *The Bee*. *The Mechanic and Farmer* continued until October 1843, when it merged with *The Banner* to form *The Eastern Chronicle*.

<sup>14</sup> Trial of Queen Caroline in 1820, after she was accused of adultery by her husband, King George IV.

<sup>15</sup> According to the map in G. R. Vincent, *West New Annan*. Victoria, B.C.: 1989, p. 69, the "District of New Annan" was a part of Colchester County, south of Tatamagouche.

When we left Denoon's my aptness for learning was designed to be cultivated. But poverty put a stop to this. Being the eldest child I had to work very hard to help my father at the home. I should have been at school good by to a profession. I must learn a trade. Having shown a natural proficiency and neatness in fashioning things out of wood it was proposed that I should learn the carpenter trade. So at the recommendation James Hogg Schoolmaster of one William McLaurin Joiner a Scotchman from recently from Glasgow I was sent on trial for the month I went in the fall and staid about 6 months. But I wish no apprentice may be used as I was used. They had only two small rooms a room and a bedroom for a few weeks I was tolerably comfortable and lay on a kind of sofa in the large room. But Mrs. McLaurin was about being confined. I had to go to a cold damp uninhabited garret on a bed of straw with very little bed cloths in the depth of winter with no light allowed me. I put off my day clothes for a day or two but could not sleep for cold. I then [turned] in clothes and all but was like to starve and felt miserable all day.

19

To make suffering of cold and damp a little more tolerable I collected some fragments of wood from the shop to warm and air the room. But this when found out was denied me for fear that the house might be burnt as I might forget it or go out and leave it burning. But some little amelioration of my suffering from cold came as Spring began to come on and a poor young couple rented the room adjoining and their fire had some effect on the room I slept in and there some better light where going to bed. But my troubles were not to end. McLaurin designing to build a house for himself. Had got some liberty to get some scantling of a swamp belonging to John Tailor merchant now owned by Deacon Fraser. McLaurin cut poles and I carried them out to the edge of the swamp on ice to solid ground but my shoulders were so bruised that an exceedingly bad bile was the result and I had to go home. When father found out how I had been used he was much grieved. Father went to see McLaurin. What passed between them I did not learn exactly but I did not go back and my chest and clothes were taken home. I do not think I improved very much in Joinery. My spirit was crushed by the ill usage. McLaurin was a heavy drinker though I never saw him what you might call drunk. But there was hardly ever a day passed but he drank a quart.

He would have the measure hid under his bed and every now and then take a swig and work with all his strength. He was a coarse workman but could a great deal through his hands. Though he drank heavily he seldom shared with any one. Though I was often sent for I never lasted. I made few acquaintances during the 6 months I was with him. I renewed my acquaintance with Billey Edmonds with whom I had an acquaintance during time we staid at Denoons and on Sabbaths sometimes visited my old friend Alek Garvins.

After the bile got well upon my neck Father kept me round working, working at rough carpenter work at the house and barn. [fiseing] and filling up. And in the fall I went with Robt Leithheads on the West River to learn Cartwright business. The bargain was "whatever Rob did I was to do." The meaning of this was that as Robt farmed I was to work with him, a poor way to learn a trade of a poor workman. This was a great improvement over McLaurins. I had a good warm bed and plenty to eat but I was ancious to learn the trade and there was so little done in that line and being a poor workman he had little custom. There was little chance of me becoming a good Cartwright.

However with all the drawbacks I was soon able to surpass my master and people soon found out and we had more employment. But I longed for a better teacher and felt that I was losing my time. Leithhead went from home and left me in shop to finish some work. Mrs. Leith~ came to the shop after Leith~ was gone and told me I must take a scythe and go and cut a piece of marsh and she would go with me. I objected to as I told her that I had orders to work in the shop. But she urged and I reluctantly consented to go so down to shore we went. And as we had to paddle down the river about a quarter of a mile I pushed out the canoe boldly into the middle of the stream. Mrs. Leith became alarmed and beged me not to go so far out and caught the painter of the canoe to hold her back. It was good sport for me to see her holding on to the painter to stop the canoe. However I landed our Lady safely on the land [bank] opposite to the [piece?] of marsh. The tide was only half way out and we could not work but as the tide began to receade more the [tops?] began to appear. She called out to us to begin to work I called out to her we could not. She sat on the bank still calling us to work. I lost temper and called out to go home you black B----h and we'll work when we can. John Little who was with me looked as if he would bury himself in

he was so ashamed of me. She told Leith her story and what I called her. He did not take part with her very much. But said "it was like the Pot calling the Kettle black." I think it was very wrong in me to make use of such bad words to my Mistress. But it provoked fury and control to see her sitting on the bank like an old witch calling out to us to work when there was more than a foot of water above where it should be cut. She left immediately and we finished it when the tide left it.

Shortly after this Leith went to John Robly marriage with Nancy Rogers. This I believe was the first marriage ceremony performed by the Rev. Charles Elliot of the Church of England [pastor] in Pictou. They had a great time dancing, drinking and carousing after the marriage and Leith came home with a violent pain in his bowels which turned to inflammation. And I was sent in haste for Dr. Henderson who considered his case very dangerous. He was apparently at the point of death. I did everything I could in going for Doctor and Medicine and keeping all right round the place. But I was so bad as not to care much whether he got better or not as I believed I was only spending my time and if he died I would be free. I had no personal dislike to him. I rather liked him he was passionate and hasty but not unkind upon the whole.

But he got well and things went on the old way. I had to do all the plowing that spring and the neighbours came and helped to cast out the dung and plant the potatoes.

It was while I was a Leithhead that I became acquainted with Henrietta Forbes who after some years became my wife. She was a blythe and merry girl and a favourite in her family and among the neighbours. I had a good deal of fun and frolic while here. Leithhead was fond of company fun and frolic and allowed me a good deal of licence that way.

*I may now relate  
Some of the pranks*

Shortly after I went to stay at Leithheads, Mrs. John Olivers of New Annan, my aunt and me and her son James came on early winter to Pictou to visit my father and mother. Old acquaintances on the West River where they had lived for about eight years. Leithhead and his wife had been old acquaintances in Scotland as well as neighbours at the West River. There was a jolly time between them in calling up the reminiscences of the past.

Mr. James Forbes and his wife made a party to which my Aunt, Cousin and Mr. and Mrs. Leithead were invited. And I was not overlooked. I was a merry, almost boisterous. The snow being soft a snow balling match was engaged in among the youngsters girls and all took part in the contest.

24

I was a keen snowballer and too many for my opponents. Mrs. Leithead and my Aunt struck in to help the weak party. I had no respect of persons when they took sides in a fair contest and pelted them with all my might while I ducked their poor made balls but they were not to be outdone. They rushed on me and [douched] me in a snow bank and held me down while Mrs. Leithead packed my trousers with snow. She said to cool my courage. I had to submit to the indignity with as good a grace as I could and retire from the inglorious contest. It was fun and no ill feeling.

Henrietta made a favourable impression me that night that I never forgot and when I became better acquainted with her she told me that it was the same with self with respect to me. If it was not love, it was a kindly feeling and a desire for each others company. Henrietta as she appeared to me then. She was tall of a good figure dark hair black eyes and rosey cheeks good features great animal spirits and activity of hand and witty and mirthful and a good command of language a trait not common among her relations on the fathers side of the house. So this is a description of the girl who about six years after this became my wife and lived with me 27 years and bore me ten sons and two Daughters of whom so far as I know at this time 1880 one daughter and seven sons live.

25

### *Toleration the Ugley Bird*

I got a stick about 2 ½ feet long and fastened another at right angles near the top carved likeness a gooses bill four times as large as life painted black with an open mouth and red firey tounge. This I stuffed like the head of a monstrous bird and covered with an old black silk hankerchife with big glaring eyes and got a large dark coloured cloth tied to form the neck. Then got under the cloth being all covered and taking the stick on which the head was fastened in your hands you hopped along turning in any position you thought proper to imitate the motion of a large ugley bird turning after it eyes or making a pick at a person.

I paid dearly for my folly. I went to Littles where a number of young people were holding a good time. Got under the covering and took the head stack in my hand, hopped up to the door and rapt with the bill. The door was opened and I hopped in and turned up the big eyes. What screaming. Bele Forbes ran with fright into a corner but she had courage to resist the Divil with a nail hammer she got hold of. Screaching and striking she hit me on the head. I think it came cracking my skull. She declared it opened its mouth to bite her. I was more chary after this. I carried the mark for some time as a reward for my fun.

26

I believe I was too much in earnest in sports. When wrought read or studied I gave all attention at the time. But when that was over fun and mischief that often not on the side of moderation. Mother used to say "John's all honey or all dirt." When her boy worked or read wrote or carved she was proud of him but teasing and nischeavious play tryed her patience. I remember when about six years of age I was very bad and she lost control of her temper coming haste upon me in my mischief. Ran hastily picking up the foot of a broken chair she threw it at me. With the exclamation "I believe the divils in the boy." It missed me. And she was thankful that it did so. And never forgot her hasty act. Father used to laugh and say she was going to nock the divel out of me. With this digression I will tell some of pranks while at Leitheads.

### *Superstision and Visit to the Graveyards*

My parents taught me to disregard ghost storys and to be bold and courageous in the dark. Second sight fortune telling dead lights and all those kind of things. Father was a superior schooler and had a great fund of general information. And had a choice liberary which may have been the reason of his disbelief in freaks and ghosts and Fairys witching cows and taking the milk from them and cetera.

27

But to my story. Mrs. Leithead as full of superstition and believed in Witchcraft, Ghosts and Buggys. She was relating a story in the family of a girl who for a wager used to show her courage undertook to stick a fork in a certain grave in a dark night. She went to the grave and put the fork in but a spirit followed her back and as she was entering the door it crushed her to death between the door and the frame? I said I did not believe it. She said it was as true as the Bible and that it occurred nigh where she lived in Scotland. I said I wouldn't be afraid to do all the Girl was said to have and come home safe. She said I dare not do it and

Robert, her Husband, said no John you dare not do it. I felt I could not back out without cowardice and bravado being imputed to me. So I said give me a fork and I will show you whether I dare do it or not. So what I had been a three tine table fork was given minus one prong. What grave will I put it in I asked. Mrs. Hallidays was the answer I got. We had made the coffin about a week previous. So off I set. But there was such a helybaloo when I got a little way off as I never heard the children crying out and lamenting. We'll never see poor John more. The old lady hollered after me for Gods Sake to come back then whistled on a bottle. But like Christian in Bunians Pilgrim I shut my ears and pressed on to my destination. I did not see anything uncommon unless it was Aleck McDonald walking between Girls. I put the fork in the head of the grave and returned safe.

26 [re-numbering started here]

I was a cloudy Saturday night or what might be called a rather dark night.

There was a good deal of truth about this affair. Some said it was a foolhardy and foolish thing for me to do. And Leitheads were blamed for bantering me and then allowing me to go and Hallidays were offended because their mothers grave was desecrated.

Old James Hogg the Schoolmaster said you just did what was right. I would just have done as you did under the circumstance and to give the go by to Superstition.

I may here say that It was not for bravado that I went but to show that I disbelieved in disembodied Spirits haunting the abodes of men. And when dared, I would not to show the white liver and retreat and be accused for cowardice.

### *THE SOFT SOAP ROW*

Mrs. Leathhead had finished making soft soap and four or five young girls who were galavanting round Mrs. Leithhead showed them the soap. One of the girls had a specimen in a soap plate and with a tablespoon was spooning it out saying it was a lovely beautiful delightful and pleasing. I touched my my finger in the dish and hastely touched her lips This was resented and the whole bevey surrounded me good wife and all to overpour and soft soap me in earnest but I was too strong for them all. Mrs. Leatt. took me round the neck. I gave her a twist and she landed flat on the floor. I then tried to escape by the Kitchin door but it was locked and I turned to get out by the back door but a full bucket

was dashed at me but I jerked and it pased? me. The brush barrel with a dishing lye under it stood in the corner This the old lady seized and threw at me but I jerked and it landed in a bed and I escaped and took refuge in the shop. Their enemy had I escaped without a drop of watter, lye or soft soap and they had now time to wipe up the flooded floor and put the cloths wet with lye to soak. Henrietta Forbes came in on the heel of the hunt and helped to put things in order though she was not there when the fray began.

After staying a good time in the shop, I was called to come in but I told them I would not unless they promised to let bygones be bygones which was assented to so I went in and went to bed. Mr. Leithhead was not at home at the time of the row. Mrs. Leath~ told him how I tossed her down and hurt her eye. She said it was black and showed it to Henrietta. Henrietta said O yes it is black, very black. But no blacker than it used to be. O your guilt you'd try to make [known] a right. She then showed it to her husband and he could see no difference O your all alike. Rob said that "a pimple on a Lady, A~se so was made much mean about." I was sorry that that I so offended Miss Prim by the touch of soap. But I was glad I got free of the drenching of watter and lye they tried to give me for there was two buckets of watter and a bucket of lye dashed at me. If I had got the lye, it might have been more then a wetting.

Leathhead was a funey frolicksome trickey and sometimes foolish fellow himself and I was allowed a considderable licence in tricks and fun.

For specimen I will relate one of his foolish pranks. Mrs. Leathhead had was called a [Scuckley, perhaps Leuckley] frolic. A gathering of young people to dress hair which almost every farmer then cullivated at that period. He slyly lighted a lock of [Tow?] and put it under a young womens dress. She jumped up with a scream and in a moment the whole flour was in flame. To put it out was impossible so much of flame was swept and thrown into the wide and deep fire place and blazed out at the chimney top and was conjured with with the loss of considerable Hair?

### *I go blindfolded to Forbese's*

Mrs. Leathead had promised to go to Mrs. Forbse's after dark the night turned out to be very dark She was afraid she could not go. I said that need not hinder She could take the lanthorn for my part I said I would not be afraid to go blindfolded. Mr. Leathead took me up at once wanting fun I suppose If you go blindfolded John I'll give you a shilling Done said I only let me out a minute before I start I knew of a long slender switch or reed about 10 feet long I laid that so that it would cross my shins a little from the door, so the Lanthorn was got ready and my eyes bandaged. So off I started and picked up my rod and ran tipping on the fence and when the

29

sloped on the drain side. There was a bridge and a house by it where Dogs were kept I made a queer noise and out the dogs came barking, so I knew the place of the bridge and [lafred] on the side of the bridge and croosed over safely. Now I had no fence to tap along only the road drain for a good peice then the fence turned up again. But then how was I to now where to turn of to Forbse's I made a noise and my friends the dogs came barking to meet me and I got in to Forbes before them. I went so fast they were not able to follow I sat down in a chair till Leathead untied the bandage and gave me the shilling. So by a little stratagem it was no dificult but the distance would be over half a mile.

### *John Little Quarel and mine*

John Little a hired hand and I were sent to turn some March Hay. At a clearing on the border of the river about half as much from the house Little became iratated at something I said. He was about my own age but not so strong He comenced throwing large stones at me with all his strength. I was not angry and avoided them for some time and was not struck. But I thought it no fun to be a target to his dangerous Misles while looking for a stone from him and douced him and got astride him with a wrist in each hand and he was powerles for evel while thus held and beged for to let himself and he would behave himself I then let him up

but he was no sooner up then he rushed for a stone and threw at me after escaping the stone I caught him again but did not throw him down as I did before but made a feint of struggling with him. I suppose he thought he was about enough for me. As we were near the brink of a full tide the thought struck me if he has a dip it might cool his anger in his struggling I took care to work towards the watter and when just on the brink I gave him a swing with all my strength and he stumbeled forwards for about ten feet and fell in about four feet depth of watter. Compleately immerced and gasping and fell a second time and rose gasping I then went in and helped him out. In a drenched and woe begone condition. His combatives was gone he left me crying with rage mortification and defeat. I did not lose temper though I had to be in earnest. I could easily have mastered him by striking him, but I did not wish to hurt him. And if I were to pass an opinion I game him no ocation to get into such a rage. But he was naturely of a violent and outrageous temperament. And you could hardly tell when they would break out. Thought not tall I was [sout] and powerful for my age. I may here menton that at Alex~ McDonalds blacksmiths shop at Durham. At [swear] draws at one time I over came Bob McCoul, Andrew Hylop. John McLellan and George Stevens in succession and some of them tried a second time without success but I felt sore for some time afterwards.

I think I must have been dreaming in respect of my strength. I recolect of walking between two girls a long slim fellow undertook to take one of them from me and she clung to me. I let them both go and and caught him by the shouder and arm and swung into the ditch and got between my girls again. When he got up he would have thrown stones if it had not been for fear of hitting the girls.

I had then few compers of the rough games of those days Running, Wrestling, Scuffling, knocking of hats as for Jumping I was only common. I was quick in the eye and strong in the arms. I have given some of my chums who thought themselves smart leave to strike me if they could while I promised not to strike them, but only to ward off their blows. I do not remember getting a blow on my body.

“All that was ever got by theaving,  
turns to sorrow sin and shame.”<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> [Thomas Bilby]. *A course of lessons, together with the tunes to which they are usually sung...* London: Rivington, 1835, page 90. “Against stealing”. “All that’s ever got by thieving / Turns to sorrow, shame and pain.”

John Little and I went to Bill McDonald's Orchard above Durham Graveyard to steal Apples. Undisturbed we picked about a peck each and were about making off when we took an alarm by a person rushing into the Orchard. We fled and were persued I ran through the graveyard thinking they would be least likely to follow me there but my fellow kept the road we both escaped. I hid my ill gotten acquisition in a corner of the Hay Mow. They were found by Agnes Little and stole from me. So they twice stolen So I had the sin without any pleasure or profit.

32

*The Wooden Woman  
For a Bedfellow*

I could not expect to get along without some retaliation for tricks. On going up to bed I found a long hard substance in bed. Upon examination I found it to be a stick dressed up like a woman. No doubt a trick of Agnes Little's and Meg Halliday. I made no fuss about it but took her out and let her sit in the corner when I saw the girls smoking and and by and by they asked me how I liked fellows I said she was a very quiet good natured body. When I supposed they would forget to look their bed I provided a fine specimen of a Scotch Thistle and put it between the bed tick and sheet. I would not undertake describe the orighs/orighs and the compliments they paid me.

I was given money to go and see a Circus at Pictou which pleased me very much pleased. And about this time I was much pleased to have my old Camoronian friend Mr. William Beck come to Leatheads early one morning with wood to make a pair of [Harness?] He told Mr. Leathead he was to allow me time to make them and allow me to keep the money which Leathead promised to do. I did the job as well as I could and got praised and and was fulley paid. I think it might be said of him as Jesus said of Nathaniel an Iserealite in whom there was no guile.

Mr. James Hogg, Schoolmaster, Pictou and Mrs. Hogg were frequent visitors at Leatheads. Mr. Hogg was a good friend and he paid me well for little notions I made for him. He was an old acquaintance of my parents from the time we lived at Denoons and took an interest in me. About this time my beard began to sprout and I was teased upon the hirsute appearance when they were all out I borrowed Leatheads razor but just as I got finished I saw them coming I hastily put by the Razor without properly drying it Leathead was displeased when he went to shave to find the Razor rusted. Father called at Leatheads on his way going to Pictou. The subject of a sprouting beard and rusty Razor was gestingly introduced. My Father appeared to join the fun. But on his return from Pictou he brought me a fine new Razor. And quietly slipped it to me saying now you need not touch their Razors. I was very proud of the gift and kept it in prime order and after I went home Father always preferred my honeing and stropping a Raizor to any one else doing it.

*The Great Election 1830  
Called the Big Election<sup>17</sup>*

This was before the [simitanus] Polling Act. When Elections in something like roleation in the different countys. A Free Holder might then vote in as many countys as he ha land in and many of the population of the other countys woud rush in to where the contest was

There was much exitement. In Pictou the political question was mixed up with the religious feelings or rather religious Division that had been growing the feelings with the feelings that had been exited regarding the Pictou Academy. So that party feeling ose to an inpresidented hight. And that Election has been ever since known as the Big Election. At which terrible scenes of violence pitched battles were fought and a man of the name of Irvine killed.

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<sup>17</sup> M. Gene Morrison. "The Brandy Election of 1830," Nova Scotia Historical Society. *Collections*, 30 (1954), 151-183; Brian Cuthbertson. "Place, politics and the Brandy Election of 1830," Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society. *Collections*, 41 (1982), 5-19.

Though I had no business but the fun and to see and hear what could be heard and seen.

The excitement was the greatest that I have ever seen. All the male population were pouring in from the county and many from other countys. They came in organized bands conducted by a leader with Bagpipes, Flags and Motoes. At the upper end of town, above the Juntion of Prince and Watter Streets, I saw older men with their hats in their hands their grey hair flying in the wind. Having their hats and giving their commands like officers of corpse. They were all armed with bludgeons they marched like soldiers to the musick of the Fifes and Flags floating over them. And proceded to an elevated Hustings erected at the court House. If the hustings were closed in by their opponents there was generally a fight to hold the ground by one party while the other party tried to dispossess them of it.

Inserted unnumbered page

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An Accident – Leatheads etc,

We had made a new set of [Fanners] and were proving them by winnowing grain. I was turning them and Agnes Little who was full of fun and frolick was playing trick on me as she pased. The cogs had been oiled and there was a lot of black greacy [stuf] on them so I thought I would charge my fingers with smuty dirt and when she came next time I would black her face. My finger was caught in the cogs and crushed. Then I could not work but thought I could fish Smelts and got cold in it and it was very sore ao I went home to fathers till it got so that I could work but it got worse. And I went to Dr. McDonald and he cut it of by the rest of the nail and it was easier. Cousin James came from New Annan to give us an Invitation to his sisters Marriage who was to be married to a man of the name of W<sup>m</sup> Bell. As I could not work with my finger I set out for New Annan with my cousin in high spirits walking. We started from Leatheads in the afternoon but before night there came on a great snow storm and we had to stop short 5 miles from R. John.

Verso of unnumbered page

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We got lodging from a man of the name of Hugh Camp[bell] with the floor to ly on and a rug to cover us. I feel miserable next morning and felt I had caught a seveare cold. The snow was very deep we started at the break of day and waddled through the deep [unbreasted] without breaking our fast for about 7 miles and got Breakfast at one Langeles. We went in to one Forbes and got something to eat from that we started and went to Currys on Waugh River we are now within 7 miles of Uncle John's we got there late that night. They were [bidden] to the marriage at Curreys.

Margaret Oliver was my Uncles eldest daughter a Beautiful fair compectioned girl of 16 W<sup>m</sup> Bell was at 20 years older. Twas the greatest Wedding I ever saw I think there were not less then a 100 persons at it. The Hon. A. Campbell and W<sup>m</sup> and James his brothers and there wives. There Jolity with musick and Dancing. Tables loaded profusely and plenty of Liquor. I felt badly but bore up as well as I could but after the wedding I felt sick and had to byby and was at Uncles for three weeks and my came from the Middle River and took me home. My sister Mary afterwards Mrs. Kerr was born about this time.

35

there was no such thing as a general thing of a person voting and then quietly withdrawing. But each party obstructed the other all in their favour. There was furious elbowing hustleing and striking to reach the polling place and stuning blows given and received. Tall powerful men made lanes through the crowd, striking right and left, standing shoulder to shoulder to each other while their followers of theirs filled in the gaps they made. I saw men clambering over the heads of crowd hundreds of feet distance before they got to the ground.

Barry was a fine looking man with a Thistle in his button hole. Each party kept an open house where Beef, Bread and [Sperits] were lavishly bestowed. There is no doubt but that the Spiritous Liquers gave intensely to their juices.

One party called the Torys Blackdoors. The Blackdoors call the Liberals Antibuggars<sup>18</sup> Songs were made and sung comemorating Victory. One of coreses of the songs ran thus

Blackador down he did face  
Heartshone and Barry's awa  
We'll let them lee that were match  
Too Kirk Council and [???] <sup>19</sup>

On the other side I remember a verse

Twas not the Burgges oath their feeling did woun  
But t'was Doctor McCullochs four Hundred [????] <sup>20</sup>

36

I was only the first day at the Election the first day and that was enough. I had no business there I saw the blood of man with passions let lose and the emenities of civilization set at nought. While "the Price of his rule was sovereign.

*William Thompsons Marriage  
To Isabel Forbes*

Mr. James Forbes and Mr. Forbes Father and Mother of the Bride were my parents friends. And took a kindly interest in me and were always friendly to me. And I was bidden to the Wedding though Leatheads would rather I had not been so that I might attend to the house and cattle. The marriage ceremony was performed by George Smith Esq<sup>uire</sup> He [mumde] off the form as fast as he could rattle it you could only make out a word here and there. And said a short prayer like a Parrot or a little boy hurrying to get through. But it proved a happy marriage rudly and undignified as it was performed. When Smith was through he braged that he was not slow or slutish.

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<sup>18</sup> Anti-Burghers, a group that opposed the requirement made of holders of public office to take an oath in which they "professed the true religion professed within the realm." The spilling over of Scottish church politics into Nova Scotia society.

<sup>19</sup> Could be 'a' (as in dialect for 'all')

<sup>20</sup> Line one refers to the Burghers' Oath; end of second line illegible.

But if the ceremony was ill performed the wedding was a success. There were many invited Guests and evening passed pleasantly in good cheer musick and dancing prevailed till the wee short hours against the twal.

The Bridegroom rough and Manly looking the Bride tall comely and graceful I was quite pleased at the reception I got. About 6 years after this I was married to a Sister of the Bride.

37

A person might think from what I have written that there was nothing done but frolicking. But I did a good deal of thinking and hard work. I tired with my poor oportunities to become a good workman and I did not neglect to improve my mind reading. Leathead, from being so much in company with Mr. Hogg took a big moral tone and became a member of the Pictou Academy of which Mr. Hogg was Librarian.

Sir Walter Scots novels were then Electrifying the British empire. Mr. Leathead took books out of the library and Scots works were read with great delight. He made a deep impression upon me and his characters often passed through my mind and while in church often thought more about then the sermon or prayer. I believe they cost me a rebuke in church form the look Reverend Duncan Ross thinks of some of the scenes so grafically defused? I smiled. Mr. Ross said Young man it is better to hear then give the Sacrifice of fools. Following up pretty sharply I thought it was directed to me and took it to myself and others thought so too and [turted] me for improper conduct. But I was not the only one that was blamed. Three or four were blamed. So it was not well known against whom the rebuke was directed twas this that and the other one. Father wrote a note to Mr. Ross either to free or condemn me he did not answer Father's note.

But after that Mr. Ross took more notice and spoke to me kindly in a Fatherly way. But the rebuke was never mentioned. So much for absence of mind and reading novels and thinking of them during Divine Service.

*My Service at Leatheads abruptly  
terminates*

As before [ ] I had much work to do that in no degree tended to make me a good workman. The work on the farm comprised the greater part of the time. One morning I heard an altercation between my Mr. and Mistres Leathead of which proper clothing for me formed the subject. Leathead arguing with his wife that I was worth and ought to have better clothing which had become worn and shabby and unsuitable for approaching winter. She maintained that I got as much as I was worth and the contention was sharp between them. I did not put in my appearance till the altercation was over. I had returned from lifting the Salmon nets at the river. Leathead and I went with a pair of oxen to start rafted saw mill logs to a mill at the mouth of Forbes'es Brook owned by James McLellan. In turning the oxen one of them go his hind foot between two logs longer opening at one end and as he drew his foot forward he was caught as in a Trap and the more he struggled the tighter

his leg became. Leathead tried to keep them back and I tried to pry the logs apart with all my strength but failing to do so. So Leathead became impatient and letting the oxen go struck me furiously over the back with the heavy rod over the back. The ox became uprighted and plunged forward [daging; digging?] out his foot which I had not been able to relive. I walked of and left him the oxen and the logs but as my clothes were so poor I was ashamed to be seen going home in daylight returned by an unfrequented way and I buried me in deeply in a corner of the Hay mow till darkness and should cover up my escape. Leathead came home from after I left and search and inquiring was made for me all round and after night the barn was searched with a [lantern]. My name was called but I answered not and when all was quiet and such given up I took the road home to fathers as distance of seven miles late but before they had all retired to bed and they were surprised at my late arrival and poor clothing. I told my tale. And little was said either in my justification or condemnation and I was to go to bed. I had resolved on my way home that if my reception was an unkindly one I would do the best I could for myself without them. I staid at home for a few days. Father then thought of going to Leatheads to see about the matter. And meet ??? on a similar

errand to the Middle River. They meet about half way and Father went back with the

40

What passed between them I cannot tell but I did not go back before Father went to the West River to see them he inquired of him and they came to an understanding. If I would go back I reluctantly gave my assent rather than displease my Father and Mother but I was not required to go back.

Leatheads had some good things comfortable bed good wholesome vituals and a good degree of liberty and had it not been for his passionate freaks of temper he was no means an unkind man. But he was a very poor workman except at rough work. But having previously learned a good deal at McLaurins in the way of dressing wood, mortising tennoning and the like. And keeping my tools in good order I flatter myself that I was a neater and more thorough workman then Leathead when I tried. Mrs. Leathead was a rough masculine looking woman and had sole spirituous liquers and kept a Road-bar in Scotland for many years where she had accumulated some hundred pounds. She first became with Leathead sitting sick by the road side. She took compassion on him and took him to her home and attended on him till he was well. After this they were married. She was thirteen years his senior like Queen Elizabeth. She had greater gifts then most men while in the feminine traits of excelence she was very deficient. More then most men and less then most women.

41

### *Home from Leatheads*

I [??] shop collected some few tools and set in work making carts wheels and boxes ploughs fanners etc. And doing some work for the Farmers round [Niset] Spring I resolved to go to Halifax and get work at my trade and if I could not get that to work at the roads with John Munroe, the Commissioner who was taking a great number of his Countrymen from Pictou County.<sup>21</sup> I went to his residence at the Mill Brook and asked him if he would give me work. He did not give me a denial but told me that I was too young to endure the hardship of camping out.

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<sup>21</sup> In the Spring of 1831, John Munro brought 100 workers from Pictou to Halifax to work on the Shubenacadie Canal.

So with little preparation I set of to Halifax resolving if nothing better turned up to work at the Roads. I went by the old Mount Tom Road. The newer and leveler tract or line was not then made. Nearly the summit of the mount I staid at Crightons with whose daughter Agness I had gone to school near the Three Mile Inn they gave me free entertainment for the night and Miss Crighton was glad to see me. She afterwards became the wife of John McNeil Oliver, my cousin.

At Crightons I was joined by two newly arrived Scotchmen and masons by trade, one of them named John Bayne, the other [Ian] Mckay. I kept in company with them until we came to Porto Bella. There they staid and went to work. I went on to Dartmouth about seven miles nearer Halifax. As my money was spent I did some work for a Mr. Bell a farmer and went on to Halifax, but did not try to get work. As I first intended

42

first to go and see my uncle Henry who was [from] Stewart or marriage of Bogs and Hartshornes Farm at Beaver Bank about fifteen out of Halifax on the road to Windsor. I went up the Dartmouth side of the basin to Sackvile there was scarcely and soil to be seen but continuous rock for miles with hardly a blade of grass, a few stunted white Birches now and then [Hill Lamb<sup>22</sup>] and blue berry bushes. The soil appeared to improve as I neared Sackvile. I reached Beaver Bank in good time and was kindly received by Uncle and all the servents. And almost felt my self at home. The place appeared to be appropriately named. There was a considerable exent of meadow or Intervale through which a dark coloured stream ran slugishly. It had evidently owed its origin in a good degree to these industrious little creatures in former times. The upland was poor and thin, but was improved by manure drawn from the [luxuriant] crops taken from the medow or Intervale. I staid a day or two some of servents advised my uncle to hire me, but such was not my desire and my uncle told them I could do far better at my trade then he could do for me. He gave me three letters of introduction. One to a Mr. Coley Plough and Cartwright, the other to a Mr. White a Joiner and the third to a Mr. Adam Millar a tailor by trade. I first called on Mr. Coley and was engaged having the amount of wages an open question. I next called upon Mr. Millar

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<sup>22</sup> Most likely "lambkill". See Alain Belliveau, *Common shrubs, herbs & mosses of Nova Scotia*. [Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute]

who was a friend of my uncles with whom he had some acquaintance in Scotland which was renewed in Halifax. Mrs maiden name was Hellin Buckham they only one child a daughter named Margaret about my own age. A [lady?] girl we became very fond of each other.

So I went to work with Mr. Colley and got on very well at the work and I asked him what wages he was going to give me. I was not satisfied with the amount of wage and told him so. But agreed to stay one week more with him. I had a promise of work at the Canal. Mr. Colley was a native of Aberdeen of about 45 or 50 years of age. All his family was a wife and one Daughter about 12 years of age. Mr. Colley did almost no work with his hands. He had an apprentice of the name of Pendergast a good diligent worker. Though my wage was small, he became envious of me getting money while he received none while he was quite as good a workman as I was. Forgetting that he was an Apprentice and I a Journeyman. Poor fellow he died about a week after I left occasioned by bathing after he was much heated by exercise. I went to see him before he died. I may here say that the water in Halifax was very bad and unfit to drink. A great deal of beer was drunk. I believe the badness of the water was a great temptation to the use of alcoholic mixtures. About 20 years after this when I again visited Halifax, it was well supplied with good water from a Lake by pipes.

The short time I was in Halifax I believe I was in much danger from constipation of my bowels. Bakers Bread butter and tea was almost the only food used at Colleys. And I had not means to procure a corrective. I have often thought since that many young people die or endanger their health by improper food. I had been used to good plain food in variety such as is partaken of in Farmers homes in Pictou.

*Dartmouth  
And the Canal*<sup>23</sup>

I was engaged by a Mr. McKinzie Foreman of the Joiners at Porto Bella to work at Patterns for castings required at the Work. With a Man of the name Ash an Englishman a good workman having a knowlege of Pattern making for Iron Castings with Ash I got along very well. And as the patterns were required in haste was joined by McKinzie the forman. I got quite into favour with McKinzie while working with him and Ash. Ash tried hard to persuade me to stay with him after the patterns were finished. But Ash drank hard and I preffered to go with McKinzie to Porto Bella.

Ash was married to a widow.<sup>24</sup> He often had spats and she was constantly upbraiding and casting up her first Husband to him. After this I thought a Widdow would be last woman that I would like to marry. Ash with all his faults was the best of the two in my opinion.

45

*Porto Bello*

Porto might appropriately called Shanty Town. The only good House was Marshals and it was built before the canal was commenced. There was nothing but rough board Shantys of the rudest description the transient population was chiefly composed of Irish labourers of the lowest grade and about 15 or 20 Carpenters and about 30 Masons chiefly from Edenborough Scotland. The carpenters were chiefly Nova Scotians. A stream ran from a lake above ground at a considderable fall and on this there were constructed two locks. The scenery around was rugged and very stoney with blue stone and great Granate boulders with very little wood of any value. Scruby White Birches, Popelar, [Lam Kile]<sup>25</sup> and Huckle Berry and Blue Bushes.

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<sup>23</sup> The events described would date this account at 1831. For further reading, consult Donna Barnett. *River of Dreams: the saga of the Shubenacadie Canal*. Halifax: Nimbus, 2002. The November 1831 strike of canal workers was in response to not being paid since August.

<sup>24</sup> The author comments further at the end of the manuscript on unnumbered page #7

<sup>25</sup> Most likely "lambkill". Refer to Alain Belliveau, *Common shrubs, herbs & mosses of Nova Scotia*. [Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute]

The foreman having a knowledge of my [capabilities] as a workman by having wrought with himself and Ash at Dartmouth I was set to the finest work requiring skill without hard labour when such work was needed. The state of meals was generally the lowest of the low. Sabbath breaking by playing at games Quoits and the like. Musick and dancing And I am sorry to say I know a young man who was a piper from Mount Dalhousie playing for the Irish in their revels on the Lords Day. Fishing was a common past-time. The Scotch generally and Nova Scotians did not work or play on Sabbath. But many of them Drank to intoxication.

46

I thank God that by his restraining grace I was kept from profanely violating the Lords Day. I used to take the Bible and any good Book I could get and go to a retired place and read and any enjoy myself alone. I often spent the evenings of the work days in a retired place with my book and sometimes mended my clothes when they needed repair.

Women of Ill fame frequented the place. And was informed that an Old woman Called "Old Mother four eyes" kept a house of Ill fame that many of the men frequented it so common was Licentiousness and prostitution it was hardly considered a fault. But I thank God for my religious training. I never went near those dens of infamey. Not that I had not desires for the female sex But I had a feeling almost amounting to veneration for woman in her purity. And my female friend Miss Margaret Millar had an influence in protecting my purity. I cannot tell why we loved each other but mad no professions of marriage. T'was like that of Brother and Sister. At Porto Bella I at first Boarded with a man of the name of Daniel Fudge an Englishman. His wife was a decent pious Catholic woman who had a good life according to her faith and read the theological literature of that church. She took a notion of me. And I was told used to say to her Catholic friends Oliver was a fine Lad, t'was a pity he was a Protestant. I read some of her books through curiosity they made no impression on me though

respect the old lady. While I was there old William Imrey a mason to trade with whom I was well acquainted went to work at Porto Bella he told me not to let on that he was a married man. I did not know that he intended to act badly. I think I said I will not let on that I know anything about you. Emery I think would be a man about 60 years of at least and had been twice married and had left his wife and young family at the West River. He used to go to Halifax on Saturday after the weeks work was over and was Married to a Negro woman but the man who performed the ceremony had no legal right to do so. Emery and his black imoranta differed And Emery took back the Marriage dress and as he as soon dismissed from work he took the clothes home as his real wife. I never knew a more abandoned old wreach in my life. He used to come from the houses of Ill fame to his work on Monday mornings with his face all battered and cut.

I also saw Old Tom Warwick an old Scotchman who had been employed by my father at the Middle River to help to secure the harvest. He was a giant in size tall and very stout. He would be then a man about 55 years of age and his best days past. Father knew him in Scotland. I have heard him tell of Tom feats of strength. One of them was as follows. Two women and Tom were digging Potatoes and the cart nearly filled when a shower came and the women were urging Tom to get the Horse to hall the potatoes.

Tom said he thought haul it up to the house. If they would give him a bit push so he got between the shafts and and the women behind but instead of helping they held back with all their strength but he pulled the Cart and Potatoes to the place and did not know but the women had been helping him. Poor old man he died not long after this without a home he was never married.

### *I go to Board at Peter McGills*

I went to McGills because they charged less for board then at Fudges. I was not very particular if it was good plain wholesome food and I wanted to save money. So I staid at McGills till I left [The were] Catholicks. After being a week here I took very sick I had to work upon a very hot day with my feet in a cold stream which brought on something like congestion to the brain. I got bled and took phisic and got a little relived in my head. I gathered my tooks and put them under my bed. It was a terrible night for me. Phantoms of all colors of the rainbow flited around sometimes beautiful winged Angelick form and then most hideous

winged Aperitions floted thick around me. I heard the door opened and jumped out of bed and grasped my hand axe and rushed to the door brandishing it at a figure I saw in the dark who said John, John. Twas Old John Driden I slunk up to bed again. My mind was wandering till John Driden spoke. Twas not the poet.

49

I was advised to go into Halifax a few days by my friend Mr. Webb an Englishman who acted as Clerk in foreman McKenzies Store. I acted upon his advice And went to Mr. Adam Millars. I was kindly cared for and soon recovered. This Man Webb was a strange character. I was informed that he was a Master of a house of Ill fame before he was to be clerk for McKenzie. Miller lived contiguous to what was called the Hill. Webb had left McKenzie and called to see me at Millars. Millar jokingly said that Webb could supply me with a girl. Webb said I don't thank you Millar for giving that information. I think more of Oliver then invite him to such a place. Strange as it may appear Webb was the kindest to me when I was at Porto Bella. And I never heard and improper word from him indeed every advice he gave me was good.

The morals of the majority with whom I had intercourse was very lax as regarded a breach of the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment. I was surprised at Mr. Millar Saying I wanted to be like the other young fellows wanting to have sexual intercourse with Women. And went on to tell me how to take care of myself and how escape and ward of infection. I suppose it was intended as a friendly advice. When I thought of his pure and Lovely Daughter and that he knew the friendship that existed between us that might probably result in marriage I did not know what to think of him. I felt pretty certain that he had patronised those dens of Infamy himself.

*Mr. Gill and Wife*

Mr. Gill was a tall strong built man haveing more of the appearance and features of a Scotch man, Then that of the short and bullet headed Paddy. And indeed more of the bearing and manners of a Scotchman though he proffesed to be a Romanist. His wife was a smart good looking woman.

*A Nights Carousal and drinking  
on a S<sup>to</sup> night*

A Good number of the Irish meet and drank and sang songs Irish with mirth and gallentry was given full swing. I remember one of their songs about St. Patrick. They swing their arm round giving as it were a pitch and sang in Chorus

He gave the Snakes and Toads a twist  
And banished them forever.<sup>26</sup>

I enjoyed the fun for some time but it became very rough and uproarus. And the women were nearly as bad as the men through the effects of drinking. I drank a little but was quite sober. I withdrew and was sitting outside. Mrs. McGill came out and saw me sitting I think to use a slang expression she was three sheets in the wind. She made fuss about me telling me how much she liked me and praised me very much telling me that that little girl was not hers but Petters that he had before she was married to him. And that Petter did not love her because she had no child to him. And ended by offering to have a criminal connection with me I was taken quite aback. I said No Mrs. McGill that would never do.

I have more respect for you and Mr. McGill that to think of such an act. She said it would only serve him right for his crossness and plead for me never to mention it. Before this I thought very highly of this woman. I supose the drink had blunted her moral sensibilitys And awakened evil desires. Thought temptation was put in my way I was not tempted. In fact I thought too much of the woman and her husband to think of such an unworthy act.

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<sup>26</sup> Henry Bennett, "St. Patrick was a Gentleman." The quote comes from the chorus: "So, success attend St. Patrick's fist / For he's a saint so clever / O! he gave the snakes and toads a twist / And bothered them forever!". The full lyrics are in John and Mary Ford (eds). *Every Day of the Year*. (1902).

*It was here I learned to Smoke*

At my Fathers it was the custom to take a slight lunch in the morning before going to work. This custom I was allowed to continue at Leathheads. And when this was not done breakfast was taken before going out. It had become so much a custom that the want of the lunch made me feel unwell. I told John Gunn with whom I wrought of the want I felt. He said perhaps if you would take a whiff of the Pipe it might perhaps do you good and handed me his pipe. I took a few draws and felt better and continued to take a whiff of John Pipes for some then got one of my own and from less to more became a confirmed smoker. John was an high lander and a very fine fellow but he turned up his little finger too often for his pocket or health he visited me at my Fathers at the Middle River and then took up his residence at W. B., River John.

52

There was much drinking and I drank som almost every on drank. My bill made a considerable hole in my wages though I was niver was in the last degree fiddled.

A Scotchman, an Englishman and an Irishman were drinking the contents of a quart of run on a Carpenter Bench outside. An Indian was passing. The Scotch man gave the Indian a glass. Now say the Scotch man to the Indian. Is not the Scotchman the best man? Now here Indian says the English man take this. Now is not the English man the best man. O yes the English man best. Come here says the Irish man and take a glass from me. Now am I not the better than these two fellows. O yes Irishman best of all. Then the three fellows began to tease the , for calling one better than the other. The Indian got angry and said Scotchman, Irish man and Englishman. All same, one divel [Devil].

I got along very well at Porto Bella and had the highest wages that Joiner got five shillings and sixpence per day

*John Munroe Commissioner  
And his Highland employees*

It was while here that I saw the truth of Mr. Munroe's remark that I was too young to work at the Roads he had I think over a hundred of them under him. Spread along the road from Keys to Dartmouth but some times they would

53

assemble at one place then it was a sight to see them on the mornings with their little tents spread around. Sitting on the grass eating their Oatmeal Porridge and molases. Hardy men they must have been to work so hard on such poor fare but they appeared to be happy and cheerful. I believe they were chiefly from Pictou County. And appeared moral and agreeable among themselves. Munro their chief was a favourite of Michal Wallace at that time a man of power in Nova Scotia.

*How I Employed my Time  
After 6 O Clock*

After the days work was over the majority of the men spent their time talking and drinking and playing cards chequers and some time quoits. I did not often join them in their sports Cards I niver played as I said before I took a book to some cosey retreat or repaired my clothing if they needed it. I set some razors for a few friends. And soon spread that I was an excelent hand at that sort of thing. And I had quite a time after hours and made a modest charge. Sometimes my earning amounted to nearly as much as my days wage so much did this increace that my work fellows became envious.

54

*I thought I saw indications of  
a collapse of canal operations*

And resolved to leave and try and get my wages while I could I told the foreman I was going to leave and asked him for my wages. He said he had no money of the companeys. But I said as I was a favourite he would pay me out of is own. I found out that I was right in my suspicion that the Canal Affairs were to come to an abrupt close and many of the men lost their wages from the last reckoning. McKenzie could not recover his own and lost what he advanced to me. He wrote to me to refund the money he advanced to me and then sent a Lawiers letter. I neither answered his own

or the Lawiers letter. Justifying myself by the plea that he hired me and fixed my wage therefore had a right to pay me. Right or wrong I never paid him. And heard of him no more for some years when Uncle W<sup>m</sup> Oliver in Ontario mentioned in a letter to Father that a Mr. McKenzie had settled there and knew his son John.

*I go up to Beaver Bank to see Uncle  
Henry Oliver before returning home*

Having got my wages I resolved to go and see my Uncle Henry at Beaver Bank I went on foot and and was well received I only remained there two days.

55

And went to Halifax to see my friends the Millars. But I may here say that my Uncle had a bad cough. The cough never left him from the time from the time he took it in New Annan.

I had been told the evel of playing Cards and I saw it here. My Uncle and about half a dozen men were playing they quarreled had high words and blows were struck. But they made it up and went to play again.

In the morning, Uncle accomanied me about a mile on my journey. We shook hands and parted. I never saw him again he died about a year after this. Almost suddenly of raging feaver. To resume I called at Mr. Adam Millars left them some keepsakes. And promised to corospond with my friend Miss Margaret. And bid them farewell and went to Porto Bella. And left my tools and cloths with Mr. Russel who had purchased land at the head of the Middle River of Pictou at a Lake the watter of which at one end forms the commencement of the Middle River and on the end runs into the Stewiacke River. So the watter of this Small Lake runs into both Pictou Harbour and the Bay of Fundy,

So being kindly relived of my heavey things by the kindness of Mr. Russel I took my journey homeward. This was the longest time I had been from home at one time. I was bouient with the antisipation of seeing my Brothers and Sister and Father and Mother.

The stage to Pictou passed me three times in the commencement of my journey. Each time I got up and passed them when they were changing the horses.

I took the Old Pictou Road. Then up the valley of the Stewiacke lower and upper. And crossed the wooded hilly Ridge between Garloch and Upper Stewiacke and put up at "Old Cumberlands" on a slight incline to the north west. About ten miles from my Fathers and twenty four from Pictou. So Porto Bella being 8 miles from Halifax including the ferry. Counting the distance from Halifax to Pictou a 100 miles and 8 miles being taken of the Halifax end. And 24 off the Pictou end leaves 68 miles that I had traveled. But I have counted by the Stage Road passing Truro and over Mount Thom. But it is said that the route I took was nearer therefore I cannot tell the number of miles but would suppose it above 60 miles.

#### *Reception at 'Old Cumberland'*

I had the company of a returning drover for several miles. He knew Cumberlands and persuaded me to go there and stay for night. So to O Cumberlands we went and asked leave to stay for the night which was given. And a Pot of Potatoes was put on for our supper and set before us poor wet waxy things they were with [scumed] milk I suppose a gifted horse out not to be looked in the mouth they did not require pay for the refreshment. Old Cumberland had been an Old Hotelier in his youth and entertained us with reminiscences of his younger days he was a tall powerful highlander.

about 60 years of age. The house was a small log one with the chimney in one end and a rough bed on each side. And another bed on the other end so there were three beds in a very little room. The man and me were given the inmost chimney corner bed. The Daughter took the corner between the chimney and the door. The Daughter was a fine looking dark complectioned girl black eyes and ruddy cheeks. The Old man did not appear to have the least modesty as he sat naked on the bed and talked to us. I did not mind for my self but I felt I bad on account of his young Daughter and the other man and me being present. She did not seem to mind. I supposed she was used to it how could it be better with three beds and no partitions in a log house 18 x 16 and a wide fire place. But when I looked on the Daughter the lines of the Poet came to my mind

Full many a gem of ray serene  
 Unfathomable depths of ocean bear  
 Full many a flower may blush unseen  
 And lose its sweetness in the desert air.<sup>27</sup>

I got up on Sabbath morning at the first peep of the day. And was looking around for a stick I carried. The Lassie saw me I suppose from suspecting what I was looking for for drew the staff from the head of her bed and presented it to me exposing a beautiful formed arm neck and breast what young man if he were not marble could feel unmoved.

I politely received my cane, offered my hand which was accepted thanked his for the hospitality I do not remember of seeing her after this.

I proceded on my way to my Father and got there by late breakfast. I suppose it was a little later being Sabbath morning.

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<sup>27</sup> Thomas Gray, "An Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" : "Full many a gem of purest ray serene / The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear: / Full many a flow'r is born to blush unseen / And waste its sweetness on the desert air"

## *At Home*

I was much pleased to find Father and Mother and my Brothers Sisters well looked round for a few days. Got my tools and effects by Mr. Russel from Halifax all safe. I went up to help the Russels to build a house for which servise I did not charge. I resolved to go to school for some time this Winter. There was a school at Archibalds Mills Taught by a young Man of the name of Alex<sup>t</sup> McNathton. To this school I went for over two month and got on very rapidly. My studys were chiefly confined to Arithmetic as in that I was very deficient. I was a good reader and could write very well and had some knowlege of Grammor and Geography. So rapid was my progress that I far surpassed all my school fellows that I exited jealousy among some my schoolfellows and they blotted my Book of Sums which I had kept Spotlesley clean. I found out the person and was very angrey I showed my book to Mr. McNaughton he gave some trifling answers. And I scolded him and there was quite a row in the school two of three of the Stoutest boys getting round me with the chief blotter I gave him a push and he fell on the floor

59

And the row terminated I belive I acted too hastely and wrong. But to see my beautiful clean book all thumbed over with ink was too much for my Scotch Border Blood. In the Spring I thought of going back to Halifax but was advised to try and find work at home. So I commenced working and found plenty to do. I made Carts, Plows and Waggons and Furniture. But first of all I furnished Father with all proper impliments for the farm and for the house in the way of Furniture. And a Riding carriage and as the fall advanced I made Fanners Which had a good demand. I made a set for Father then went to New Annan and many a set for Uncle john then lots followed.

*I continued to work at the Middle River  
for some time*

I had plenty of work and was considered a good workman and was diligent at work and accumulated some money and got good clothes and provided myself with a good set of tools and endeavoured to improve my mind. I never spent my time idly or listlessly I read good Books attended debating Societies and tried to learn to speak in public. But my defective education was one thing that I felt the want of. I threw all past and went to school two months during Nov<sup>r</sup> and Dec<sup>r</sup> to one Thomas McLeods School up the River near George McLeods Esq<sup>r</sup>. The teacher and I were great friends I was diligent and made good progress for the time.

60

*Amusements and Recreations at  
the Middle River, when there after I came home from Halifax*

I had a very pleasant time Father had got over his straits and the farm was improved and now comparatively fertile. And my Sisters Isabel and Margaret were woman grown and my Brother George about 15 years of age. The hard struggle with debt and a poor exhausted farm were things of the past. The circle of my acquaintance began to enlarge. And I was now my own master. And I was now an object of mention among young unmarried females I formed an attachment to Miss Margaret Douglas Deacon Daughter but it fell through. Though there was no promise of Marriage between Miss Millar and I had resolved when I found when I found myself in a condition to take up Housekeeping to pop the question in earnest. But "man proposes and God disposes" this I never did. Mother became informed of our correspondence and though she had never seen Miss Millar was opposed to me marrying a Town Girl. I felt there was some weight in her objections. But she was first in my mind at the time. Millar being an intemperate and at last so utterly gave himself to drinking That Mrs. Millar and her Daughter separated from him. I did not like the Idea of being connected with a Drunkards daughter. Though I believe they were fully justified in leaving him. He fell sick shortly after they parted. They then took him to their Lodging and carefully and affectionately nursed during his sickness of which he died. I may not be fully justified in giving up the thought of proposing in real earnest. But such is the truth.

That regard for my Mothers Advice and this Unpleasant affair had the effect of giving my mind another direction. And then I became acquainted with Margaret Douglas. My passion for her was not a sudden one but increased and strengthened with time. My thoughts were first directed towards her by the thought that my Grandmother on my fathers side was Margaret Douglas while I was called after my Grandfather John. She was rather a good looking Girl of fair tallents and Much vivacity and animal spirit but she walked much her feet pointed out and one more then the other almost across otherwise she had a good carriage. But Bob Gurret was preffered before me and I got the [bagg?] I felt rather humbled but but but did not let on and avoided her and shunned her and in a little time felt reconciled.

I was doing very well at the carpenter busnes but a conviction was growing in my mind that Farming was more independent and rather to be chosen then any trade. So I bargained with Father for two hundred acres he had in New Annan for which I was to pay 75 pounds. I paid one half. And he told me if I wanted to get married he would forgive me the other half and give me a Deed.

*I prepare to go to New Annan  
and go*

Early in March I got an Axe and Hoe good jackknife and Razor two or three blankets and as many cloths as I could carry quite a large heavey Pack Swung in packman fasion

across my shoulders I called to see Henretta Forbes. But no promises was made or solicited on either side since M.D. and I had parted. My mind was not set on any particular one of the female sex. So I trudged on with my pack leasurely for it was heavey. I called in to one Blacke a Turner an acquaintance of my fathers to rest my self. By Carabo river there was a fine smart girl an only daughter that took my eye. The old people were very kind and the daughter in particular. They mad me promise to call in whenever I came the way. This I thought in my own mind was likely to do so I got to New Annan and took up my abode at John McNeil Olivers my Cousin whose lot adjoined mine. And set to work almost imediatly chooping. I hired some and gave a few jobs at cutting and [junking] in all about 3 Acres. Which I burnt and rotted and hoed in the seeds. When the time of sowing was over I built a log house of 18 x 20 feet and I took up

Batcheler Hall in my own shanty for a little time till I fenced it then I went to the Middle River and did some work in the shop for a month and a half. I then went back to New Annan and secured my harvest which was very good. I often wonder how haply I got along living solitary and alone I was about 21 years of age when I went to farm at New Annan. I was strong healthy and vigourous. "Toil strung my nerves and purified my blood."<sup>28</sup> And what was remarkable so well out door suited me that I became stronger increased and added something more then an 11/2 in six months

62

In about 6 months sometimes I visited the nabhours in the evenings but not often. I read almost every minute I could spare I got the lend of a work on the life of John Howard the Phillanthropest. And so well pleased was I in reading the life of that great and good man that my admiration found vent in these lines which I wrote the ceiling of my bed as I reclined there in the dark.

Howard of deathles and undying fame  
 Long long and fondly cherrished be thy name  
 Heros polititians famed  
 With patriotic glow their bosoms flamed  
 Nobly there reddrest their countrys wrong,  
 By energetic mind and judgment strong,  
 With Hurclian strength caused despots fall  
 Their countrey freed from Iron Slaverys thrall  
 [Genees] can't eclipse great Howards fame  
 Time in oblivion cannot throw his name  
 He sought not honour in the courts of kings  
 To visit dungeons pity lends him wings  
 To putrid cells recepticles of woe  
 Caverens where heavens breases niver blow  
 Abodes of sqalid wreachedness and want  
 Where horrid plague and feavers haunt  
 Damp revolting sickning smells assail  
 There his strength his courage did not fail  
 To [Leberia] sterile barrin wastes he ranged  
 Where Art and Science hide their [heads] stranged  
 Turkey where the putrid vapour flies  
 There he dives in horrid dungeons deep  
 Where death and dire diseases creep  
 Death and dire infection fills the air  
 Dieing gastly forms him stare.

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<sup>28</sup> John Dryden (1631-1700), "To my honoured kinsman," line 89: "Toil strung the nerves and purified the blood."

The dungeons he surveyed of guilt and pain  
 Of misery and contempt the gage to gain  
 Chains fell darkness fled at his approach  
 With shame the despot shrinks from his reproch  
 On regions of woe a genial ray was shed  
 Which still revives and makes the nations glad  
 Let us still remember Howards name  
 Virtue courage let our breasts enflame.

I had some aged or rather middle aged men of whom I was very fond. My Uncle John Oliver, James Lepper, James Munro, John Currie Tescher and John Bonyman were the chief. They were all well informed and highly respectable men and I enjoyed their friendship. And was hapy in their company. Though I had many that I respected and esteemed in a lesser degree. I sometimes thought that the grown daughters of some of them tended to give spice to their friendship. For I was a likely young man and had a valueable freehold among them. But as my own was unsettled I was careful to go no farther then respectful politeness. Since my disapointment with Miss D---S But I have since thought that the respectful distance that I kept probibly was rather in my favour for if I had an especial Lady love they would have known just what to do. If there was a little selfishness ingrained in their friendship for me I think it was pardonable. If it could have been made conducive to a desireable Alliance with some of the young ladies. But this was but my reticence it was not for a purpose it was the natural effects of disapointed love and freedom from speciality for some time.

*I go home to Fathers*

When the short cold days of Nov~ arrived I took my journey for home again and called on Miss Blake of Carabo and was kindly welcomed but this time it was only a close friendship no promises were given but I was to call on my return I felt glad to go home again and thought of the pleasure I would have meeting with them. When I came to [the?] I called on my old friends the Forbes'es And Henrietta in particular and had a good time. I had now got to be something of a general [loverer] It was Susey Blake last night now it was Henrietta today. Reminding me of the snach of an old song

“My love is like the dew on yonder thorn  
 I lay it on at night and take it of on the morn.”

*At Forbes I was only 7 miles  
from Fathers*

I set of to tramp home the road was up the west bale of Squire Mathisons around Green Hill to what was called the crossroads by George Reids. I was in high spirits and as I knew all residents pretty well on the road to Father I resolved to make a verce on each I traveled along.<sup>29</sup>

Green Hill while circling round thy base  
Sweet thoughts of home would me Solace,  
My weary steps with vigor [brase]  
    My heart was there  
Beyond compare Maternal love

65

Green Hill while circling round thy base  
Sweet thought of home would me Solace  
My weary steps with vigor [base]  
Beyond compare Maternal love  
    My heart was there

As near the eastern heights I drew  
My fathers dwelling appears in view  
Cottage white smok curling blue  
I think I'm there and hear the friendly how de do  
    O friendship's dear

O nearest dearest friends on earth  
Encircle the paternal hearth  
How rich the local mirth  
How dear the home that gave us birth  
    We distance [morn]

I now the eastern slope descend  
Afar the sky and mountains blend  
The waving corn in billow bend  
The mirrey milkmaids ditty bland  
    Sweet scene to please

I reign Pegasus flying speed  
Who nighing prancing shakes his head  
A widdow here in mourning sable drest  
By don lays numbered among the dead  
    Mong men with best

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<sup>29</sup> This poem reappears slightly edited on page 191 of the manuscript.

Oh hadst thou had but clasick love  
Thy fertile mind would boundles soar  
A noble mind this [reslick?] bore  
In Fair Elisian fields sublime  
Now passed from time.

66

And you old [Vulcains] lusty son  
Where is thy hammer and the dun  
The smuty joke and merry fun has ever ceased  
The day is o'er thy work is done  
Thou too deceased

Old Murfey too is gone oh me  
Now closed the backanalian spree  
Now stopt the sleep bold firm and free  
Laid up the gun that volley [poured] to victory  
With Wellington

I'd thou ???? survived the storm  
Time bows thy once ferocious martial form  
Yet still thy step is free and firm  
Through fire and smoke in Captain trim  
Firm as the rock

High honoured and illustrious name  
While Scotland lives will live thy fame  
Douglas I'm proud thy kin to claim  
'Ansestors great in senates or in battal flame  
I'll sing their fate

Comingaled passions [thriling] start  
As through my veins will ardour dart  
Here lived the loved one of my heart  
Heaven endow with worldly bliss and joy impart  
She brake no vow.

Now here the stream that I love best  
The River tween the east and west  
I'll seat me on thy banks to rest  
On thy bank I'll now review  
A pleasant view

There wittey Davey on the hill  
Is he jocose and Merrey still  
And sings a song with daddy Bill  
With cheery Mirth and loud huza  
Song be their day.

67

His Betsy lover of the nine  
Oh may she flourish like the vine  
Sweet cherubs on her lap recline  
A pledge of love to crown her joys  
Both girls and boys

D. M. in youth thy prospects high  
Agile thy body quick thine eye  
To [sence] and with there few could vie  
Thy curse be on the fatal still  
I love thee still.

O plant the laural on his grave  
McLeods were ever true and brave  
Their banners off to victory wave  
God has resumed the live he gave  
In Heav'n to crown

Now here my home and friends so dear  
Sufuse my eyes the joy foul hear  
As my kind Mother draws me near  
With kindly greeting and good cheer  
Pegasus fell

**See page a hundred and ninty three 193**

No I did not se my mother and mother when I got home. They were up at their nabhours Mr. Joseph Crocket's their Nancy was to be married to Duncan Marshal. Some one invited to the marriage had seen me on the way home and told of my arrival. And I was sent for I belive it was the opinion of some that I had got wind of the intended union and was come to win her from Duncan. But I knew nothing of it. And such a thought niver entered my mind. I niver thought of her as a sweetheart or wife. But is seems as if Miss Crocket was not very much set

For about an hour before she was married she told me in real earnest if I would marry her should would not mary Duncan. I was astonished but put her of as kindly as I could speaking all the good I could of Duncan. So they were married and I had a good time. And no regrets for the marriage of the fair one.

So I went to work in my shop for about 3 months until the time came round till the long days about the middle of March. I passed the time pleasantly enough working and reading and enjoying the comforts of the parental home. But the fair sex were rayher at discount.

My thoughts rested on two Henrietta Forbes & Susan Blake and Susan rather had it. And was first approached to and gave consent. But the time was agreed upon. After I had put in the second crop at New Annan. I went from N Annan to see her. She assured me of her undivided love for me but wanted me to wait for another year but I instead upon being married in one or two months. But she would not budge from the year. A burnt child dreads the fire. I became suspicious that there might be another on her finger ends and she might give me the go by as M--- D--- had done. So I said if you will not consent to shorten the time I free you from all former promises. And I consider myself free so good by. She appeared much greaved but said nothing so I went of. I was told that she fell sick at the disappointment and was almost broken hearted.

I may have acted too hastely, but I think she ought to have given me a reason what ws the reason of insting on delay I can not tell perhaps her parents were the cause of her pleading delay but I was not aware of the deep feeling it had caused till I heard of her sickness which was attributed to disapointment. On returning to Pictou during summer, Old Mr. Blake was working with others at repairing the roads. I went to shake hands with him feeling I had not done him or his any injury. He refused his hand and snarlingly muttered something about Susey I could not make out So good by Susey good by Old Blake.

## *Henrietta Forbes*

I called at Mr. Forbes' and renewed my acquaintance. And was most hospitably & kindly entertained by the old people and all the family. And now laid [sege] to Henrietta in earnest and as we were previously very well acquainted I had not not make the slow approaches as if it had been a stranger. We had only to top the thing off. And we agreed to get married about Halloween and I was to give notice a little time before our intended marriage. So I went back to New Annan after seeing my parents at the M. River. I said nothing to them of the proposed union.

Father came to New Annan to see me and advised me to get married and if I did not find my mind and feelings centered on any fair one. He said that in his opinion it would be better for me

70

to leave the farm and go and work at my trade till I thought of taking up house keeping. I then told him of my engagement with Henrietta Forbes. He thought well of my choice and we talked the matter over. So on his return home I sent a letter by him to Henrietta and gave him liberty if he chose to speak with Mr and Mrs Forbes of our intended Marriage on or about Halloween. He called delivered the letter to H. What was said among the old folks of course I did not hear. Nor did not I see the blushes of the girl I intended to wed. But I was afterwards told about both. When the know was tied, I received a letter from Henrietta and was informed that all was right. So I went home to arrange for the marriage as soon as I had the crop secured and a very poor one it was it was nearly ruined by an early frost and there was a poor prospect for the winter. But I did not like to back out now. I was now so poor that I had not enough to get the marriage ring. The Albion Mines was in a prosperous state at the time. And I made some articles of Furniture likely to take the market and sold them to good advantage. And realized money enough to put me through decently. And it was agreed that Halloween be the day our Marriage. I went to the Rev James Ross to get him to marry us but he was not at home and not expected to return for a day or two. So I went to the Rev<sup>nd</sup> John McKinly of Pictou who came to Mr. Forbse' and married us. And there a large wedding party and after that [Infer] at my fathers.

We did a good deal of visiting in the West and Middle Rivers in the evenings for a week or so. We were anxious to go to New Annan. But the roads were very bad. And as we were get a cow and sheep from Henriettas Father. And a pair of young oxen from My Father. And no barn to put them in. So I left Henrietta at her Fathers and went to put up a Barn for them. I got help and for up building suitable in quick time. And was about returning to my wife at the West River. But my Cousin John McNeil Oliver was putting up the frame for a new Sawmill and wished me to give him a day at frameing but in stead of one it became five they pled so hard that I could not leave. I could put a great deal of that kind of work through my hands I suppose was the reason they were so unwilling to let me go. But my Wife became very uneasey on account me staying so long beyond the time I expected to return. So on Saturday in Company with my Cousin W<sup>m</sup> Oliver early early in the morning we started from N. Annan over the Earleton Hills. And I got to Mr. Forbes about an hour before dark. I felt sorry to hear that Henrietta had been so unhappy at my delay. While I was away from her I almost forgot that I was married and then I was so busey I had not time to think of anything but work. It is some time before a young couple fully recognize their duty to one another. Like Sampson they think they may do as they used too.

I forgot to say on my return to New Annan after I was Married My Father went with me And instead of going to my own house we went up to Uncle Johns. They were all quite sulkey and began geering me in not a very civil way. I would have left at once only my Father being with me. At length, Father felt they were going too far. And got up and put on his hat. I put on mine too and we left. But not without anxiously beseashing us to stay and beging pardon for their uncivility and making apologies but we did not return with with them that night. But went to my own house and kindled a good fire, cooked supper, aired our bed clothes and went to bed.

Early mid-morning Uncle was down to make up matters and get us to go up so father consented and I had to go with them. So it was now as nice as could be a change came over the spirit of the dream.

I think the reason of the coolness I had five Woman grown Marriagable cousins and that felt slighted that I had not paid my addreses to one of them. Be that as it may I had not paid particular attention to any of them.

I omitted to say that after M.D. had given me the ["mitten"] I paid some attention to one of my cousins called Henrietta. My cousin J. M. Oliver had married one Mary McDonald about a year before that I first went to N. R. to live. And a sister of his wife lived with him. And it was the earnest wish of both John and his wife that she should have her close by

73

so she forged a letter in Henriettas name I detected the forgery and as her husband had written it I belive at her dictation. It was carried by My Uncle from New Annan he not knowing anything of its contents. I thought the thing over and determined to show the forged letter to my father and Uncle. Uncle saw through the thing and was very much displeased. He and I were bed fellows. He said that he would like very much for me to have one of his girls for a wife but said that Henrietta was too young to mary. And said that Betsy could make a more suitable wife for me but I did not think of Betsy for a wife for I did not love her to that degree that I could respect her as a Wife. Though I found out that she almost loved me to distraction which the Old gentleman my Uncle was probably aware of though it was then unknown to me. Which might be the reason his pressing Betsys merits in preference to Henriettas.

To finish off I became so disgusted with their plotting and forged letters that I fully determined to have no further connection with any of them Miss McDonald or cousins while I lived. To comence again after this episode.

*At the West River After Leaving  
My Wife the First Time*

They were all glad to see me and the gloom wore off when I explained the reasons of my detention and began to be bright and cheerful.

74

But the roads were very bad and we put of with the hope of their improvement but they became worse instead of better. So we took the notion of walking it by the way of Earleton highlands. And leaving our effects behind till snow and frost came. So one of the wifes brothers took us in the Waggon as far as he could well go a few miles past the West branch of River John. We were then left to walk the rest of the way. We got dinner at one Donald Camerons an acquaintance of old when he lived at Sandy Cove near the Beaches. After dinner we took the road towards New Annan. But towards night we took the wrong road and on enquiring found our mistake We were invited to go in. The House was where one George Baley Lived who generaly went by the name of "Religious Baley." They were very kind and made us as comfortable as they could. The Old Man was afflicted with the toothache. We told them we were a young couple going to make our sojourn in New Annan. So the night advanced family Worship was commenced. The Old Man read a Chapter in [Petter] on the duteys of wives and husbands and then sang and asked me to pray and would take no denial. I had never prayed in public and felt much ashamed but I did begin and said something in the way of prayer but so much did the feeling of shame overcome me that my nose sprang a bleeding. You would have felt for me if you knew how I felt to pray before Old Baley and his family.

In the morning we all rose early and got breakfast. And after that Mr. Baley commenced Family worship. He let me skip this time. Though there were ups and downs or rising and falling land we had been rising to a greater altitude from the West Branch of River John. And though the cultivated part of Baley's Farm was tolerably level there was a steep well wooded incline I think 1500 feet deep to a small branch of Waugh River. Henrietta and I were shown a small path down that would take us to the road again. But we had some difficulty in getting down as an inch or so of snow was partially congealed to ice by a silver thaw. But she was smart and so was I and we stepped carefully from one tree to another holding on to the tree till we took a tack to another tree doing this many times till we reached the foot. We had now about 10 miles to go before we reached our own place which we accomplished without stopping again about 2 O'clock. And entered our own house that was to be our home for about 19 years.

*New Annan . Married Life*

We entered our own home quietly without being discovered. I had locked the door and had hid the key. I made a home made thing forming a square with limbs about a foot in length each put that through a hole in the door and turned a bolt. In my absence my good cousins had taken out a pane in the window and with a long pole with drew the bolt and entered and everything was sorted up, floor washed hearth stone and chimney ornamented. So we kindled a fire and cooked our dinner. But smoke was seen issueing from the chimney and the word went round and we were soon visited by the nearest neighbours and we had inviteations to visit the folks round which we could not well refuse. We spent some our our time this way for a time and reciving visits in return. We had a good deal of the first years crop. But I May here say that when Henrietta and I took our first meal that we found both flour and bread and Oatmeal cake quite good. Henrietta said that she never ate finer oat cakes and confesses that she never could equal it though she was considered a very good baker. 'Tis said that hunger is a good sauce. Perhaps the 10 or 12 miles walk had something to do with the supposed goodness of the bread and perhaps it mellowed and became better by keeping for a time however that was she often mentioned it after wards.

Her bed and bedding were at her fathers but I had a pretty good bed and this was aired and was quite comfortable and we felt happy that we were in our own house and bed. "Home is home be it ever so homely."<sup>30</sup> When the roads became better I went back for our cow, oxen and sheep. So I started for Pictou again and returned with them immediately. I got the cattle over and William Thompson brought a large load of Henrietta's effects. My Tools and Turning lathe and if I forget not the sheep now we were wonderful snug and cozy. And if the last crop had not been spoiled by early frost would have been quite well off as the saying is. But I got a good deal of work from the Mountain people where the frost had not been so severe and from the Hon. A. Campbell Tatamagoushe so we could not complain much.

### *Description of Farm*

I was bounded on the French River on the East side just below the junction of the East and west branches about four miles from Tatamagouche Village. It was heavily wooded with Pine Spruce and Hemlock with a little Hardwood but all the best Pine had been cutted it contained about 300 acres. The soil was good but it was very heavy to clear and we much subject to early Frost. There had been four acres cleared before I got it when I first went to New Annan first plenty of Salmon Trout and Gasperos and Smelt might be caught.

But in a few years the Dams and Mills put an end to this.

The first crop put in was in the Spring 1834. In the fall of 1836 I was married and went to it with my wife.

There all my children were born there except the youngest.

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<sup>30</sup> Originally "Home is home though it's never so homely" becoming "...though it's ever so homely" in the *Curwen Journal*, 1776.

The first was a feamale still born child.

Robert was born -----Jany 1<sup>st</sup> 1839  
Elizabeth Hardy Forbes ----- May 17<sup>th</sup> 1840  
James Douglas Forbes ----- Aug 23 1841  
Kenneth Henry  
Joseph Smith----- Jan 14, 1842  
[Twins]  
Kenneth Henry ----- June 9<sup>th</sup> 18  
1845  
George Hardy ----- July 13<sup>th</sup> 1847  
Isabella ----- Oct 10<sup>th</sup>  
Alexander William ----- Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 1850  
Elias ----- June 24 1852  
Died young  
John ----- December 25<sup>th</sup>  
1853 Died young

G. John Howard , June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1855

John Howard Oliver was the only child born in New Glasgow we came to New Glasgow in February and he was born June 17<sup>th</sup> 1855.

*New Annan something about  
our married life there for about 19 years*

I was industerous and careful as I knew how to be. And Henrietta did all she could to help me. As will be seen above our famely increased fast And all our care and industry was not sufficient to have them all tidy and well clad.

79

It would be uninteresting to note all that happened during so long a period. And I shall only notice the salient points. With respect to the Farm when it escaped the early frosts the crops were very good and some of best years I would have as much as 15 Tons of Hay and 40 or 50 bushels of wheat, 25 or Therty bushels of peas 40 or 50 bushels of oats and between a 100 and 300 bushels of Potatoes. The land was well adapted for such crops as wheat peas Potatoes and Buck wheat. And not so good for oats wheat. I always more profitable as a crop then Oats. I kept from 4 to 5 Milch Cows from 15 to 20 Sheep. Sometimes a pair of Oxen and a horse and sometimes I was without Oxen. And we used to fatten generally three Pigs two to sell and one to keep. And though we had some losses in the way of Cows and a horse we were accumulating in value.

This continued till about the year.

The early frost destroyed almost everything not only in New Annan but over most of provence. I did not know how what to do to make a living for my famely. And I could not well have them for they were both numerous and young. Ship Building was the only branch of industry that was carried on to any extent in the Province. I had a natural tallent for Carving in wood So I bethought myself to take to it temporaly for a living.

80

I offered my services in that capacity to Hon. Alex<sup>r</sup> Campbell of Tatamagoshe who had 3 vessals on the stocks. He agreed to give me a trial which was all that I wanted. I finished some Billet Heads and other carving which highly pleased the Foreman and all conserved. So I got work in that line from Pugwash Wallace and Prince Edward Island and along the Eastern Shore. This was far lighter work then bringing in a hevely wooded new farm that some years disapointed me of a return. But the trueth is that I found myself unable to carry on the carving and attend to the Farm. The busey time of Carving was in the Spring when the crops should be put in the ground.

I felt that it was imperitively neccerey for me to give up one or the other. Henrietta had been willed about three quarters of an acre of ground in the Town of New Glasgow. This gave my mind a direction that way. As a great many vessals were built there in the year 1855. So I sold my farm to Abram Patterson for 220 pounds. And Made a Sale of my Stock and farming Utentals, etc.. And realized about £75.00. I bought from my brother Kenneth upwards of 13 Acres Consisting of a town lot of about half an acre and the remainder in a block further out. So this will explain my leaveing New Annan.

*More About Annan*  
*New Annan N.S.*

I cannot leave New Anan without saying more about it. It was there I spent the most vigorous part of my life from 1834 till 1855. For I was there nearly two years before I was married. New Annan was first settled by a Scotchman from Annan Scotland who gave it the name. The settlers were chiefly Lowland Scotch. And had been tradesmen Joiners Milwrights Masons Tailors & Blacksmiths Cart & ploughwrights etc. And a few regular agricultrests and a few Swiss. They were generally well informed temperate and industerous. I soon became identified with them and And was well respected among them and filled almost every town office among them. I was secretary of the Agriculteral Society Trustee of Schools Library Debating Societys Temperance Society Teacher and Superintendant of S. School. And indeed a strong and influencial party of men would hardly take any denial to my running an election as represetive of the District of Stirling and promised to bear all the expences of the Election but this proposal first originated in Tatamagoushe. I had written several letters above the signature of a "Stirling Liberal" which the people thought well of. I was opposed by the Hon. A. Campbel and his adhearants but I flatter myself that I was the most popular and would have probably carried the election. Mr. Campbel was a good Man but was

X John Bell from Annan Scotland

arbitrary and despotic. And the Influence of the three Brothers and their supporters was deemed galling and unjust. I did not feel myself in a position to accept their nomination and support. I was comparitively poor my family was young my farm was new and I felt even if successful that I could hardly maintain my indipendence for many would vote for me for selfish ends rather than the public weal. And that out of gratitude to my supporters my rectitude could hardly be maintained. So I thanked them for their intentions. And gave a decisive Answer no. So Anxious were they they promised to supply £200 as expences.

I have niver regreated that I did not accept their invitation. That came of my scribling for the Newspappers. James Campbel was elected. I may here mention that during the time that James Campbel was in the House of Assembly that New Annan wanted another magestrate. He told them to have a meeting and nominate a Suteable person. I attended the meeting and was chosen [nominated] as one but then I was full in the intention of removing to New Glasgow so I told them not to send my name in. This I have since rather regreated as it would have been a kind of certificate of the position I held in New Annan when I came to New Glasgow. Well I have been a good many years a Magistrate in New Glasgow though I have niver done Much Magisterial business.

83

### *Remeniscences of New Annan*

My Uncle John Oliver was the second settler in New Annan. And had a family of three sons and seven daughters that had arrived to years of puberty when I went to settle among them. James & John were settled near him and three of his daughters Margaret the eldest as Married to W<sup>m</sup> Bell, Isabel to Robert Thompson a cousin of the Bells. And Henrietta to my Brother George Hardy. My property was almost in the centre of them. The women were much given to tattling and and there was always some difference and quareling among them. There was also much intermeddling with one another among the men. Being almost one family or connected they took liberty with one another and then quarreled. I was a sort of an Alian among them. Because I did not choose to take a wife from among them. And they were jelous of me because I was more esteemed and trusted then they were and would speak detractingly of me among themselves. But when I did any thing cliver they claimed relationship. And Called me Cousin John especialy if the thing was outside of our little circle occurred to bring me to notice. They were pretty good to help one another in a pinch. But they kept those accounts and then quarreled about them and did injureys to one another. As a sample of their doings John M. Oliver and Robt. Thompson his Brother in Law quarreled about their accounts. Thompson left his sled and ox yoke on a road near Olivers house in the night. Oliver

cut up the sled and yoke and burned them and hid the ox chain. The sled was nowhere to be found next day but tracks were seen on the snow and chips were seen of the sled and yoke at Olivers door and then Olivers Servent told the whole affair. Then you may imagine the row that followed.

*John M Oliver shoot W<sup>m</sup> Bell's Pig*

Oliver had a fine field of wheat, W<sup>m</sup> Bell's pig had got into it. Oliver told him of it and threatened to shoot it if Bell did not keep it confined the Pig was found in the wheat again and Oliver shot it the bad speches and ill feelings that followed I will not attempt to tell.

J.M.O. had got "too high for his coat" he got up a Store and Saw mill and then a schooner of about 30 Tons. And tried to be something. And became very tiranical and overbearing and I may add unjust. But he "came out at the small end of the horn." And lost all Farm Mill Store and Schoner. From the effect of debt and litigation. And almost ruined his father who had become his surety for a large amount. And had to leave New Annan remove to Pictou "A houghty spell before a fall." I'm making some improvements on the manner in which the watter power was applied to the wheel of the Sawmill. Showing it to an ingenious young man. The young man told him it would not do. Oliver enraged pushed him over a fall into deep watter after all the young man proved to be right.

*Ogelvies Mill dam pulled down*

William Bell and John McNeil Oliver put up a sawmill in co. Bell was married to Olivers Sister. After running it in co for two years they disolved partnership. Oliver built another below it as close as he could not to give backwatter to Bell who retained the sawmill when they parted. The last built had a low Dam only about 4 feet high and a lead that formed a second dam just above the mill at a distance of about a hundred yards from the main dam across the stream. Bell Mill had a dam of about 10 feet high.

Bell sold the mill shortly after he dissolved partnership to one George Ogelvie From Musquodobit. Then Oliver became a ringleader among the people on the river alledging that it prevented the run of salmon and trout which was in some degree true. But was no worse then when he was part owner and was mum about it. Finding out that Ogelvie had gone to Musquodobit a great crowd I suppose at least a hundred with blackened faces and coats turned outside in And hideous yelling tore up and leveled the dam. Ogelvies Wife and family were dreadfully frightened I was invited to join the crowd by a [Deacon] John J Bell the first I knew of the conspiracy I to told Bell I would not go on any account as it would be unlawful or taking law in their own hand and I advised him

86

so he kept out of the way and did not go with the multitude he was grateful for my advice. I was the means of preventing many going. I intersepted them on the way and told them of the danger they incurred but but did not go near the howlers at the Dam. My reasons were I did not belive I could prevent the distruction and if seen near I might be implicated among the rowdies. And then many of my relations and friends were most probibely there And probibely Ogilvie would take procidings against them. And I would not like to appear as witness against them. Ogilvie came home and found his Dam destroyed. And entered an action against the rioters. And succided in making them pay a large amount for damages and expences. J.M.O. and Gavin Bell a Deacon a brother of J. Irvin Bell were among those who sufferered. My House being on the oposite side of the river and only about 200 yards distance from the Dam one end of which butted my land I was subpoenaed as a witness. Indeed it was alledged by some that I was there. But this would not tell As two or three that I had prevented going staid at my house while the work was of distruction was going on and till they disperced Ogelvie while he made some of the rioters pay dearly. Was in the [lute] following Eglected from the Mill and property. The first case that Adams G. Archibald conducted in court and opened with a Speech.

X Governor of N.S.

*Ogelvie*

I think was bad man and came to New Annan with a suspicion resting upon him that he had killed a man of the name of John Campbell and married his Wife. Campbell had been to Halifax and his body was found in a swamp showing evidently that he had had foul play and the indecent haste that Ogelvie showed in marrying his Widow gave intensity to the suspicion but I cannot enter into particulars.

But Ogelvie's general character was not good. He removed from New Annan to what was called the Lake Road about 6 miles from where I lived. I hired him to assist me in digging Potatoes. A part of the crop I put in a pit a little distance from my house on the bank of the river about 20 bushels were stolen and carried away in an Ox Cart. The cart was brought up on the opposite side of the river and the tracks of the man and the marks of the oxen feet and wide cart wheel marks I am sure were Ogelvies. He became a convert to Mormonism and left with his wife and family to the Salt Lake City. And I never heard more of him.

There were a good quiet people among them. And they were as the salt of the earth but Pious law abiding people were like righteous lot among among the Sodomites. There were continual feuds among them about School houses, Meeting houses, and Jealousys between East and West Sides. Then almost all the Sects of the Christian faith was represented among about a population of about a thousand souls young and old.

*The Revd Hugh Ross*

Preached in Tatamagoushe three Sabbaths and the fourth in New Annan but he unwisely took sides with parties in their differences till those that supported him became a mean faction. My Uncle was a strong Kirkman. And got many of the Kirk ministers to preach in New Annan. Of those who preached there Was the Rev<sup>n</sup> D. A. Fraser John McKay Kenneth John McKinze.<sup>31</sup> McKinze from Wallace McChonicy. They all put up at my Uncles where they were well attended as far as the outer man was concerned. I omitted the name of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. MacGilvery of McLellans Mountain, who often preached in New Annan. But Uncle and the Kirk ministers could not make out to form a Kirk Congregation they baptised some children and one time held the sacrament of the Lords Supper. And as there was no regulary ordained Elders My Uncle thought not an Elder acted in that capacity for the time. But the Kirk ministers could not make much head way and at the Disruption when so many of the Kirk Ministers left Nova Scotia to fill up the the vacent parishes caused by Succession of the Free Church in Scotland. New Annan got no more preaching from the Kirk ministers And a good many of them feel into the Presbyterian Church of N.S. And the Methodests and Babtists made inroads and many joined them.

*Philip Sage      George McLeod*

This man was imployed to teach school in New Annan he appeared to be a good Scholar and considerdable talent but was of a very nervous and exitable temperament. And the sight of a Gun would put him into tremours. The following story was reported of him. He and another fellow student had been out shooting and as they came back fired their pieces at a mark on the Barn door to their horror they heard a scream and on looking in they saw a man they had killed. McLeod fled and was niver seen more around the place he changed his name to Phillip Sage and crossed to America. Where he passed himself of for an Independant Minister and taught school and preached as Ocation offered. Many of the people of New Annan were greatly taken with him as a preacher and got on from less to more till a number bought land and were about building him a House. He was wounderfully eloquent and fassenating and his nervous derangement appeared to give entencify his earnestness. The

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<sup>31</sup> Reference to Fraser and McKenzie in Marjory Whitelaw, *Thomas McCulloch: his life and times*. Halifax: Nova Scotia Museum, 1985, p. 26

Revd. Hugh Ross heard that a Wolf in Sheeps clothing had got into the fold in New Annan And came up to New Annan and preached a very intemperate sermon on the Text No Man taketh his honour unto himself but he that is called of God as was Aron. Heb. 5 & 4 Sage not to be outdone preached against next Sabbath.

90

Mr. Ross during the week after the sermon was up Waugh River marring a couple an returning homewards rideing in the dark a tree had fallen across the road and lodged in a line so as to meet his head when on horseback. Riding smartly he came in contact with the fallen tree his front teeth were knocked out or broken. I do not remember Sages text on the Sabbath following Mr. Ross's but Sage gave out for singing the 3 Psalm of the 7<sup>th</sup> verse runs

Arise O Lord save me my God  
for thou my foes hast stroke  
All on the cheek bone and the teeth  
of wicked Men hast broke.<sup>32</sup>

Sage did not fulfil the expectations of the people And he was sent adrift and went no person knew where. New A. was destined to be devided and subdivided into factions section and and parties. The nixt who was destined to make a party Was the Rev<sup>d</sup> James P. Narrow a Westliain Methodist. He first appeared on the stage in New Annan as a Temperance Lecturer. And also preached a sermon or Two there served as an entering wedge and further services were sought and a good number went over to that body among others the Writer. I always had doubts of the trueth of the Calvenstic dogmas about Election and perezily disliked that Quesion in the Shorter Chatichism

“God having out of his mere good pleasure from all eternity  
“Elected Some to everlasting life. Did enter into  
“a covenant of grace to deliver them out of a  
“State of sin and misery and bring them  
“into a state of Salvation by a Redemmer<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Oliver quotes the Scottish metrical psalter.

<sup>33</sup> Westminster Assembly (1643-1652). *The shorter catechism agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster*. Edinburgh: Young, 1855. In the book, the word “estate” is used in place of Oliver’s remembered “state.”

I cannot better explain my reasons for joining them by giving a synopsis of what I believed.

*Certain Questions Scripturally Solved And  
Certain Other Questions Waiting for an Answer*<sup>34</sup>

*Whom does God will to save? All men*

As I [live] saith the Lord God I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the Wicked turn from his ways and live. Turn ye turn ye from his ways and live turn ye turn ye from your evil ways for why will you die O House of Israel. E:33:11<sup>35</sup>

Who will have all men to be served and come to the knowledge of the truth. I Tim. 2:4<sup>36</sup>

Have I any pleasure at all that wicked should die saith the Lord God and not that he shouts return from his ways and live. Ez. 18:23<sup>37</sup>

But is long suffering to no ward not willing that any should perish but that all should come repentance. 2 Pet. 3:9<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> The author quotes Biblical passages in whole or in part and offers references. Throughout this section, an effort was made to provide the full verse or the corrected reference, as need be.

<sup>35</sup> Bible. Old Testament. Ezekiel, 33:11

<sup>36</sup> Bible. New Testament.[Self-Interpreting Bible] I Timothy 2:4. "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

<sup>37</sup> Bible. Old Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible] Ezekiel. 18:23. "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Saith the Lord god: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?"

<sup>38</sup> Bible. New Testament. [King James Version] II Peter, 3:9. "The lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

*For whom did Christ die? All men*

For God so love the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever beliveth in him should not perish but have everlasting life  
For God sent not his son into the World to condemn the World but that the world through him might be saved. John 3: 16 & 17<sup>39</sup>

And he is the propitiation for our sins and not ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 2 Epistle John 2:2<sup>40</sup>

That he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.<sup>41</sup>

92

The man Christ Jesus who have himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time. 1 Tim 2: 5&6<sup>42</sup>

Who is the savior of all men specially of those that belive 1 Tim. 4:10<sup>43</sup>

If one died for all then were all deal. 2 Cor 5:11<sup>44</sup>

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men to justification of Life<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. Gospel of St. John, 3: 16-17.

<sup>40</sup> Bible. New Testament.[King James Version] I John, 2:2. "And he is the propitiation for our sins, but also for the sins of the whole world."

<sup>41</sup> Bible. New Testament. [King James Version] Epistle to the Hebrews, 2:9. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

<sup>42</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. I Timothy, 2: 5-6. "For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

<sup>43</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible] I Timothy, 4: 10. "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

<sup>44</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. II Corinthians, 5: 14-15. "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead. / And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again"

<sup>45</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible] Romans, 5: 18

*To whom is Christ offered? To all men*

I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people

Luke 2:10<sup>46</sup>

Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15<sup>47</sup>

If any man thirst let him come unto me. John 7:37<sup>48</sup>

Ho every one that thirsteth come ye to the waters. Is 5:5<sup>49</sup>

And the spirit and the bride say come and let him that heareth say come and let him that is athirst come and whosoever will let him take the water of life freely. Rev 22:17<sup>50</sup>

Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.<sup>51</sup>

*Upon whom is Repentance urged? All Men*

But now commandeth all men everywhere to repent. Acts 17:30<sup>52</sup>

Let the wicked forsake his ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the lord. Is 55:7<sup>53</sup>

And that repentance and remission be preached in all nations beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:47

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<sup>46</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. St. Luke, 2: 10. "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

<sup>47</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. Mark, 16: 15-16. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature / He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

<sup>48</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. St. John, 7:37. "In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."

<sup>49</sup> Bible. Old Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. Isaiah, 55: 1. "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

<sup>50</sup> Bible. New Testament. [King James Version]. Revelations, 22: 17. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

<sup>51</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. St. Matthew, 11:28.

<sup>52</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. Acts, 17: 30. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent"

<sup>53</sup> Bible. Old Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. Isaiah, 55: 7. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

To Whom is grace given to accept Gods mercy To all men

That was the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

John 1:9<sup>54</sup>

He will reprove the world of sin righteousness, and of judgment.

John 16:8<sup>55</sup>

The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.

Titus 2:11<sup>56</sup>

Can Man resist the Spirit of God

Quench not the Spirit. 1 Thes 5:19<sup>57</sup>

And greive not the Holy Spirit of God. Eph 4:3<sup>58</sup>

Therefore as the Holy Ghost saith harden not your heart. Heb 3:42<sup>59</sup>

Ye do always resist the Holy Ghost as your fathers did so do ye.

Acts 7:51<sup>60</sup>

Woe unto him that striveth his maker. Is. 45:9<sup>61</sup>

Beseech you also that ye recive not the grace of God in vain. 2 Cor 6:1<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. St. John, 1:9. "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

<sup>55</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. St. John, 16: 8 "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment"

<sup>56</sup> Bible. New Testament. [King James Version]. Titus, 2: 11

<sup>57</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. I Thessalonians, 5: 19

<sup>58</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. Ephesians, 4: 30 "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

<sup>59</sup> Bible. New Testament. [King James Version]. Hebrews 3: 15 "While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation." Oliver's general quote can also apply to three other passages.

<sup>60</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. Acts, 7:51 "Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye."

<sup>61</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. Isaiah, 45:9. Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! *Let* the potsherd *strive* with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

<sup>62</sup> Bible. New Testament. [Self-Interpreting Bible]. II Corinthians, 6: 1 "We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain."

Why are not all men saved?

1. Not because any are foreordained to everlasting death. God swears that he hath no pleasure in the death of of the Sinner
2. Not because Christ did not die for all men for he was given that he should taste death for every man
3. Not because God did not give an effectual call to all. He says look unto me all ye ends of the Earth and be ye saved
4. But because the reason that our Lord gave Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life.

94

Questions not as yet answered

1. If it be a doctrine of the Bible that Christ died only for a part of mankind how happened it that his doctrine is no where stated in that Book?
2. If Christ died only for a part of the human race Why does the Bible say that he died for all men for every man for the whole world
3. If Christ died for a part only Why is he offered to the whole? If Christ died for those who are saved only
4. Why are the rest sent to hell for not believing that he died for them. When to have belived thus would have been to belive a falsehood
5. If Christ died not for those who perish Why are they punished for not embracing him
6. How can a just and merciful and loving God banish men to eternal perdition for not getting what was not to be got for doing what he had made impossible to be done and for doing what he had decreed they should do?

Mr. Narroway made many prosolites from among the Presbeterians of New Annan. He was in appearance of a dark compaction regular features about 5 feet 6 inches hight he was very [deef]. A girl of the name of Dumphy swore that she was with child by him. It went to law and he was exonerated. I cannot tell how but there was a great commotion about it and he was given another station on the circuit.

*New Annan. Continued*

New Annan continued to be devided into religious sects. And torn by desentions. John Boniman a Scotchman of good education and a prominent Elder in the Presbyterian Church Had his faith shaken by reading "Combs Constitution of Man"<sup>63</sup> but did not stop with Comb. He lost his moorings. And it would be hard to tell what he was Universalist Morisonian Swedenborgen all mixed up and jumbled together. Yet he had the conceit to attempt making proselites. This wandering Star had left its sphere sought by its own attention to become the centre of a System of its own. But its effects might more aptly compared to the fitful flashing Northerin light or perhaps better still Jack and the Lanthorn that starts and darts to beguile to the wonderer to the Gulf of despair. To [quit] figures he lectured round and tried to gain adhearants and make prosolites. But he had no settled belifs and he did not make many even in New Annan who like the Athenians of old who meet often to hear or tell some new thing. Mr. Boniman and I had long been intimate But when he began to wander I could not think of following in him the wild goose chase. And genneraly oposed him but our disagreements did not marr our friendship. He became imbarresed in Speculation in Mills. And took his horse and rode of by land to the United States and never returned there he married the second time And there he died.

His son John who lived with him on the homestead paid of the debts honourably and lives on the Old Farm.

Mr. Boniman previously to the commencement of his wanderings was considered a man considerdable talent and good common sense and looked up to. He was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church and a leader in the session And when the Moderator asked the opinions seperatly the answer was frequently "I just think as Mr. Boniman thinks." he wrote a good deal for News papers under the caption of "Old Rusticus." He had taught school in his younger years.

What a piece of workmanship is man

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<sup>63</sup> George Combe (1788-1858). *The constitution of man considered in relation to external objects*. Hartford: S. Andrus, 1828.

*James Lepper*

An Old Friend of my fathers and a real friend of my own. Was a Cabinet maker a Native of [Hunth] Aberdeen Shire Scotland. He came to Pictou N.S. some time about the year 1817 and worked at his trade sometime in Pictou. Then took up Kings land in New Annan and moved to it and was married in my fathers house to a woman of the name of Nancy Ross.

When I went to stay at New Annan he he almost acted as a father towards me he he was also an Elder in the Presbyterian Church I was much in his company And though an aged man I felt more edified and happier in his company then I did in [last] of any young man of about my own age though advanced in years he mind did not appear to suffer with the Frailty of his body like the climbing Ivey around the [Elim] of my affections were wrapt around him.

97

*John Wilson (Gardner)*

was also one of my friends though older then my father and many a pleasant and entertaining time I spent in his company he was a very good Gardner and Nursery man And New Annan and the surrounding country was much indetted to him for introducing Supperior fruit trees and shrubs. He was a native of Ayrshire.

*James Munro*

another of my New Annan friends was origanaly from some of north Countys of Scotland a Joiner by trade and a man of much prudence and inteligence a very good workman he too was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church. And a Justice of Peace. And was one of my friends and companions and one who I could trust.

*Uncle John Oliver*

He was a farmer from his youth and delighted in the Ocupation. And had been manager or greive on the farms of some of the gentry in Scotiland. And had been in the Highlands teaching the improved moved of Farming in the Lowlands. And was sent up to Surrey England to represent Scotch farming comparing it with the English method. And from there went to Colenso a Scotch Island belonging to Sir John McNeil from thence he immigrated to America in the year 1812 during the last war of the United States with Great Breaton Another of my chief Friends. Though Something of a despot he was a good and charitable man and the friendship between himself and nephew was close and intimate.

*John Currie Tatamagoushe* and I were very friendly and were often together he was a Good Teacher and a wise man. Father of the Revd. John Currey Professor in Dalhousie College Halifax who was at one time school teacher in New Annan. And at that time one Sabbath Schoolers. Who afterwards when he left New Glasgow as a Teacher in school and Sabbath School represented me as a proper person to succeed him as a teacher in the highest class in James Church. When he left for Scotland to complete his education When his education was well advance he used to get me to address meetings along with him.

I had many more worthy men as friends but I cannot mention them all among those mentioned I will conclude at this time.

By mentioning the Revd Hugh Ross who was married to Henrietta's Cousin Flora McKay. Mr Ross was one of the first of the Revd Dr. McCulloch's pupils he was the first Minister that I heard preach and I believe the first sermon that he preached it was in the Old Church New Durham West River of Pictou. I would be about 9 years of age I will not attempt to give any opinion of that sermon. Mr Ross received a call from Tatamagoushe and New Annan. New Annan getting every 3 Sabbath. He was a man of strong passions and very combative but kind and affable.

Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Oliver being cousins we became very intimate and often visited one another and agreed very well presents were frequently given between us and they tried to serve us to the utmost of their abilities. I could do many things for them. And Mrs. Ross was a good Dress Maker and was very kind in respect of her business to Mrs. Oliver. Mr Ross was often in trouble and vexation. And often came up to my place for a [Kaily?] and if the time was sensible we would we would both go Trout fishing. Rash and impulsive he was not a good fisher but he generally got the proceeds of our joint catch. I found him a very pleasant companion and liked him better at those meetings than in the pulpit – And I believe was benefited by the intercourse I had with him I remember he applied a cognomen toward me that I almost thought was allied to blasphemy speaking of my knowledge of the Scriptures said that I was too well acquainted with them that the title divine would not be misapplied respecting me.

Mr. Ross had not a happy or prosperous time in his vocation as preacher of the Gospel his being rash and impulsive and combative and getting into ill favour with the Campbells of Tatamagoshe who had much influence in that and the surrounding localities he went to George Town Prince Edward Island and there he joined the Kirk and then at the disruption of the free Church he returned to Tatamagoshe where he died and Mrs. Ross died a few years later.

100

I will here notice that in my boyhood I had one chief comrade about my own age and we were all in all to each other from the age of 23 years to 40 while in New Annan my chief friends and companions were men above 50. And I have every reason to believe their friendship was sincere. I was in good terms with youth and men of my own age but they left little impression on my mind. I have dwelt a good deal on the character of my friends in New Annan to show the bias of my mind and recall the memory of departed friends who have no doubt been a means of helping to form my character.

Peace to their memory.

### *John Johnstone*

John Johnstone was a good member of Society a good neighbour a kind and loving husband and father he became deranged in his mind and wandered about he came to my place and I entertained him kindly and he became a frequent visitor I observed I noticed that his insanity was concerning occurrences that happened after his derangement. And that on things that happened before that he was perfectly sane seeing this I avoided to speak of recent events. But would gradually lead him up to the time the change came over him he became very fond of me and though his home was four miles distant. I saw him often that is he came often to see me

101

I continued to speak with Mr. Johnstone as an equal and a sane man following up on my plan of chiefly speaking of the past but always drawing up to recent times and events. Every person spoke of him and to him as a foolish person I believe except myself. One day I led him on as usual and crossed the dangerous bounds the time of insanity like a flash of light his reason returned and he was able to speak of the present sanely and went to his home in the enjoyment of the faculty of reason.

I believe with the blessing of God I was the means of his restoration and an event I look back on with pleasure.

Though Mr. Johnstone and I previously to his derangement were friendly we had not been close friends. But after this his friendship and love for me very great. And he often visited me after I resided in New Glasgow. And would not return home from Pictou Town without coming up to see me. The last time I saw him he came up by train. And was to go down by the train I could not get him off in time and he lost his passage and he had to walk to the [lodging] Ground Fisher's Grant he died a few years ago. 'Tis said that love begets love He appeared grateful but I never said anything to him when he became Sane of that time or my plan to gently awaken reason.

102

### *Nancy Forbes*

Henrietta's sister came to live with us at New Anan. And the young men and women in the evenings used to gather in till there was scarcely an evening we were without company our work was neglected and the place could hardly be called our own. And then Henrietta was harassed and worn out with cooking Our bills for groceries and our Supply of meat began to fail. And we could not muster the courage to tell them to stay away. I felt that we were running in debt which made me feel very unpleasant we were young and unexperienced. And Henrietta open hearted and generous. I left home going out and leaving the house that did not do much good so I had to take the Girl home as soon as possible and then we got rid of the pressure for the time but the debt contracted was a drag for some years when I went to settle with Campbell to my vexation I found I was £45 in debt I felt I was on the brink of ruin what was I to do? to wipe out the debt I had a pair of oxen and a horse. So I determined to let them go. So I £14 credit for them. And I made Carts, Plows, [Fanners] and furniture then Carving and Ship wheels continuing still to deal with him but was careful that something left to make the debt less. Henrietta nobly set her shoulder to the task with me and exercised much self denial. If Mr. Campbell had pressed hard on me do not know what might have been the result perhaps the loss of my farm.

Many speak evil of the Hon. A. Campbell. But I always found him a good friend. That he was perfect I do not pretend to say. But since his death there has not been his equal in Tatamagoushe.

How careful young people should be when they take up housekeeping. A false step may ruin them. And we were drifting fast forwards for a time.

*I come near shooting my son*  
*Joseph S. Oliver*

There was much talk about Bears being seen and killing Sheep though I had not seen or lost by them. I was in a distant part of the clearing working. The children came running to me telling me that there was a Bear among the Raspberry bushes at the back of Barn. I went home with them and asked particularly if they saw his whole body the answer was no. but we saw the bushes moving and we saw its head. What kind of a head its. A round black head so I hastily prepared the Gun and sure enough I saw the bushes moving and was waiting so that I could see the body and take a good aim. When up pops Joseph's round black head we had not missed or thought of him in the excitement. I cannot tell my feelings of thankfulness. I felt angry at the deception of my children but could not punish them for they really believed a bear was among the Raspberry Bushes.

*Two of my Children nearly Smothered*

I had a large Chist in the Barn used for holding Grain. During the Summer they used to play there. Two of them of about 5 and 7 years got into the Chist and let down the lid upon themselves and fell asleep. We searched long and diligently for them in every place we could think of Going once more into the Barn which had been searched before I heard loud labourious breathing. And by the sound went to the Chist and found nearly smothered to death. I suppose when they first went in they found it comfortable and fell asleep but in a little time the [vivefing] principle of the air became exhausted I believe in a little time longer they would have died.

*An alarm about my eldest son*

Robert Thompson lived about half a mile above me the east joining the west branch of the French River and his famley bettween the Angles of the two streams formed by their junction. This Thompson had young Pigs for sale and a lad of about ten years of age was sent by his parents to procure one There was a great flood in the River As the lad was a stranger my son went to show him where Thompson lived. My son was missed and search was made for him. Their tracks were found at the margen of the river. It was crossed with with dificulty but they were not at Thompson

105

The thought that took possession of our minds that they had attempted to cross and were carried down the stream and drowned. And an alarm was given and a number of men who were near joined in the search who were doing statute labour. We thought of nothing but finding their lifeless bodies. I mounted my Horse and at the ford went down the middle of the Stream sometimes [swiming] sometimes getting a slight footing for about a half of a mile but could see nothing of them. I returned to the ford a second time. I heard a loud cry they are found which I mistook for drowned though repeated several times. The explanation is this the lads went to the ford and found the flood too great. Robert my son knew of a large tree that lay across the river about half a mile above they they by a difficult route along the margin of the river with the same dificulties on Thompsons side reached the house in safty got the Pig and returned the distance they went would not be less then three miles from our house by a very rough way going and returning.

From over exertion and anciety my wife fell sick. She had plunged through the flood and returned before she alarmed me. As I was working at the roads at half mile distance. The dificulties over exertion and anxiety caused abortion. If we could have kept calm and thought of means of crossing, it would have been better but then the tracts in the sand that could be seen no where else then at the crossing place and then when crossed by my wife not to find them at Thompsons Is it any wonder we thought them downed.

*William Bell's wife and family*  
*Prisoners. My encounter with a Bull*

Mr. Bell was absent from home. And a large Bull that was at large brok through the fence and pastured near the door and any of them that would attempt to go out of doors he would shake his head and run at them. this he continued to do for some hours. At last Mrs. Bell went up to a window in the garret and called loudly to me who lived on the bank on the opposite side of the river to come and relive them from imprisonment of the Bull. I was aware that to do so would be dangerous so I provided with a tough witch [Elm] stick about 3½ feet long 1½ inch in diamiter. So I went over and when I near the Bull he ran at me. I let him come on standing still till he mad a plunge at me I steept aside and caught him by the tail he turned round and round to get at me but I kept hold of the tail and as he turned I struck with all my strength on the head nose and horns and crashing blows on ribs at length he gave a roar and run but I could run too with the tail in one hand and the stick in the other. I could not reach the head when runing but the sides came for in for a pounding he fell on his knees and then rolled on his side. I let go of his tail and stood a moment. then gave him a few more lounders on the hips to make him get up he did up and went of hardly able to walk swinging I could have killed him

*Early rising etc.*

I had always a habit of early rising and could awake almost at any time I wanted this ability I belive I inherited from My Father he could sleep soundly yet wake at the time desired. This faculty my father informed me that his Father had also. Often in the Spring and Summer months, I used to take my fishing takle and go and fish Trout and generaly come home laden with fine trout which were a good addition to our fare. I was a very successful angler. And the Mill dams in the near vicinity prevented the sea Trout from going up the river. I found out a way of taking the largest ones by fishing in the clear moon light this plan

I had niver heard of or read of in Books and was selfish enough to keep secret. Having this power of riseing at a given time I was often appealed to to keep the time of others. And when carving from home when harbour watch had to be kept over newly launched Vessals the Captains got me to keep the time for change of watch.

## *Queen Victoria's Corenation*<sup>64</sup>

Queen Victoria born on the 28 June 1838 the twenty eight of June one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight

Her accession was in 1837 June 20<sup>th</sup>

She was born 1819 May 24. And at the time of her corenation would be a little over 19 years of age. I was nearly 25 years of age at the date of her corenation.

That day was haild as a holiday over all Nova Scotia. And I suppose in the British Empire.

108

In Tatamagoushe the celibration of this event by all sorts of games and Athletic Sports. I was then in the full vigor of manhood Twenty five nearly. And went into all the manly sports with heart and will and came off victor in the most of them. After that I had the reputation of being the strongest man in Tatamagoushe or New Annan I was not shure of this myself but let them have their opinion.

### *Rather a hard time*

We had a fine little boy born to us we called him John. A seveare influenza was prevalent in New Annan at that time and our little one died of it. A day or so before his death I had my big toe on the left foot very badly bruised and was so much pained with it that I could not go to the burial. The bruse was caused by a heavy log of hardwood falling on it while my foot was on another peice and my toe was crushed between them.

Another hard time when all the children had the Scarlet feaver and we lost another little Boy. I had just moved into a new house but only the kitchen was finished and we scarce of room it was a trying time. Elizabeth our Eildest girl was nearly gone with but recovered.

When I was about thirty years of age The measels got into the family and when I was very bad with them I had to go 4 miles for the Midwife when George H. my son was born. And I went to work before I was fulley recovered and niver felt quite as well afterwards as before I had them.

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<sup>64</sup> The coronation took place on June 28, 1838. The *Acadian Recorder* issued a special issue (*Extra*) on July 2, 1838 describing how the event was marked in Halifax.

*Poor Crop almost a Famine*  
*I think it was the year 1850*  
*The poor crop was 1849 the scarcety felt in 1850*

There were very poor crops all through Nova Scotia caused by the blighting influence of early frost except a very few favoured localities having a North western exposure on the side of the mountains. About the months of Feby. and March thousands of the contry people poured into Halifax for supplies. For there had been an abundant crop in the United States and Flour and Corn meal were cheap. Flour about \$6.00 Corn meal \$3.25. A little might be got at a very high price at Tatamagoushe so all who had a little money went to Halifax. I tried with my brother George to saw Battans to buy bread stuf in Tatamagoushe but it was very hard work and little for it. So I thought of going to Halifax but I had not money. So I set off to Pictou to see what my Relations would do for me I succeeded in borrowing about \$24.00 and got to New Annan sorted up a little and started for Halifax.

*The journey to Halifax and return*

I think every one is more or less superstitious on some point or another. My Mother thought none would say that she was supperstitious if she dreamed of muddy troubled or dark watter. She was sure it forboded trouble though I tried to banish dreams as prognostications of coming events the dream of watter like my mothers

I thought indicated future events. In Feburary I dreamed that I rode into deep watter on Horseback the Horse did not swim but walked on the bottom where large vessals floated at the mouth of the French River and I did feel incomoded by the wattery Eliment but went to my destination and returned the same way.

I started for Halifax as aforesaid with exelent roads and got there in a day and a half. And next day about midday started on my return home. I purchased cheifly corn meal with view of it lasting longer in the family purchasing it in Irish town by the advice of an old acquaintance Geo. McNaught I got it for 16 shillings per barrel new and sweet as a nut. While in Halifax during the night I visited my Old friend Mrs. Millar and her daughter Mrs. Wilson formerly Margaret Millar who was now married to a fine Burley joley looking Scotchman a fancy baker by trade All three were very kind and told me niver to come to Halifax without calling upon them. But I niver saw them again though both well and healthy looking neither of them lived many years after this. And when I visited Halifax about 18 years after and enquired for Old Mrs. Millar I found that she had died suddenly only a few days previously and as I was not personaly aquainted with any of their children I did not make myself known to them. But to return to the account of my journey Homeward. It began to rain and ere I reached Dartmouth Shultz Inn<sup>65</sup> on the Grand Lake was pouring down in torrents and floods like rivers pouring down the

111

[???] across the road. I had to stop at the Shultz that night. I frose a little towards morning and I started again and left a new road and took the old road by Guys River found the intervale flooded more then two feet deep with watter but got across without damage and landed at night at Sibleys intending to cross the Stewiacke River but found it unpractable owing to the flooded state of the Intervale and had to go down about four miles along the road following the bank till we came to the bridge which croses the Shubenacadie on the road to Truro but the roads were so bad I had to leave 4 Barrels at one Hameltons. Only taking one Barrel and a cwt in a bag with the idea of leaving it and going home to New Annan and returning when the roads were good.

I got to Truro with difficulty and being Saturday night and without money obtained leave to stay with Mr Wm. McLeod Blacksmith Bible Hill. It was fair on Sabath and Monday morning and I borrowed a cart and went back to Brookfield for the four Barrels I had left I got back to McLeods but not in time to take the road homeward that day so on Tuesday morning I left McLeods went up the north river road. And before crossing I put in my horse to feed in McNuts barn an Inn near the Bridge after fixing the Horse I was told that it would not be possible for the watter was very deep at the far end of the Bridge I ran to the bridge to judge for myself And when I saw it I thought it posable so tacked my horse with all haste without waiting to feed as it was raining and the river rising I got

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<sup>65</sup> Located at Greater Shubenacadie Lake, near the border between Halifax and Hants Counties.

accros with enough to do the sled was nearly imerced and slewed round with the currant. But I got to firm ground without damage.

112

the weting of the Barrels the cwt in a bag I put on the Horses back and myself above it I just got accros in time only a minute and a Mill Dam about Fifty yard above the bridge bursted and with a great jamb of ice swept the Bridge clean away before I was many yards accros on the side towards home. I was saved and that was all. And the Last that ever crossed it. Now I began to climb the mountain but it was scarcely beetter. Slush Snow and watter at least two feet deep. So I had to stop at one Mr. McCalums and was made comfortable. The good Lady was out of Tea. I had a pound or so and parted with her and she became cheerful. I had rained all night and I could get along with my load so I left 4 Barrels the second time now about 15 miles from home. And by mid day got to Welshe's on the Crest of the Mountain. Tom Archibald the Courier between Truro and Tatamagoushe just arrived up from Tatamagoushe with himself and horse nearly drowned the road from the top of the mountain follows a gorge made by a brook. So I staid at Welshs that night. It ceased raining and followed by frost through the night so I tacked again and determined to get home if possible. The watter had subsided and found it channel during the night and got on very well till I came to the Bridge nearly opposite my place. And lo there was no breeze there! So here is another trouble I untackled the sleigh And though the River was high I know just what it was and got over on horseback with an ounce of food for my family but there was a Barrel and a cwt in a bag on the oposite side of the river. So John M. Oliver and I took accros in the Canoe over the dam.

*Home again after nine and a half days*

Absence from home with only part of my load and the sled on the opposite side of the river. But I felt happy even then to find my family well though my wife had been very anxious about me. I observed her go frequently to the door and look across towards the Road on the opposite side of the river the way that I had come home. I asked her what she was looking for. She said I am foolish I have looked for you so long I cannot stop looking still. Many a longing weary look I have had. I had not left them destitute and we now enough to last for some time and four Barrels fifteen miles off. And a set of Waggon wheels to make for my old friend George McNaught to be ready in June and taken Lower Stewiacke for which I was to get flour and meal. I had made a Fly for McNaught long before when I wrought at my Father when he was a Peddler which pleased him well. So I set to work and finished them in good time. But I went with with some of my neighbours to hew logs to make a foot bridge across the River and cut my leg badly but it soon healed and did not lame me.

After all my troubles I thought of my dream of riding in deep water as through air without great inconvenience and getting through safely after the snow left I returned to McCalums for the four Barrels I left and after my crop was in went to [Sewiacke] with the Wheels and [brought] home the pay in Bread stuff.

I fully believe that I might have gone 1000 of miles and not had so much trouble as when I went to Halifax.

If I had only been two days earlier I could have made the journey in 3½ or 4 days. Solamon says the destruction of the poor is the Poverty I had to look for money and was too late in starting which caused all the trouble

But I must not commit to mention that everyone I came in contact with showed me the greatest kindness. As I was dropping into Truro a man of the name of Kent told me to go to a relation of his and stay till Monday and he would satisfy all demands. And Lady of the Name of Logan in Truro told me to come in and she would keep myself and horse over Sabbath an entire stranger. I had made up my mind to stay at Wm. McLeods Blacksmith with whom I was slightly acquainted. But I was there Saturday night, Sabbath night and Monday night. Though I insisted

on him taking part of my load in payment for his trouble, he would take nothing. After I went home I made a Beautiful Work Table of very choise wood for his Eildest daughter Mr. McLeod was a Widdower. There are samples of the kindness I recived on that unfortunate journey. God Bliss the Good people of Truro for their Kindness.

I had been about 15 years in New Annan about this time. I almost lost heart in January as my crops were so often injured was a very serious I could not tell the reason. Unless being the first Farm below the Juntion of East and West branches that made the cultivated part almost like a peninsula by the bending down and running of the West branch before it united with the east branch.

115

There is a Scotch saying that runs thus Have welth have name but the heart and a is gane. My energy was damped. And within my own I resolved to leave it. Whenever I could get a purchaser who would give something like value for it. As I have before intimated I found ship carving a much easier way of urning bread for the family then taking it from a new farm. And then the rush for Carving was in the spring. The busy time for the Farmer. But I will nothing more in the meantime.

I worked hard and diligently. But as the old song says “My heart is in the Highlands my heart it is it not here.”<sup>66</sup> My heart was in Pictou not in New Annan.

During these 5 years, I was able to support my famely comfortably. And continue Carving and Farming. I joined the Methodest and belive I was much edified During this time I studyed Phrenology at any leasure time I could command. And belive I understood it pretty well. But it was no advantage financialy but rather a loss as I did not charge and was pestered by parties wishing their heads read

I may here state my Father had three large Volumes of Enciclipedia Britanica of the Arts and Sciences in which Medicine Surgery Medwifery were largely treated. And which Father allowed me to read from my boyhood. In a population of over a thousand And no medical man nearer then Mitchal of Wallace many cases occurred where the Doctor would have been called If he could be got within a moderate distance. The nixt best was to apply to one among themselves reputed to have some skill.

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<sup>66</sup> Poem by Robert Burns, written 1789. Chorus: “My heart’s in the Highlands, my heart is not here / My heart’s in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer / Chasing the wild-deer, and following the roe / My heart’s in the Highlands, wherever I go.”

Old John Wilson Gardener and myself were esteemed skillful and were often applied to by the people. But too me it was unprofitable as Phrenology. I became wonderfully popular. And there was nothing in the way of office but they were willing to give me except a few the Olivers my Relations. And the Byers's that were rather jelous of me. But I had to pay for my popularity by loss of time. And could well back out. I resolved if I left New Annan to keep quiet and mind my work But the people of New Annan were not destitute of gratitude. I received a good many small presents upon the eve of my departure to New Glasgow as a recognition of benefits received from me.

I handed in my resignation as Secretary of the Agricultural Society. And a Paper of which the following is a Copy was presented to me.

New Annan Decr, 20<sup>th</sup> 1854

This is to certify that Mr. John Oliver has resided among us for nearly twenty years during which time he has proved himself a useful and creditable member of Society in his business as a Carpenter. As a friend of Temperance in his zeal to promote the interests of Agriculture. Besides evincing a disposition as far as practical to live peaceably with all men.

Robert L Byers	John McGeorge	James Campbell
John Kerr	James Pugh	John Wilson
William Creighton	James Waugh	William Murdoch
William Byers	Alex <sup>r</sup> Conky	George Munro

117

George H. Oliver	James Swan	Walter Byers
Jas. B. Tupper	Robert Bell	John Gould
Edw <sup>d</sup> Kent	Arch. Patterson	John Millar
John Lombard	Arch. Campbell	John Currie Law
Hugh Ross Min	Robert Logan	

## *My Mother*

Mother was a native of Berwick Shire Scotland. She was born in the year 1794. And died in the year 1844 in her 50 year which she had not compleated. She was 49 out. She was one of the best of Mothers. And her will was my pleasure. She had a greater influence over me then then any other person that I ever knew. And our temper suited. Ruled by love and kindness I was the cheifest among 7 children 4 boys and 5 girls. I was naturly selfwilled but she dealt so kindly with me that I was willingly obedient. I thought her a very good looking woman 5 feet 5 inches in height and well developed without being corpulent fair haired with beautiful blue eyes and elasticity and ease in all her movements her mind was elivated and noble kind and good to the lowest she niver stooped to their follies while she administered to their wants.

Honourable and upright in her dealings and intercourse she would not fawn or buckle to the greatest and while she loved mankind she feared not the face of man She was a women of superior tallent I have often listened with wrapt attention to her discriptions of the scenery of her native land. When I saw her lifeles body I felt the sunyest place in my affections had become dark her funeral was attended by persons for many miles round. *Catherine Ross* about three years after my Mothers death Father married Catherine Ross. A native of Beaulay Scotland when he was about 60 years of Age about 20 years his junior.

118

In the year 1855 I sold my Farm to Abram Patterson for £220.00.00. And had a public sale of my Stock and Farming utensals Fly and Harniss for which I realized £75. The Household Stuf I retained To take up housekeeping in New Glasgow. I was clean of debt and had about £20 owing me before the Sale. Many woundered I was worth as much though that was not a great deal I have not had as much in my keeping since that is hard cash. I was sorry that my wife did not agree with me as to leaving New Annan and submitted reluctantly to leaving it.

## *Bound for New Glasgow*

In the month of Feb. 1855 I sent two sleds loads of stuf over to New Glasgow by my Brother George and Cousin James which was stored in Andrew Camerons barn. I did not go with them but staid to sort up the rest of my stuf till they returned. And in a few days Stared with three Sleds Bag and Baggage Wife and famely and all my goods. And bade Adue to New Annan.

## *Journal to New Glasgow*

The morning we started promised fair but a heavy snow storm come on early in the day. And retarded our journey. On starting I thought we would get to my Father in Law on the West River But being heavily laden we had to put up at Mrs. Underwoods Carabo River. We took the road as early as posable next morning and got to my father in laws before miday. And had the mortification to find that

119

the chimney of my little house had been pulled down and the bricks carried off the windows taken out the boards of the loft carried of and left open and the lock wrenched of.

Old Alic Chishom did this after night and the plea that it had been sold to him by one John McMillan Whose sister had lived there and died there. Mr. McMullan could no leagily sell it nor Chisholm take it away. My Brother in law from whom I bought it had drawn rent from the tenants for years previously to my purchase.

But what was I to do now with my wife and children I went to New Glasgow with the Men and Loads. And left the Wife and Children at her fathers in the meantime. And sure enough all the mischief had been done to my log shanty I bought a Cooking stove and pipe and put them up & procured a sash and glaszed it covered the loft with boards shoveled and swept out the dirt put up beds and put on a fire. I did the work of a Hercules in a little time. And got over word to the west River for my Wife and famely to come along which they did in a little time being brought over by the Brothers. In a few days we had it pretty comfortable. Robert my eldest son did not come with us he had some time before left went with one John Gould to learn the Blacksmith Trade. And Kenneth Henry went to live with his Uncle H. whose place was at the foot of the Middle River. I had 4 boys and two girls with us with their mother and myself eight in all. I gave out the making of a frame imediatly and procured material for erecting a new building which I got ready to go into before the fall.

Jame Forbes my wifes father had given his William a life lease of his half of the old home stead and settled on the foot of the West River. When William died the leased property came into the possession of James's Heirs to whom he had willed it. William during his lifetime rented it to Nephews John Forbes Sons. And having a long and easey lease from their uncle they almost appeared to belive it their own. And did not look kindly upon James's heirs when they came to take possession. When I purchased from my Brother in Law Town Lot and read the fences were in good repair. But when they knew that I had bought the best was hauled of and being at New Annan they did as they

I had provoketion enough to go to law but then some of their depredations would be dificult to prove. Old Alik Chisholm deserved punisment for his midnight robbery especially. But the Forbes's were my Wifes Cousins. And what could I get of Old Chisholm I thought of the Proverb "a man often loses more by defending his vineyard then giving it up" Now that I had got into my Fort the "Stump" I determined to deffend it. But let by gones be bygones. But Stand to my rights If I had not done this People might think me a simpleton. For to tamely submit to any farther peculation forbearance would cease to be a virtue.

### *The Log House called the "Stump"*

How it got the name I cannot tell there was a Large old Pine stump about 3 road above the house on the Road Side whether that was was the origin of the name or not I cannot tell it has been long Disused now "Olivers Corner."

### *The Stump continued*

It was when I came to New Glasgow the only log house there was in in the year 1855. And had been inhabited by the lowest of the low a place of infamey and a drinking den. And the people that lived in it before we came sold spirits. And after we inhabited it we were visited for some time by poor looking degraded wreaches looking Liquer and would hardly be turned off or said no. I began to think if these were representative of the population arround New Glasow we had come to a degraded place. These were the people we had our first visits from exepcting a few we knew.

### *The first encounter at the Stump*

I had gone to bed the wife was not come to bed but was sorting up for Sabbath day it was Saturday night and there was a good fire in the stove. Three young Men came in and asked for liquor. And was told there was none and that we kept none. Mrs. Oliver was handling bread they then asked her to give them something to eat and when getting something for them take hold of the side of the Stove seemingly with the intention of overturning it. She called to me. One of them caught a Loaf of Bread and made for the door and got out. I threw myself out on the floor and caught a chair and leveled one of them on the floor. My Axe stood in the corner behind the door. I dropt the chair and caught it and put my back to the door and would I belive have the second a wipe with the axe but my wife rushed in to prevent the blow I think it was well

122

that she did or the consequences might have been serrious he got out and ran and the fellow with the loaf with him the street was slipery with ice I threw the Axe at them and it went slidering among their feet they ran and I threw the Axe three times after them till they came near Cuneys Shop I was in my shirt all this time Just as I got back to the door My wife was leading the wounded man out bleeding badly the poor Divil I had enough to give him more would be cruel. I found out who the raskels were but I need not name them now.

### *My first year in New Glasgow*

I began to think the people of New G had mistaken my character And showed the paper with the signatures of the members of the Members of the Agricultural Society to a few of the leading men of the Town. The late Captain William Forbes noticing the stand I had taken in New Annan in the Temperence Reformation strongly solicited me to become a member of the Division of the Sons Temperance I consented to give him name And after a little was duly Elected and Initated. Of which Organization I have been an active member for more than 26 years but upon reflection I am inclined to think that I acted unwisely being in being so forward in the good cause being comparetively a stranger. And directed the hostility of the rumies against me by annoying me by breaking my windows etc. It would have been well enough to have joined the Society without taking an active lead but like many others I I was wise when it was too late.

I had never associated with low moral characters but as I had become a habitant of the "Stump" I imagine that class thought I should associate with them. Though I spoke and treated all men courteously and civily I took a higher stand socialy then the log shanty. On the tailor's art [intilled] me to Quoting the Scotch Poet I thought "The mans the man for a that."

But the populace could not see the hidden man of the heart. Be this as it may, the way of the world is to judge from exterior show. Hence Crowns Royal Robes Stars Garters and ensignia of high position Are founded upon a knowledge of human nature. Beautiful feathers make fine birds.

But to return I soon rose in the estimation of the respectable people of New Glasgow who visited and assoiated with me. And the real ladies of New Glasgow called to see Mrs. Oliver. But this did not rise me in the estimation of the Scum. Why should a resident of the "Stump" be any thing more than his predecessors had been. I went to the Division of the Sons of T. And found quite a contrast to my first visitors in the "Stump" I was soon elected recording Scribe then Worthey Patriark Chaplin in fact I a turn in most of the offices.

### *Work*

I got a good deal of carving to do as there were 6 or 7 vessals on the Stocks and I had a house to build and I fenced and planted about half an acre of Potatoes which my father plowed they yealded a very good crop in the fall we got into our new house. We did most of the work ourselves hiring as little as we could. But I had James McLean for some time at the house Alex<sup>r</sup> Cameron's [Clue].

Now that I felt somewhat established and got acquainted with the people I liked them better. Kenneth Forbes acted a very friendly part to me by all means in his power. The Late Rodrick McGregor was also a good friend and the Late Capt. George McKenzie. Also Capt. W<sup>m</sup> Forbes. My wife was in delicate health when she left New Annan. Her health became better. My youngest child John Howard born Dec. 25 1855 in the Stump.

*I become a member James Church*<sup>67</sup>

Soon after I came to New Glasgow my old friend the the Rev<sup>t</sup> Mr. Roy called to see me. And was very friendly when I was a young man about 20 years of age I was admitted to full membership in his church which was then situated at a place then called “Irish Town” now Plimouth. Mr. Roy reminded that I had been been a member of his church long ago – and hoped I would still come to the church. I told him that I intended to go the Church as there was no Methodist place of worship near. Well I continued to go for for some time. And the time for the dispensation of the Lords Supper came round. I was invited to partake with them. And my wife and I both went Then my youngest Son John Howard who was born in New Glasgow was unbaptised Mr. Roy said you will want the church to bapitise I said yes but will you bapitise a Methodists child. Mr. Roy said we admitted you to the Lords Supper and I think there will be no objections to bapitising your child but I will consult with the Session and will let you know. The Session agreed to bapitise our Child. I continued to go regularly and I was not troubled about my views on Election whether they were absolute or conditional.

123 [overwriting the original 125]

I was not long in New Glasgow till I was requested to teach a class in the Sabbath School. I said that I was willing but told them that I was not a Calvenest. But that did not seem to put them them to any strait. So I went a took charge of a Class of young women. The Rev<sup>d</sup> John Currie was at that time teaching in New Glasgow. And was a Teacher of the Bible Class he left New Glasgow to finish his education in Scotland and his Class was without a Teacher. I had been his Sabbath School Teacher in New Annan and he represented me as a proper person to take charge of the Class. I was rather unwilling to succeed such a tallented young man but consented to make a trial. So I took charge of them and succeeded in holding my own with them. After being two years Teacher I was elected superintendant. That position I held for about 12 years. Also teaching my Class I was then relived of the Class and continued superintendant now came a dificulty. *I leave James Church etc.*

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<sup>67</sup> The Church was incorporated in Irishtown in 1843. James Cameron, *Pictou County's History*. New Glasgow: Pictou County Historical Society, 1972. Photograph of the church in Monica Graham, *Historic New Glasgow, Stellarton, Westville, and Trenton*. Halifax: Nimbus, 2012, p. 85.

The Rev<sup>d</sup> James Bayne had been agitating in the church Courts the propriety of having only members of Session as Superintendants. I do not know whether it became law or not. But in the "Record" and "Presbyterian Witness" It was strongly recommended and urged upon Congregations to have none but Elders for Superintendants. I then tendered my resignation but the Teachers and Mr. Roy would not hear of me giving it up so I continued to act. A year after this there was an Election of Elders. Now I determined not to hold the position any longer. Not that I was anxious to become an Elder. But now the congregation had had an opportunity of qualifying me and did not

124

So I gave up my position and would not consent to act any longer. Mr. Roy used every plan to get to come back by personal arguments entreaties and promises. And getting those thought to have an influence with me to advise me not to leave them. But I was now determined and would not give in I felt as if the congregation had said the Right man is not in the right place. After this I discontinued going to James Church. And after a time became a member of Primitive Church.

*Primitive Church<sup>68</sup>, etc.*

Mr. Roy being personally a true friend of mine spoke of Mr. Baynes agitation with respect to Elders only being Superintendants. And how it affected their Sabbath the thing fell through. And after this it was insisted on Mr. Bayne was also a personal friend of mine and regreted that his movement had so affected me. In the Primitive Church I taught for two or three years. The Late Roderic McGregor was superintendant In the Primitive Church and filled that office very well indeed. And when the Free Church and Primitive Church were united I continued to teach Clases when any of the Teachers were absent. But now I have given up teaching in the Sabbath Schools. R.S. McCurdy who was Superintendant at the Church door after after the service Asked me to come and teach Some Class whose teacher was absent. I saw the class put with another class and I was allowed to sit without any. I felt hurt and left and have not been there since. And it is not likely that I will teach any more in Sabbath School. But I have had a pretty long term of about 30 years in all.

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<sup>68</sup> Possible reference to "Primitive Methodists" who originated in Britain. "In 1849, a back-to-basics faction left James Church...to form Primitive Church," Graham, *Historic New Glasgow*, p. 86. The church itself was destroyed by fire April 19, 1874.

*My Wifes sicknes and Death*

My Wifes health began to give way from the effects of Bronkites and it became more agravated until it became consumptive she was afflicted for about two years getting worse it commenced in this way. She went to visit her Mother Brothers sisters at the West River. She was standing on the Railway Platform on the west end of New Glasgow Bridge intending to go down by the cars to the loding ground and by the steem tug to Pictou and from Pictou to the West River. A drunk man ran to the train and fell his head was crushed beneth the wheels. This accident full in her sight gave her nervous system a terrible shock and she returned home and waited another day then went to see Relations and friends but when she came home after a weeks absence She had a cough and cold from which she niver recovered. I cannot help thinking that the shocking accident just before here eyes had much to do with his illnes or that and a cold together be this as it may she niver enjoyed one days health afterwards. Another untoward event hapened in the family about this time we had the sorrow to find out that our Eldest Daughter was with child to a second cousin of her own one James Forbes. We dotted on our daughter and it gave another terrible shock and vexation. And to make the affliction more seveare they tried to make out that she had correspondence with others and that she was not with child to him. Henrietta was a Woman of strong feelings and this injured her health very much.

Poor Woman she continued to grow worse and in the winter of 1863 her cough and weaknes increased. During the latter end of harvest we took journey to New Annan and Wallace to see some of relations and with a view of benefiting her health. She bore up on the journey wounderfully well and when we returned home she seemed a good deal better we took some shorter journeys but round home but they were not productive of any benefit that winter I canvased the N<sup>r</sup> 13 Polling district and being a day or two from home when when I returned I found her much worse and felt sorry that I had left home (the object of the canvas was to prevent giving Licence). After this her complaint daley increased and Dr. Murray visited her often. She was a true Christian and bore her affliction without a murmer. And when D<sup>r</sup> Murray informed us that there was no probability of her recovery it gave her no surprise. She had always been a pious God fearing Woman But on her deathbed it was beautiful to witness the senenity of her mind and her sure trust in the mercy of god by Jesus Christ Death. The near prospects of death appeard to have to have no terror to her a few days before her death she swooned away and we were

speaking of the turn to D<sup>r</sup> Murray. She smiling said they thought I had left them there but I am here yet. I cannot express my feeling when I her smile how cheerful how resigned. But her time was hasting to a close. The day before her death she gave me her Photograph the only one she had ever taken. And gave me also a new pair of socks saying

127

they are the last that I will ever make for you the following morning she died about 9 o'clock She appeared to set herself to take a heavy lift and her spirit fled. "May I die the death of the Righteous and may my latter end be like hers." Every respect was shown to her memory. By her relations and the people of the town. There were over 200 persons at the funeral and 3 or 4 ministers. And almost all the places of busnes were closed on the main street as the Funeral procession passed through. She died June 7<sup>th</sup> 1862 a good 51 years.

### *Discription of Henrieta Forbes in Youth*

She was about 5 feet 6 inches in hight black locks black eyes very bright and sparkling good figure good color in her cheeks which relived a very slight bronze in her complection. her addres was off hand affable and pleasing. A good speaker full of mirth and [houmor] and rapture She loved me with all the depth of her womanhood But she was nervous and exitable and apt to go too strongly into the the impulses of the time and to repeat of it afterwards. Upon the whole we lived a loving and happy time though not unchecked by trials and sorrow. **Peace to her Memory,**

### *A year of lonlynes A. Widower*

Elizabeth my daughter did very well indeed in the house but the childrens minds were those of youth as might be expected and was not in sympathy with mine. After some months I thought it proper to look round for some one to keep company with me. Beliveing it to be right to make myself as comfortable as circumstances would allow and make life as pleasant as I could

128

I was in the 51 year of my age And in good health and my feelings and affections and mind was still youthful. And fond of female society and why should I go mourning out of measure for those who had served their time yes and served it well. "On Reason build Resolve." I resolved to look out for a female partner.

### *The Result a happy one*

With this resolve in my mind I humbly sought direction from the all wise God who knows the heart and purposes of all men. At the same time using the reason and discrimination he had given me in the wisest manner I knew how. "Beliving that God helps those who help themselves." Though I belived in prayer I also belived in "putting [loo] my my shoulder."

### *Margaret Grant*

I had not much acquaintance With Miss Margaret Grant previously but had seen her frequently and spoken to her and when Mrs. Oliver was sick on enquiring for her I asked her to come into the house and see her. Mrs. Oliver was very fond of her sister Miss Kitchin who often visited her and administered to her wants. She appeared to like her Sister Margaret and invited Margaret to call whenever she could saying that she herself would not be long in this world to welcome her but she hoped she would call and see the family when she was gone. But Miss Grant was niver in the house again until she was the Mistress. Mrs. Oliver died a few day after this. Edward Kitchen had a long sick speel and I frequently visited him. And Miss Grant

129

Sister in law used to call at Kitchins on Sabbath mornings in coming to Church and used to visit him before going to Church in this way we met several times and became better aquainted these meetings were not prearranged nor was there a single hint. But from all I heard and saw of Miss Grant I thought she was [the] the most likely person I had seen to become a companion for me. Her mother a very amiable woman had died 5 years before this and she had kept House for her aged Father and a youngest brother John. To the household duties and her fathers comfort she gave careful attention. And how could she leave her aged parent even though she might be willing to marry was a question in my own mind. But that dificulty was to be removed though I knew nothing of how it was to be done. John her Brother married Miss Effy McLean who was of a kindly disposition and well balanced mind on the 28 day of December 1864.

Though I had become aquainted With Margaret I made no offer of marriage. And as I was going to Shubenacadie Prince Port to carve For Captain Matthew Norris And would be absent for six weeks or perhaps more I took the liberty of leaving this note or rather this is a cobby before I left.

New Glasgow 13 1864

Miss Margaret Grant. Madam you are aware of my great loss in my late dead wife in looking round there is none in my estimation could Make me so happy as yourself. I love you and I have heard of your virtues as a kind daughter and loving sister.

130

And I am desirous of a further acquaintance with you if there is nothing unsuperable stands in the way I believe if you would consent to be Mrs. Oliver I would strive to make you happy. I am in my 51 year. My heart is young and my affections warm. And I could enjoy your society with as much pleasure as ever I did I loved my late wife dearly. But my feelings tell me that I can love still. I Write this not so much with a view of popping the question as it is called as requesting you to allow me to pay my addresses in person if it is admisable I might call upon you it is true without this notice. But I prefer this mode. And I hope you will be so kind as to give me an answer upon receipt if you are desirous of an acquaintance maturing. And if you are not that I may know your mind I think my character and morals will stand examination. My younges child is going in his tenth year. And appearances promise competence. Dear Madam having thus in a frank manner opened my heart to you I now leave it with you to say if I may call upon you have the kindness to answer as early as possable. As I will be very ancious to have an answer from you.

I am Dear Margaret  
Yours truely John Oliver

Upon writing this I started to Prince Port on the Colchester side of Shubenacadie River about 4 miles above Maitland to carve for a vessal of 600 tons. After I had been about a month at work I recived an answer from Miss Grant to my opening note I will give a Coppy

New Glagow, Oct<sup>r</sup> 11 1864

Respected Sir

I received your Note. And as it was on a subject I had not any thought of you will not wonder when I tell you I was a good deal surprised. However I feel myself highly honoured by your preference for me though I have seen you at different times I had not the most distant thought of proposal of such a nature. I will [will] think of it when you are gone. And when you return I shall be very hapy to see you. As a further aquentence is neccessary I shall be glad to recive an answer to this. If you find it convenient. Direct to Miss Kitchin and I will be sure to get it.

Your Sincere Friend

Margaret F. Grant

The ice was now broken and I felt much pleased in getting such a pleasing response to to my opening note. I did not write from Prince Port as I expected to finnish my job in about a week when I would pay my complements personaly. Mrs. Kitchin was a personal friend of mine and knew our our corospondence And I was in formed put in a good word for me. Shortly after I returned I visited Miss Grant. And soon found out that I was a welcome guest after this there were frequent visits that continued more and more to incese our love and respect for each other. And Old Mr. Grant I found to be a well informed and agreeable Gentleman who was very sociable and pleasant and I had the pleasure of knowing my visits were

And besides visiting I wrote a good many letters. John A. Grant Margaret's Brother alone of the Grant family was opposed to our intimacy and intended marriage but he relaxed his opposition and became more genial before we got married. And being himself married to a prudent woman Old Mr. Grant would be properly taken care of. And Margaret at liberty to chuse a home for herself with the full consent of her Father. So after much pleasant intercourse and growing attachment and increasing love we were Married by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Allan Pollok at her fathers Residence. There was a number of friends at the marriage. And among others My Father and Step Mother. We came to our own house the same evening. Where my Daughter Elizabeth had a good Tea awaiting the company. Owing to Margarets Brother John's coolness I did not visit Margarat as often as I would have done during our courtship. But some ammends was made by written correspondence. And the Kitchens my friends acted as medium Between us. And sometimes we had asignations there. I did not fear John personally but I did not wish to make it unpleasant for Margaret. But his oposition did not harm it rather gave zest to our meetings. "Stolen watters is sweet and bread eaten in secret is pleasant." "Many watters cannot drown Love." A perfectly smooth road and level is not the most pleasant to travel, there is a monoteny in it. So John's oposition Made the courtship pleaseter. As better [bitter?] herbs spiced the Hebrews lamb.

*A Few Specimens of letters, etc.*

We had agreed to meet upon a time and there came a great rain upon a heavey coating of snow that prevented me from Meeting her and I wrote the following lines

The rain decends the tempest blows  
 The ice breaks up the watter flows  
 The roads are mingled mire and mud  
 The bridges fall before the flood  
 The wild geese in tri angles fly  
 A northern cource along the Sky  
 O'er Frasers Mount by the Pine tree  
 Had I their wings to you I'd flee  
 And down I'd lower by your side  
 And plum my wings with pomp and pride  
 Since in a [????] of man's race  
 My cource through air I cannot trace  
 Yet thoughts as quick as lightning run  
 To you whom love lights like the sun

With gladning glory in his beams  
To you the cause of thoughts and dreams  
When Phebus dips into the west  
And darknes on the mountain rests  
Dear Maggy when I think of thee  
And revel in thoughts luxery  
Time rolls the moments pass  
Like sands quick trickling through the glass  
Till every sand of time is run  
My Maggy true my end is won  
The times the moon will fill and wane  
My own dear wife I'll call on then  
O sweet enchantres of my soul  
How slow the circuling seasons roll  
When looking forward to a time  
One bed for both is nor a crime

134

Oft we have met and hapy were  
The joy of love and hope to share  
Emotion on the features glow  
We feel the joy that lovers know  
Our thoughts our hearts our feelings fire  
Friendship enlivend by desire  
As lovers only truely know  
Controlled by virtue here below  
Heav'n grants his smiles to virtuous minds  
Pure love enlivens passion blinds  
Our love is pure its dross refined  
And we are of a kindred mind.

*x A letter from Prince Port to Margaret Grant*

Dear Friend

I received your welcome favour at Prince Port upon the Shubenacadie I tender you my hearty thanks for your kind acceptance of my proffered addresses hoping it may result upon further acquaintance in the closest and most endearing and closest relation that of man and wife. I am impatent for a personal interview And hope that our good opinion of each other will improve and increase and become more exalted till death part us. I will be pleased to met with you at your own time and place.

Yours Sincarely,  
John Oliver.

x I had forgot that I sent this letter from Prince Port

*A Remarkable Dream*

Some time before my dear Henriettas death but after the Doctter told us that there was no probability of her recovery In my dream I saw her die. And felt all the sorrow and greif for my loss as if her death had occured. And she was taken by myself and sorrowing friends to her last resting place. Then methought I [draged] on a wearily mournful life of despondency and Greif. I wandered out on my own fields behind New Glasgow – lone and sad. The day was dark gloomey cloudy and cold But almost in the twinkling of an eye the clouds removed and unobcured the sunshine warmed the air and gilded the scene. The nakid trees put on their livery of green and the feilds were clothed with green and blossoms decked the face of nature. I stood amazed at the sudden transition and transformation from the gloomey November appearance to that of glorious spring in the effulgence of beauty. I thought of the tales I had read in the farey land I turned to go homeward. A woman coming in the same direction came along side we entered into conversation. I felt cheered and encouraged by her pleasing manner and address and somehow began to feel that the World and things of time had still charms for me. We parted where two roads meet, she going one way and I continuing my way homeward. Wishing that I had enquired for the name and place of residence of my late feamale companion. I awoke to find it a dream but not like other dreams. “The baseles fabric of a Dream” The dream often recurred to mind.

And a month after my wifes death one Sabbath morning I went out to see Edward Kitchin who was sick. Margaret Grant on her way to Church called in to see how her Brother in law was. Though I had seen her before And She had called in to see my wife before she died. In my dream I did not recognize her. But this morning I saw a likenes to the person I saw in the dream. And came in company with her till we parted to turn in our respective places of Worship.

A direction was given to my mind that ended in success. About a year after this we were Married. We have now been married for more than 15 years and our married life has been most happy thank Thank God for his goodness and answer to my prayers.

*My son Robert.* As aforesaid did not leave New Annan with us. As he was serving his Apprentiseship with a man of the name of John a blacksmith his term of service was not was not finished so he staid. At Tatamagoush with his master Gould became intemperate and and got into difficulties with his creditors and left for the State Maine. And Robert did not go with him. But went with one Robert Crighton and was under instructions with him at the Blacksmith Trade. Unhapily as both Gould and Crighton were given to Drink my son became addicted to it also I suppose from assosiating and drinking with them he wrought at Pictou New Glasgow and the Albion Mines. And at Battes Quarries Wallace. I belive he was a good workman but did much. But did not make much.

137

*Prayer*

“Thy way to God commit it bring to pass  
shall he”<sup>69</sup> I endeavoured so to act that in any  
work or enterprise I could ask the Blessing of God

*Prayer*

Almighty Creator and preserver of all Thou hast been pleased to take my bosom companion to thyself. And I’m left to buffit the stormey voyage of life alone. O grant me strength wisdom and resignation to submit humbly to thy holy will. And to say thy will be done. Thou knowest the void caused by the departure of my dearly beloved wife. If thou are pleased to prolong my life for a few years guide me in thine infinite wisdom in the selection of a fit and proper partner in life. If thou hast ordained such an event. I belive all things are ordered for the best. And that all events are ordered for the best. And all things will work for good to those that love thee and grant favour and acceptance in that I have already entered into. If thou hast so designed that any cause should disappoint my intentions. Give me grace humbly to submit. But if consistant with holey will smoothe my way and remove objections guideing and instructing me in the proper cource to take to insure success and grant me thy blessing. And while I seek my own happiness may I may I seek to make thy Glory my chief end though thou has sorely tried me thou knowest the confidence in thy great goodness and that thou wilt prosper me even in this vale of tears grant me caution and prudence. And enable me to make a proper use of my tallents. enable me to subdue the cheerless and glomey thoughts

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<sup>69</sup> Bible. Old Testament. (King James Version). Psalms 37:5. “Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

that sometimes almost overpower me enable me to subdue my besetting sins and the rashness of my dispositions give me prudence and humility remove suspicious doubts respecting the fidelity of her I love. Thou knowest the sin only of my heart. Grant me wisdom in all the affairs of life in the proper goverment of my family. And enable me to take hold of these by faith. Cleanse me from all imprefections of flesh and spirit. And enable me to to perfect holiness in thy fear. For Jesus sake forgive all my sins. And enable me to unlock the castle of doubt by the key of thy promises. Grant more sperituality and fervency in my appeals at thy throne of grace. I thank the for all thy gifts thank thee for the means of grace we so richly enjoy. We thank thee for the blessings of peace and plenty. Grant me cheerfulness and hope. And give me a power of usefulness in the comunity first to thee great Creator and to our Brother man. O give me proper vews respecting the dificulty respecting the dificulty that has prevented me taking part in the Congregational Prayer Meeting. Thou knowest the hearts and purposes of all. Thou knowest my heart. If it is from pride and undue sencitiveness grant me wisdom to see it. And grace to overcome it forgive me if I do Mr. Roy an injustice.

To thy holey and ever blessed name three and one God the ever-lasting praise and glory Now and for ever more. Time without

*A main*

### *Married again*

As I have said before Margaret Grant and I were married on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 1865 at her Father by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Allan Pollok. And at the time I now write January 1<sup>st</sup> 1881. We have been 16 years married and over 5 months.

Henrietta died on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1864

Margaret was upon the whole received kindly by the Famely. James my son and his sister left and took up house keeping themselves but there was no quarrel. My youngest son John Howard was just ten years of age when Margaret came to the house. Robert my Eldest was in the United States and had been three years in the Northern Army during the Rebellion of the Southern States and continued till the war was finished and the rebellion queled. The rest were doing for themselves except two or three of the youngest.

Our married life so far has been very happy and harmonious. And as Mrs. Oliver she has proved a real mother to my children. And they all love her truly and show her every respect. And Joseph called his eldest Daughter for her. And Isabel Mrs. Maxwell called her third child for her we had no Children. Miss Grant was about 40 years of age when her and I were married and I was nearly 51 years of age. About 11 years older.

144 [in the text, following page 139]

His death is thus noted in the Eastern Chronicle of the time.

At New Annan, 2d inst Mr. George H. Oliver, aged 40 years leaving behind him a sorrowing Wife and 6 Children. Mr. Oliver was for a number of years elder of the Presbeterian at New Annan. He was a man of a generous Christian [spirit] and humbly sought to discharge the dutys of his office in the exercise of that love which thinketh no evil. By his death the neighbourhood has lost a good friend an aged father has lost a dutiful son a family has lost a kind and tender parent. And the Church of Christ on earth has been deprived of one of her speritual children. we sorrow but but not as those who have no hope "for the righteous hath in his death."

My dear brother died in the year 1858 (I write 1881)

Of his six children that were alive when he died only one survives

R. William of Pictou and two grandchildren by his son Isaack of his first marriage. He was in poor health when he last visited me in New Glasgow and died a few months after. I went down to the warf below New Glasgow to the steem boat I then thought might be the last time I would see him alive it was so.

*Margaret* My second sister was married when in her teens to Joseph Crocket a Son of Joseph by whom she had one son Joseph born after his father death which occured within a year of their marriage. Some time after she was married to W<sup>m</sup> McKay Blacksmith Of Fish Pools E River by whom a large famely

### *My Fathers Second Marriage*

Is before mentioned about 3 years after my Mothers death. Father was Married to an old maiden of the name of Catherine Ross the famely were all at home exopt my self when he brought her to his house

After some time it was found they could not cordialy live together. So Father and my Brothers James and William agreed to purchase a farm about a mile below Hopewel from Donald Barclay. So they made a sale and devided their moveable property and Father and his wife went to the farm by Hopewell. And left the old homestead to my Brothers and Sisters.<sup>70</sup>

I should have said that George My Brother were married and settled in New Annan. My Brothers John and W<sup>m</sup> purchased the farm by Hopewell for my Father.

### *Gold Discovered in California*

After this settlement My youngest brother William hearing of the great discovery of gold left home for California by the States then round the Cape Horn. After being there about a year he returned. Sold of the stock and personal property and returned to California. My brother James and my sisters Isabel and Hellin going with him. This time time they went over the Sera Nevada Mountains. And W<sup>m</sup> McKay left his wife and went with them. William my brother bought a stock of cattle on this side of the Mountains. After a long and wearysome journey they arrived without much loss in Cal.

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<sup>70</sup> For general interest, consult Janet C. Bain, *The history of Hopewell, Nova Scotia*. (s.l.: s.n., s.d.). Copy at Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management. F 5249 H791 B162.

My sister Isabel married a vermonter of the name of Joseph Shepherd a deacent man A farmer at Point Arina<sup>71</sup>. Hellin was Also married to a Newhampshire man of the name of [blank space] Hamelton.

My Brother W<sup>m</sup> was married to a lady of the name [blank space] Shoemaker. They all settled in Mendocina<sup>72</sup> County Point Arina. James my brother settled there too but did not mary he returned to the old homestead after 15 years of absence.

William had large flocks of cattle which he gave out to keepers for a part of the increace.

*An account of W<sup>m</sup> Olivers death  
given in the News Pappers*

A Pictonian Shot by Indians

The following particulars of the Melincholy death of Mr. William Oliver Son of Mr. Robert Oliver of the Middle River Pictou which which took place in Shelter Cove California<sup>73</sup> on the 14 of June last have been forwarded to us for publication.

Mr. Oliver had for a number of years engaged in raiseing Cattle. The men employed by him to attend too and look after the Cattle recived of the stock as payment for their services. One of the keepers of the name of Louis was killed and his house burned by Indians. Mr. Oliver and his brother in Law Mr. Hamelton who were about 120 miles distant on reciving inteligence of the keeper Lewis being killed started in company with a Mr. Smith to Shelter Cove.

to look after the cattle. And while employed in collecting them they were fired upon by a party of Indians who lay concealed behind a large log. Mr. Oliver was shot through the breast and instantly expired he was 35 years of age And leaves a young widow and one child. And many sorrowing friends to lament their loss.

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<sup>71</sup> Port Arena, Mendocino County, California. A coastal city

<sup>72</sup> Mendocino County

<sup>73</sup> Shelter Cove, Humboldt County, California. North of Port Arena.

Hamelton and Smith fled for their lives a Possie of Armed men went and recovered the cattle that were left and buried the body and marked the place.

After they had lain about a year My Brother James went and took up his bones and had them buried at Point Arina in the Burrial Ground.

That was the last of my Brother William. After sailing in Atlantic Ocean weathering the Cape and sailing in Pacific landing in Call returning by the Isthmus. Then Going with Flocks and Caravan returning to California All in the search and struggle for wealth. Leaving a good Farm the Old homestead rented to strangers.

He was adventurous and aspiring a powerful Athletic well formed Man who naturely loved and sought adventure yet cool and clear headed. I recollect when speaking of the danger that were likely to meet him in his adventures let them come said he I would rather meet them live here a humdrum life.

“Different minds incline to objects

“One persues the vast alone the wounerful the wild

“And the sighs for harmony and grace the gentler beauty”<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> Mark Akenside. “Different minds incline to different objects; one pursues the vast alone, the wonderful, the wild; another sighs for harmony and grace, and gentlest beauty.”

*Father New Hopewell & M. River*

Father and his wife were probably about 10 years on this farm. The Munroes to whom it was rented had worn out and exhausted the farm very much and on the expiring of there Leace Father sold his farm to a Man of the name of Michael Muir for £220 (Two hundred and Twenty pounds). And returned to the Middle River Farm again. He had had the rent during the time the Munroes held it. For a few years he did a good deal to improve it until he took the [Erisipiles] in his foot and he never recovered from a lameness And then he anterwards fell on the ice and was injured so badly in his hip joint that he was niver after able to walk without Crutches. After this he had an attack of parelises now he was almost wholely dependant upon others. He and his wife then came to New Glasgow to be near me. In John McDonalds House within a hundred yards of where I live he remained for about two years and died in his 85 year.

*His Death was thus Recorded in the E.C.<sup>75</sup>*

Died at New Glasgow on the 7<sup>th</sup> Inst Robert Oliver a Native of Roxborough Shire Scotland in the 85 year of his age for the last 57 years he resided in the County of Pictou and has left many descendants in this countrey and a goodly number who have gone to other lands he was well known as a man of much intelligence and unblemished morality. He also leaves a Widow. June 7<sup>th</sup> 1871 Funeral one o'clock to day Thursday.

He was buried beside my late mother at the M. River.

*Something Conserving my Father R. Oliver*

My Father was a short stout man of about 5 feet 6 inches hight Dark hair and beard wirey and strong. Temperate in eating and drinking, great pluck and sperit endowed with large combativeness fearles and resolute good in a pinch hard to corner ready in ways and means to get out of a difficulty and inventive in the way of making things at hand serve his turn admineably in a cace of neccesity. He was good English scholar And understood French he had a retentive memory with respect to historical events and much general information.

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<sup>75</sup> Eastern Chronicle

And was esteemed as a man of good science and sound judgement. And though a pleasant companion with good conversational powers He could not speak before a public meeting with any effect – nervousness appeared to overcome him.

But in all the home relations and its duties he excelled.

I did not get on with my father as well as my mother. I had a will of my own and plans of my own and my notions did not always suite my father. And I thought my plans good I would argue in their favour but father would hear none of my reasoning but would command. And I would have to take a clumsy way as I thought against my will when I was young I think he acted despotically with me and undervalued my ingenuity but I got on well with my mother and her law was my will. But hers was the law of love. And I know she often took my part

150

And acted the part of an intercessor and spoke in my behalf between themselves. I know that Father thought her partial to me sometimes he would say to mother when I did something wrong What do you think of your son. He always spoke of me as my mother's son which was no doubt true but was I not his also. Sometimes the thought passed through my mind that possibly he had doubts of me being his son.

But when I came to manhood we did better for he then spoke to me and treated me as a man. And listened to my plans with more patience and attention and would even condescend to ask my advice. And though he might disapprove of some of my doings to myself he would not listen to others doing it. All the faultfinding he had to do himself respecting me I have for fun got some person to fault me in my absence. And had an Advocate in my father. But I often thought he took pleasure in giving me a lick with the rough side of his tongue. Father's mind did not seem much impaired till he was over eighty years of age and had a stroke of paralysis after this his memory was very defective with respect to recent events. And though he was a very good Arithmetician he almost had the power of computation and it was strange he believed himself to be a 100 years of age. And when I tried to put him he would not be convinced even though I showed him where he had set it down in the Bible. But he could the ages of his children would say to me you are right.

but you cannot tell mine. His mind seemed to revert backward to the days of his boyhood and youth. And he spoke the Scotch as if he had just arrived from the Borders on the banks of the Tweed. Though from 35 to 70 years of his idiom was as pure English as I have heard. Though I suppose the inton would betray his country.

While he lived near me in New Glasgow he gave me all the history of his boyhood and youth and famely affairs that were almost a sealed book to me before that and I belive his reminisences of the past were simply and truely told.

He could write verses very smothe and flowing often sarcetic but I think they wanted the true ring of the true poet. The peices I recloct of were of a sarcastic nature adverting to the faults follies failings and inconsistances of men. Some low filthy dogeral rime was Made by one John Steavenson against Old Mr. Robert Thomson and his son William who were both good deacent men. But Stevenson thought young Thompson slighted his sister so he spouted forth his filth in ryme. Father wrot against Steavenson. It was full of deffence of the Thompsons while it flung all the dirt that could be raked up against the Steavensons. of which there was no lack. Father kept in the background an Robt Leathhead sang the songs and was thought to be their author. Then Steavenson poured forth a torrent of Billingsgate bandenage and blackguardism against Leathheads and Thompsons so this sort of thing went far beyond the bounds of decency. I [hated] and disliked it quite though a boy it was the most foolish thing that my father ever was engaged in.

And which he regreted afterwards and advised me to never lend my tallents in such a way.

*Some of my Friends in New Glasgow*

There is an old saying show me the company and I'll show you the man. There is hardly any Proverb true in every scence. I endeavoured to act honestly and fairly with with all men yet there were only a few men I wished to spend much time with And I would assosiate with the votries of folly only to reform them.

*Kenneth Forbes*

Was one of my earliest New Glasgow friends. An Israelite in whom there was no guile for 27 years our friendship is undeminshed and I allways felt happy in his company.

*Dr. Murray*

And I came to live in New Glasgow nearly at the same time I did our friendship has been continued without interuption a well informed and genial companion.

*Rev<sup>d</sup> David Roy D. D.*

I knew Mr. Roy for at least 40 years and became a member of the church at Irish Town now Plimouth of which he was Pastor when I returned to New Glasgow I again became member of James Church at New Glasgow over which he was Minister. Our friendship increased I found him a true friend in every respect.

*Rodric McGregor* was another friend of mine and for whom I had a sinceare regard though he was welthey and I could I scarcely could attain competency we allways meet and and converced as if we were equals.

he was a man wealth did not seem to spoil or make haughty. I belive he was a true Christian active in every good work there was no man I ever knew that I respected more. I felt as if I were a stranger in the Premitive Church after his death.

*The Rev<sup>d</sup> George Walker*

Was my Pastor till he resigned in favour Of the Rev<sup>d</sup> E. Scot. I loved him as a minister and as a cheerful edifying Companion and was allways happy in his company.

*Rev<sup>d</sup> Allan Pollok D. D.*

Another of my clerical friends who married Margaret Grant and I and who was her minister, for some years before he left St. Andrews Church we were very intimate I valued his friendship very much and I have reason to think there was reality in his friendship towards me he often visited me and spoke highly of me in his intercourse with others.

*James McGregor Sen<sup>r</sup>*

A Worthey man and my friend

*David Marshal Esq<sup>r</sup>*

A man of talent and an associate with in James Church Sabbath school and in Division of the Sons of Temperance

There are many more I cannot menton for they are many.

154

I have been acused of aimng at too high a standard in the choice of my companions and thereby got the enmity and envy of those lower in the socal scale that I thought I ought to belong to their fraternity. This was thought by some the reason why I was so much troubled for a time after that I came to New Glasgow.

I was civil to all; but it would have been punishment to me to assosiate with them especialy if I felt I could not elivate them and I could not submit to coming down to their standard. So after a time they found their level and I found mine. In assosiating with good men I had the companions I most delighted in and if there was selfishness It was the selfishness of enjoying pleasant and profitabble conversation that was likely to elevate and enoble If I know my own mind pride was in no degree a prompter in seeking the friendship of the wise and good.

## *Overseer of Poor for New Glasgow 1858*

Among the five appointed I was chosen head and was to make the disbursements and look after them for which service they each promised me four dollars but only one paid me Donald Chisholm carriage maker. It was a year there was much required and only about £90 voted and something like £40 of debt to pay. I had a world of trouble. And I was not careful enough in keeping my books orderly. Jotting them down and thinking I could put all to rights when I retired. And got George Jakson to assist me but he only helped to make the "confusion worse confounded." The day came and I was not well prepared. And to add to my trouble I got word that my Dear Brother George had died.

156 [page 155 ordinarily]

I was overcome with grief which I could not conceal I was not able to show how affairs stood to my own satisfaction or to the Meeting so Squire Fraser (Drummond) Votted that there be a Committee to look into the matter. So two were appointed. But James McGregor only meet with me so we over the thing carefully. And got the thing to come out right. I will ever remember Mr. McGregor with respect for his patense in sorting up my confused accounts. And I am Glad that James Fraser nominated a committee for inquirey for if it had not been inquired into probably I might have been accused of appropriating the money to my own use. I said it came out all right but there was one Dollar wanting So I went to pay the Dollar but Mr. McGregor took that of his own account and made it square. He had answered my orders for supplies for the support. So I got through with the skin of my teeth Thanks to Mr. McGregor. And when I presented my account before the court of sessions I got praise for the clearness of my account. But if they had known the praise was due not to me but to Mr. McGregor who had brought order out of caos. I had scholarship enough to keep all square if I had begun right. It was a most unprofitable Job. Mr. McGregor having answered my order for supplies I could not make a penny all was trouble and loss of time. All that I could claim was that I had acted honestly and had a clear consience. Another trouble was Donald McDonald (Tailor) who boarded Jenny Turnbull in passing asked for money on her account I had no money of the peoples and gave him \$4<sup>00</sup> of my own and charged him and debted the poor account this he denyed getting and said a good deal about it which I would rather paid over again only that I was the [this he got is]

I recaled that the Late W<sup>m</sup> Lippencote spook to me about it and surely I had made a mistake and had not given the \$4.00 I had charged him with I had not taken a receipt he said he belived McDonald an honest man who would deny any payment made to him I do not charge him with intetonal dishonesty but I knew him to be somewhat under the influence of Liquer though I belived capable of knowing what he was about. McDonald after a time gave it up.

*Sons of Temperance No. 17 N.G.*<sup>76</sup>

I may premise by saying that I very early took an interes while I was quite a young lad of about 15 years of age when serving my apprenticeship at the West River at Leatheads. The Late Rev<sup>d</sup> Duncan Ross George McDonald and Donald Fraser Esq<sup>rs</sup> were the leading men in the newly started crusade against the Demon Alchol but away from the influences of those reformers some years after at Halifax I began to taste. But some years after that I was married I became fulley awakened to the evils of intemperance In New Annan though there were not many who might be called habitual drunkards yet very many when they went to Tatamagoushe returned with more then they could carry. I took the iniative there in the temperance reformation and brought all the influences I could to promote the cause in getting up meetings and providing lectures had wounderful success and there was much less drinking.

As I have some where mentioned Capt. William Forbes saw a copy of the addres presented by the members of New Annan Agricultural Society presented me when leaving New Annan in which my efforts in the cause of Temperance was mentoned I was by him to join that order of which I have continued an active member for 27 years.

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<sup>76</sup> Temperance societies were active in Canada from the 1820s, with strong activity in Pictou County, Nova Scotia.

*New Glasgow Division Sons of Tem. No. 17*

I found that the Division Room was a good place to meet and there I found friends on whom I could trust some of the leading men.

William Lippencote	James W. Fraser	Duncan McLean
David Marhsal	Forest McKay	George Mackay
Thomas Graham	John Maline	Donald Ross

were among the members I noticed on the night of my Initiation.

I attended very regularly and found much pleasure in the society of my temperance brothers. And filled every office but that of the outside and inside Centinals. And was twice sent as a representative to the Grand Division. And was often sent as delegate to the nabhouring divisions. Rodrick McGregor has been a member before I came to N.G. but owing to some difference had left the difference was made up and he joined again and was one of the best workers Kenneth Forbes was also a faithful worker and J. W. Carmichal.

I was for two years Patron of a juvenile branch called Cadets of Temperance Patronised and superintended by the Sons of Temp. Aside from Temperance it was an exelent place for a [?????] young man to go to as there he might learn to speek and how to conduct him self at a public meeting.

159

The only thing about the S. of T. that I did not altogether like was that it was in some degree a secret society. And being such in my opinion was productive of both good and evel. It made out siders suspicious. But prevented suspected persons from entering It was a secret society where violations of its rules were examined as if it were a court. Being secret gave it firmness [discretion?] and strength. But of the Societys I liked the Old Temperance Society best. It was the mother of them all.

### *Some General Remarks*

I am while I write in the 68 year of my age and enjoy very good health for a man of my age. And during the And I have lived nearly 27 years in New Glasgow. And I thought I have had my trials upon the whole I have enjoyed much happiness in my social relations. And I have endeavoured to live at peace with all men. I have graduly become more retired in my manner of life seldom going out to entertainments I feel that my own home is the pleasantest to me I rise in the morning in summer about 4 o'clock and in winter between 5 and 6. I read a Chapter of the Bible verse about with the famley and pray morning and evening reading a chapter of the Old Testament in the morning. And a chapter in the New Testament in the evening in same manner. I generaly go to church in the forenoon I have pretty much given up going in the evening. And I employ the rest of the Lords Day in reading profitable books and sometimes papers light reading I do not indulge in I belive and rest upon Jesus as my Saviour. And I belived I have a change of heart. If I were to estimate my feelings by what I have seen, I would be found wanting.

160

I had when young a good religious training my mother was a sincere Christian and taught me Prayers questions and hymns. And explained the way of salvation as offered to us in the Gospel as soon as I could [lisfe] I learned to read when quite young and delighted to read the Bible especialy the Historical parts. And the [naritive] of our blessed Lord Jesus advent life works death and Resurrection. And I belive that I was early brought to a knowlege of the trueth I delighted in and went well prepared to the Sabbath School I learned many portions of the Bible by heart Browns Smaller and Larger Catechisms<sup>77</sup> most of Psalms in metre. All the Paraphases and Hymns I had times of dullnes and times of renewal and when in sins and sorrow sunk was reverred by the Grace of God. Though I felt that I had failings and shortcomings. I firmly belive that by the Grace of God I was kept from many of the errors of youth by his restraining grace. I had strong passions naturely And belive it would have been imposable by the rules and constraints of Morality alone to have restrained and subdued them. I thank God for the early pious training of my Mother. And moral precepts taught by my Father And the grace of God that restrained me from atrocious and presuptious sins That would have had dominion over me.

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<sup>77</sup> John Brown (1722-1787). Author of *A short catechism for young children*, among other works. This is the same individual who edited *The self-interpreting Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments...* Edinburgh: Peter Brown, 1838, a copy of which was in John Oliver's personal effects.

I imagine I felt more of the power of Religion in my my head than the world give me credit for though ???? the power I did not whine about it and in introduce on every ocation. I one time foolishly said to the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Walker My minister and my friend with whom I was very femeliar That I thought myself a better Christian then the world gave me credit for He said O John Oliver John Oliver But did not express any opinion and I did not ask it.

161

So I do not know what his opinion was. Perhaps he thought I was a good deal like the Pharasee "I thank thee that I am not like other men" The idea I intended to explain was that religion [shaped] my intercourse with man that I was guided by by its presepts that it sustained me under dificulties in trueth it made me feel "thou God test me" Though I had to lament sins of ommission and commission t'was my Buckler and my Shield. The shelter from the unruly storm and tempest. Like oil on the troubled waters

"Religion made the peevish ways of nature even

"And opened in my breast a little heaven"<sup>78</sup>

"Woe unto you when all men speak well of you"<sup>79</sup>

It is not very important in what estimation you are held by the world if your heart is right with God.

Still after all I belive the world comes pretty near the mark.

The hypocrite will betray his true character. And the Cloke will be too thin and transparent to hide the deformity of the iner man.

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<sup>78</sup> Matthew Prior, *Carmen Seculare*. "Soft peace she brings; wherever she arrives / She builds our quiet as she forms our lives / Lays the rough path of peevish Nature even / And opens in each heart a little heaven."

<sup>79</sup> Bible. New Testament. (King James Version). Luke 6:26

*A Discription of the people of Hawick*  
Near my native place. "McCulloch Geographical Dictionary"<sup>80</sup>

The people of Hawick are distinguished by the free spirit of their ansestors. "We doubt if a community could be found elsewhere more jelous then they are of what they concive to be their own rights; more keen and indefatigable in the working out of what they reckon to be their own interests, and more determined in asserting at all hazard what they deem to be essential to their own independence. Any thing like a sperit of vassalage to any man, or any class of men, how elevated soever in rank is what they cannot brook; and any attempt from what ever quarter to interfere with their ancient or established privileges are sure to be sharply and almost universally resisted. There are moreover few places where less attention to the ordinary distinctions of rank or where all classes are more disposed to associate on the fooling of equality."

The above description of the people of my native place was strongly exemplified in my father and mother and I feel a good deal of it in my own nature when I think men put on airs of superorety let their proffesion or standing be what it will. And I feel more disposition to curb the egotism of the would be great who owe more to their father or or grandfather or perhaps the tailor then they do to real merit or worth.

*I am a true Border man by decent*

Bringing down the names from the times of my Great-Grandfather and Great Grandmother to that of my father and mother. The names are

Oliver Elliot Glendining Douglas

Hardy Hunter Graham

Father claimed that his mother Margaret Douglas was of noble decent and was proud of his lineage and perhaps it is not quite extinguished in his son. I wrote some cases? where the name occured here is one.

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<sup>80</sup> John Ramsey McCulloch. *A dictionary, geographical, statistical and historical: of the various countries, places and principal natural objects in the world.* Two volumes. 1841-1842.

High honoured and elusterous name  
While Scotland lives will live thy fame  
Douglas I'm proud thy kin to claim  
Ansestors in Senate or in battle flame  
I sing their fate.

I have endeavoured to find out where the Olivers had their origin. And have been told by my father that they came from Normandy at the time of William the Conqueror though there is no history that records this that I know. But after that time the name is mentoned. And this has been handed down from father to son by tradition. And I have been informed by my father that Oliver, Olivier, Oliphant are variations of the same name it is without doubt a French as well as a Scotch name. Napoleon 3<sup>rd</sup> at the time of his overthrow had a chief Minister of the name of Olivier. And since the confederation of the British North American Provinces there was at one time in the Dominion Parliament three Olivers and one of them was French. These facts lead to the [suposition]

164

that the tradition that the Olivers first name came from Normandy is reasonably well founded.

An Acrostic composed by me in youth  
Join hand in hand King Richards cry  
On on with speed the Turks they fly  
Hew them down and win the hill  
Now blow the trumpet clear and shril.

Oliviat Mount shall be our own  
I him who pulls their Cresent down  
Vast with honours and renown  
Eached on his arms forever  
Praised high his name be Oliver.

The idea is that the Turks were in possession of the Mount of Olives. And Richard the Lionhearted was leading the Crusaders against the Turks and he who bore of the crescent was afterwards called Oliver.

“What is a name”

[The rest of page 164 is blank]

*“My Hobby”*

It is a saying among the Scotch That every man has his Hobby. Phrenology was my Hobby. I was much taken by the so called science. And studied it and read the leading authors Spurzham Gall Comb and Fowler<sup>81</sup>. And tried my hand in reading heads. And have oftentimes been told that I could well delineate the prominent traits of character who came to have their heads read. I believe that though not an exact science there is a strong element of truth in it. But I think the Old writers confined their investigations too much to the cranium. And that Phisognamay and Temperment ought to be included along with it. Temperament has been to a certain extent but the facial expression very little

*What good has it done me?*

What good has it done me? Is a somewhat difficult question to answer. I taught me to be seldom to be mistaken in those that I came in contact with. This and with an intuitive knowledge of character I seldom mistook the man. And it gave me a knowledge of the operations of the human mind. Also the various shades of character that actuate the mind of man. And I have learned much of Moral Philosophy in its study. Also Physioly. Perhaps it had the effect of making me judge too hastily of my brother man. I also got the habit of close investigation on subjects I thought upon. I did not study it as a profession or to make money but as a pastime. But lost a good deal of time by it I could not well spare by persons coming for a delineation of their character till became tired of it and at one time had thoughts of making it subservient to my financial interests but did

this design into practice and not now likely at the age of 67 years. When Professor Fowler was in New Glasgow he gave me a delineation of Character which I thought very good but rather flattering.

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<sup>81</sup> George Combe (1788-1858), Franz Joseph Gall (1758-1828) and Johann Gaspar Spurzheim (1771-1832), who co-authored *An Epitome of phrenology being an outline of the science as taught by Gall, Spurzheim and Combe....* Boston: Marsh, Capen & Lyon, 1835; O.S. Orson Squire) Fowler. *Fowler's practical phrenology*. 10<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: O.S. and L.N. Fowler, 1842. Two of the titles to which the author may be referring.

According to him I had great talents and powers of mind. "But had not brains enough" I did not shove myself forward enough; I think he was right. But touch my combativeness I think I had rather too much.

Professor Fowler acted quite the Gentleman with me and seemed pleased to find one so well versed as myself in his favourite science and invited me to stay with him in his rooms and learn as much as I could. And advised me to go into the thing as a profession but perhaps to use his expression I had not brains enough. I gave some lectures which were highly applauded some said I was a more fluent speaker than Fowler and better powers of description.

*Dr. Church Phisognomest and Phrenologist* combined the two and made a good job of them in the deliniation of character he examined me before a large meeting publicly where I was well known the people thought he came so near the truth that some of them called out "you knew him before" he also came very near Professor Fowers and their descriptions agreed very much much he did not point out any particular trade as Suteable but But instead of traits put down "*Inventor*"

167

### *New Glasgow 52 years ago*

In the year 1828 When I was with W<sup>m</sup> McLaurin at Pictou Town I was sent by him up by him to New Glasgow on some business with Charles Sutherland it was on the ice and I got a ride up and down With a Gentleman from Truro of the name of Witters who had stage coaches between Halifax and Pictou. The Indians that winter caught great quantities of Eels between what is now the Loading ground and Big Gut there were many of them on the ice and the results of there catch were thick around them wrigling on the ice twas said they had caught 100<sup>d</sup> of barrels.

I do not think there was then not more than a Dozen of buildings altogether. The late James Carmichals Store was a long low red building I think combining dwelling house and store; it was then frequently called the "little town" and it then diserved the name.

Though my fathers farm on the Middle River was only about 7 miles from New Glasgow I do not think I even went to it from the Middle River before. It was only a small town 27 years ago when I went to live in New Annan. And in the year 1855 when I came to live in it it had increased largely and now in 1881 there is probably 4000 inhabitants in it.

It was quite a lively little town when I came to live in it 27 years ago. And Shipbuilding was quite brisk. Cap<sup>t</sup> McKinzie built [hugely] Cap<sup>t</sup> Forbes Thomas Fraser (Yankie Tom) John Miline A Hently Hector McKinnon Don McDonald (Kirk) Carmichals etc.

168

*New Glasgow continued*

There was far more prosperity when I came to New Glasgow in 1855 then there is now in 1881. Shipbuilding has declined very much instead of 6 or 7 vessals being built in a year there is sometime one and sometimes none built in the year.

*Rail Road* The people of New Glasgow were were all ancious to have the railway go through or near the town. And looked to a brighter future when it became a reality. But in my opinion it has not financialy benefited the merchants of New Glasgow. Before the Railway came through the town They had the handling of all the spare produce of the farmers. And the farmers got their their supplies from the merchants who did not forget to take their profits. Many of the farmers on the extention of the R. R. to N. G. sent their produce to Halifax direct without comeing near our Merchants and many earned less money and had less to spend on improvements.

*The effect rising Villages of  
Hopewel Stelerton Westvile Vale*

has detracted much from the busness of New Glasgow where there is a great consumption of farm produce and where goods can be bought as cheap if not cheaper. The taxes have been very heavey since the incorporation of the town and in these villages they are much lighter and as they can live cheeper less profits will suport them. New Glasgow is the centre of the mining intrest and will be cheif but has in my opinion been much affected to the worse.

*Manufacturing might be got up*

But they could get up as well if not better without the bounds of the town where taxes are not so heavy. And where there would be less restraint for room and annoyance of noise and unhealthy odours. The Forge company moved their work outside of the bounds of the town on account of heavy taxes and watter.

*But if the Iron Age should arrive* and the mountains of iron ore should be smelted and converted into iron and stele then may New Glasgow flourish when Iron vessals may be built in New Glasgow for they cannot be floated to the sea farther up the river. Wood vessals construction are niver again likely to revive the prosperity of New Glasgow to any great extent. Iron vessals has taken the wind out of the sails of the Wooden Ones. The Mountains of ore and beds of coal on the East River must be utelized in the construction of Iron Ones. This is likely to be. But when will it be Is a question I cannot answer.

*Churches* 47 years ago there was only one Church in New Glasgow The Kirk where the new one is at present. Which was hauled down to New Glasgow from the summit of Frasers Mountain. In it the Rev<sup>d</sup> Donald Allan Fraser preached and after him the Rev<sup>d</sup> John Stewart. It was removed to make room for the new one and converted into a Tannery The Antiburgers had a church at Irish town now Plimouth.

where the late Rev<sup>d</sup> James McGregor preached after him the Rev<sup>d</sup> David Roy. I often went by short cuts to the church on Frasers Mountain walking over Gaggs Hill<sup>82</sup> and then to where it is at present after it was moved down. And sometimes I went to Irish town and after that to Sabbath School near Deacon Douglas's M.R. now called Alma. The distance to be covered in going to the church at Irishtown and to Sabbath School and returning would 13 or 14 miles. And to New Glasgow and Sabbath School going and returning 20 miles this I did regularly during the summer months.

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<sup>82</sup> Handwriting looks like "Oaggs Hill", but it could be Hoggs Hill.

Thomas Horn was often my companion in going to church one morning Thom and I were going to church at Irish town. At a certain point Thom made a stand in the wood and said come and get a glass. A glass of what says I you don't carry any and there is no house here. Never mind says Thom. Come in to the wood here and you will find out whither I can give you a treat or not. And sure enough he did not take me far till he pulled forth a jar and tin measure he filled the tin and drank and then filled it for me which I drank we then went on our way rejoicing. Deacon Douglas who was commissioner on the road had it for the use of his hands and on quitting work Thom was sent to hide it till they would return to work on Monday. You need not sit in judgment on us in 1881.

171

### *New Glasgow and New Annan Compared*

It would be difficult now to tell whether I improved my condition by coming to N. Glasgow. I stood much higher in the local scale then I ever did New Glasgow.

In New Annan I was popular and trusted and had a great deal of influence. And was looked up to for advice. And was a leader in the Publick affairs till it became a burdin and though my public duties brought me little gain my influence by a few awakened envy and created jelousy in an old ambitious and jelous famely who were among the first Settlers. I did not seek the honours and trust of my of my neighbours they were almost forced upon me. I resolved when I left New Annan to mind my private busness and to keep myself to myself. This I found quite easey to do little offices were all filled and the public affairs in working order and I kept quiet and slipped along. And was very little of a public man. And it is questionable that if even if I had been desireous of office that I would have been promoted beyond being juryman overseer of poor Supt. of S.S. And often in Office in the Sons of Temp. Patron of Cadets of Temp. About 9 years ago by the influence of Dr. Murray my friend then Member of the Provincial Parliament I was made a Justice of the Peace. But there was plenty of them. And I did not do much in they way of their ordinary employments I would not have been opposed to siting in judgment on some caces but then we had a Stipendary Magistrate and was not required sueing for debts I hated.

Now the Town and County are both incorporated. And J.P. almost an empty title.

In the Matter of Common School education for my children New Glasgow was much better than New Annan. But then the influences of evil associations were much greater in New Glasgow. And though I cannot accuse myself of negligence in the care of my family yet some of them gave way to drinking one at least.

In New Annan I could have settled three of them on ample farms of 100 acres each. In New Glasgow, they have had to scatter round. But then somehow I have a prejudice against settling many of a family round the homestead they often take more liberties with one another than strangers and I think there is more tattling. And differences when they occur are harder to alay than among strangers.

I took this notion when I was in New Annan. The first settlers had large grants of land and settled their families around them. And there were continued feuds and quarrels among them clashing and evil speaking. So I have come to the conclusion that it is not always best to have many of near kindred contiguous to one another. So on the score of having my family settled around me I cannot say whether it would be a boon or not.

Taking it all in all I cannot pass an opinion whether it would have been better or worse for my family. God Knows. I don't.

*Something as respects my own life in N.G.*

Though I was popular among the people of New Annan I think I have been as happy if not happier than I have been at any other period of my life. Though I have had trials and [vesceitions] and the loss of a beloved partner the mother of my children God has given me another who has acted the part of a real mother to my children and a loving wife to myself. And after I got rid of the roudies and got fairly settled I found much peace and contentment and the friends of the good and moral and religious in New Glasgow. And have been sustained under trials by leaning upon my heavenly father I have not become rich in worldly wealth. But this petition has been answered.

“Give us each day our daily bread  
and raiment fit provide.”<sup>83</sup>

My Profession Ship Carver it true has come to almost nothing but thank God I have had pretty good health and can work at other things to help along I work moderately and steadily and am able to do a good deal for one of my age 67 going in 78. Jan<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1881. So I am nearing three score and ten. My youngest John Howard is married and living with us they have a little son they call John Henry for this mother and I. And my Grand Son John Rob<sup>t</sup> My Son George’s child the only of his Mother is staying with us a very stiring little fellow of over 4 years of age.

174

### *Discription of myself John Oliver*

I would rather this would have been done by some other person that was well aquainted with me and would give an impartial pen and ink portrait. When I was about 8 years of age I was a stout fair haired boy though not as tall as many boys of that age. I think I niver meet any of that age that was stronger I had a large head and high fore head was very Shure footed and could run fast. And was fond of exercise. And whatever I was at I thought of nothing for the time. The Book. The work or Play was only thought of when engaged in them one thing at a time was a natural trait.

I was free talkative and without bashfulness when little. But without knowing why a time of bashfulness came over me and continued for about 5 years then wore of. My Growth was not quick I continued to grow in hight till I was twenty one years of age and was something over 5 feet 8 inches height and was then about 180 pounds weight. And continued slowly to increace in weight as I grew Older and from 55 to 65 continued to average about 265 pounds weight my weight has since I was 65 slowly decreased. In my 67 year I weight 250.

I am bald on the top of my head and my hair is turning grey and within the last 15 years I have lost the greater part of my teath. But my health is very good and has been all my life exept a Bronkal affection I have had from infancy brough on by inhaling the dust of flax as I lay in the cradle while my young industerous loving but unthinking Mother Scutched flax<sup>84</sup> near me and when I was lifted from the Cradle I could hardly breathe. This information I have from my mother.

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<sup>83</sup> Based on Bible. Old Testament. Genesis, 28:20.

<sup>84</sup> Retted flax and other fibrous material was often dressed by beating it.

I was broad on the shoulders and my girt round the Chist was about 48 inches. I think I had the best appearance when I was about 41 years of age and all that knew me when I was younger said so. I believe I was inclined to be somewhat absent minded and could write and think though the children were romping and playing around me. I seldom felt lonsome when alone I was hapy thinking.

I was quick tempered but not spiteful or what you call ugly tempered and could take a jock and give one but one thing I knew the points on which my comerades would lose temper and for fun would touch them on tenderpoints then laugh and and make my escape. My Eldest Sister Isabel who was only 15 months younger then myself often came for the play of this teasing mood but had often to run from the brom or dish watter. If any thing courious was said by her or blunder committed in reading it would be put past for future use as a specimen when reading verce about in the bible she would miscall words sometime for Psalms and Writtings she read Psalms and Wrotens sometimes in the greatest of good humour I would say Bell Psalms and Wrotens if the broom was in hand it was shure sure to be flourised after after me or if it was dish watter it would be pitched at me but I often escaped. Blessed are the peace makers for theres is the kingdom of God. I could set a whole bevey of girls and boys to wrangling in few minutes while I was as quite as [quit as puss] and put them in humor again I am not concious of having any evil design but for the fun of being a muss.

I loved my sister Bell but her cranky temper made her subject to angry spats but they did not last.

When she would get displeased at me she would call me ugley often reffering to great big heavey Brow.

I remember one time when she was feeling up such epithets like mountains piled on mountains Mother said Stop Bell. John is a better looking lad then you are a Girl. Bell said O Mother if I thought I was as ugley as John I would drown myself. This did not disturb me in the least I had raised this tempest in a Tea Pot. Now my dear Sister is far away in California and has been for about 30 years her and Her Husband was once home about 15 years ago. These are small matters but there is an old saying that "the Boy is the Father of the man" But I think I have long ago quit this teasing to a great extent but it is more refined and I seldom make

people angry but a little play of wit and humor and bandinage is pleasant even in my old age.

The Poet Thompson describing two on each ridge a lad and lass on their harvest field. Says

"The rural scandal and the rural jest fly harmless"<sup>85</sup>

So it was in my younger days. Though some time the jock would be carried too far.

177

*I Have always thought for  
myself on religious subjects*

I had a full and abiding conviction of the truth of the Holy Scriptures. Though I attended church Sabbath School and Prayer Meetings I could never take without examination the opinion of any man I would have made a Rebelious Roman Catholic where the Priest does the thinking. My Father was of the Established Church of Scotland and Mother an Antiburger. I doctine they do not differ and the standard of the churches the same. Though all my parental training in church dogmas was Calvinistic. And the churches Sabbath Schools and other religious meetings professed that isim from the time my intellect began to expand I had a leaning to Armenian views<sup>86</sup> not from reading works in that line but from my understanding of the Scriptures and I suppose the natural bias of my mind might have had something to do in the matter. As I have previously given my views where I recorded my opinions when I joined the Methodest Church I will not here enter into details. When I lived in New Annan I gave the Red<sup>d</sup> James Byers Those questions I have inserted in this Book under the head

*Certain Questions Scripturally Solved  
And Certain Other Questions Waiting for an Answer*

I told Mr. Byers if he could satisfactoraly answer these questions from a scriptural point of view

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<sup>85</sup> James Thomson, *The Seasons & Castle of Indolence*. (1845). "The rural scandal, and the rural jest, fly harmless, to deceive the tedious time" from his poem "Autumn".

<sup>86</sup> Possible reference to Arminianism, a movement dissenting from Calvinism and possibly associated with Methodists and Wesleyans.

in connection with the Calvinistic Standards I would be most happy. He made these questions the subject of two sermons. And awakened such a feeling of indignation among profest Presbeterians that it came before the session. But the young minister had only given them pure naked Calvinism and was not to be blamed for preaching the doctrines he had promised to uphold at his ordination. And preached too for the purpose of restoring an erring brother.

I cannot help thinking there is something terrible in preaching the decrees and predestination and foreordination. Electing some and leaving leaving some.

To hear it preached is haeful in its nakedness it is unwelcome even to those who profess to believe it.

*On another occation in New Glasgow*

I was drawn into Conversation with a Rev<sup>d</sup> gentleman of the name of McCulley on Election and the decrees. In argument at the fireside I felt that I was too much for him. But he was not to be foiled. Like Tam O'Shanters wife he nursed his wrath to keep it warm by preparing a sermon almost personal to be dellivred in the church in which I worshiped where I dust not answer him but I got up and walked out. The good Old Presbeterins allmost looked agast at this Disiple of Calvins. This was a time of inquirey. The Morisonians<sup>87</sup> were preaching in Pictou and oationally in N.G. and had made some prosolites and had aroused a spirit of enquirey among many who were not prepared to leave the Church of

their fathers. Mr. McCulley was I was informed admonished by the session that sermons on that subject had better be let alone at that time as they would be likely to arouse a sperit of anigonism rather then make converts. In this I think they were wise

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<sup>87</sup> Supporters of James Morison and the Evangelical Union, who argued for the universality of atonement, of the love of God and of the work of the Holy Spirit..

I am of the opinion that the doctrines that separate Evengalicals ought to be middle with as Seldom as posable for it is not unlikely that some minds may have a bias in regard to the droctrine preached against and antagonism may arouse antagonism in behalf of the doctrine preached against. Preach the great leading doctrine of Salvation by faith in Jesus Christ upon which all agree. In the animal creation there can be no dispute of who are men and who are not yet scarcely two among millions can be found exactly alike in form and phisogamy yet all are so like one another that there can be no dispute to what class of animate creation they belong to. Is it unreasonable to suppose that the meriads of minds are less divercefied then face and form or phical development. The different and seperate variations of mind are as natural as the variations of the outward form.

In the course of my reading long ago I read of an Old bigoted Spanish king who tried to get all his subjects to belive and practice Certain dogmas and failed he amused himself by watchmaking in which art he was skillful but he could not get two to go exactly alike then the truth at last dawned on his mind of the impossibility of getting all men to belive alike. But like many others his wisdom came too late.

180

*The late William [Lippencott]  
opinion of me*

he said I had a deep veneration for God but he thought I had little veneration for man. I had not thought of this before he said it of me. But upon reflection I think he was right. I feel it difficult to give honour to whom honour is due. And I prefer a Republican form of Government to any other Presbeterianism to Episcopasy.

*The wounderful progress in arts and  
and inventions in the last 50 years*

has been above all president in times past the laws that govern nature has been in operation since the creation and the minds of man as powerful in Antient times as at present how then comes it this tremendous progress within the last 50 years. Who can answer this question.

[large blank space]

I am now in the year 1881 going in My 68 Sixty eighth year and have treaded on the most prominent affairs of my life.

182 [should be page 181]

And hope I may have pardon for past sins and and streingth given me for time to come should the all wise God be pleased to prolong my days may I be enabled to live to his glory and honour and when he has done with me here. Through the mercy of God by Jesus Christ may I be received into glory.

[remainder of this page is blank]

183

*Miselanous Remenesences of the past*  
*Old Jack my horse*

I kept when in New Annan a pair of oxen and one Horse. I got him when a two year old and had him seventeen years before he died. He was get black without a spot he was high boned and not very handsome and not very good natured but by firmness and kindness I woon him over to be an obedient servent I had no need to whip for he would do his utmost without it and there was quite a friendship between us with a steep hill and a heavey load I had only to pat him on the neck and say now Jack and and he would do his utmost he seemed much hurt if I touches him with the rod just as much as to say you had no need to do that wherever I would go he would follow I have lead him on a log over a stream 8 feet from the watter 25 feet in length. Another time I had taken about two and a half bushels of wheet on his back to the Mill to have ground on returning with the flour on his back I turned of by a short cut I walked behind him but he seemed so glad to get the short way that he began to trot down the hill when the bags were about [sliping] on one side and ready to fall off he stopt and held up the bags with his nose till I adjusted them on his back then walked on quite pleased he would do almost any thing that a horse could but was niver pleased when I was not the driver he was all [docility] with me but not so with others he died of a stopage of the intestines I piled wood on him and burnt him to ashes Of his carcasse no Dog has a feast or Carion Crow croaked near his dead body carcasse.

To no dum animal had I ever such friendship

*Peculiarities Wasp a Setter Bitch*

I got a very fine specimen of this sort of dog fulley grown I got at [Burely] from Mr. William Conn. I took her from Conns in a bag and on the way home I opened the bag and mesmerised her by blowing my breath into her nosterols and patting her. She at once took up with me and seemed much attached me a would hardly bear to let her out of her sight and when I went to Church I had to let her go with me and she would be at my feet without string. She behaved extremely well and was useful when I went cut to shot partridges or rabbits. One Spring I had several black lambs and one by one they disappeared. I did not suspect my little dog. After all my black lambs were gone, my neighbour John M. Oliver began to lose them too and Wasp began to be suspected and was found in the act. So I had to shoot my little dog but what I thought strange was that the black ones alone were killed.

*Mistaken lenity to a Dog and  
what became of it*

Our first house was a small log one and in the fall one night after we were gone to bed I heard a roaring round the house. I lighted a candle by the bedside and got up and opened the door in ran a sheep and a dog after it. I shut the door and had both in the house. The Dog was so much in earnest I believe he would have worried the sheep in the house if I had allowed him. I was going to kill the dog as I had him in my power but my wife pled upon me not to do so.

but tell the owner of the dog and he would surely kill him. I yealded to her advice but I paid dearly for it. He was not killed by his as he promised to do. A night or two after this he worried and wounded 7 of my sheep that I had to kill them. He then shot the dog and that was all the pay I had for 7 fine sheep that were worth 18 or 20 shillings each.

### *Goose Berry picking*

An old unmarried Highlander of the name John Munro lived in the midst of the woods at least 2 ½ miles distant from from my clearing or house by the side of meddow of 7 or 8 acres in etxend and wild gooseberry bushes grew around the margin. We picked our berries and were on our way returning homeward Old Meddow Munro as he was usealy called was not at home there were three men counting myself and three women. On passing the house my two male companions began an attact upon the house doing all sort of mischief they could think of rousing the battans on the roof and were about breaking the windows. I remonstrated with them but could not prevail. And at last struck them to prevent the distruction of the old mans property and instead of destoring property they had to defend themselves. I was more then a match for each singley so I got some ugly looks and the house was spared further spoilation. My object in writing this is to show the devilish propensity in men to destroy. One of the men was a married man of famely and not young the other a man of about 25 years of age.

186

I have often thought of the acts of these two men but I am hapy to note that the ladies of our company disaproved of their doings and joined or there might have been a fight on account of my endeavours to protect "Old Meddow Munro" property. I think this disposition to destroy is strongly implanted in corrupt human nature. If a house is left uninhabited and left unprotected in most places the windows will be broken and the houses dismantled. Churches school-houses that are out of use meet with the same treatment. Even a fence that becomes broken or partly down the same process if distruction takes place. Phrenologests say the origin of destructiveness is implanted in our natures. That our enimes may be overcome and destroyed. And unsightly thing destroyed. Shurely there is an abuse of this [facuty] in Westvile and New Glasgow were no uninhabited house is safe for many days.

*An accident happened me when at  
Leatheads<sup>88</sup>*

We had made a new set of Fanners and were proving them by winnowing Oats. I was turning them and a mischevious Girl of the name of Agnes was playing tricks on me as she passed and I could not leave turning the fanner to pay her back the new cast iron cog which had been oiled and made a lot of black greacey stuff the thought struck me that I would charge my fingers with the black stuff quietly and when she came round again but my finger was caught in the Cogs up to the first joint so Miss Little escaped blacking that day.

187

I thought though I was disabled from working I could fish smelts through the ice but I got cold in it and had to go home and went to Dr. McDonald commonly called the "Black Doctor" who cut it of by the root of the nail at this time my youngest sister Mary. Now Mrs. George Kerr.

James Oliver my Cousin came from New Annan to invite us to his eldest Sisters Marriage with William Bell. Not being able to work I went with him to New Annan. And as he walked I went with him on foot but on our journey we were overtaken by a great snow storm and had to get lodging before we could get to lodging place and had hardy any bed on a cold winter night. I caught a very bad cold and suffered much from the pain in my finger. I bore up as well as I could and the second day we reached N.A. It was a great affair the wedding of my cousin Margaret and William Bell. He was a man over above 40 years of age and had a worn and not prepossessing appearance. She was a beautiful blond tall and exquisitely formed.

This was a forced marriage her father acted the tyrant and made his daughter marry this man against her will.<sup>89</sup> And though she lived with this till his death she niver loved him and he was jelous of her. And among other suspected myself which I am hapy to say was undeserved on my part. But she was not hapy.

I think forced marriages are improper. And that parties entering into the marriage relation oght to love one another and make their own courtship or a life of misery and distrust of one another is likely to follow. This marriage was the largest ever made in N.G. Hundreds were at from Tatamagoushe and New Annan.

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<sup>88</sup> See similar story in the inset box on page 28 of this document.

<sup>89</sup> More on this story at the end of the manuscript, unnumbered page 8

*After the marriage I fell sick*

And was at my uncles about a month and my father came from the Middle River and took me home in the sleigh. And when my finger got so that I could work I went back to Leatheads.

*May 10<sup>th</sup> 1844*

Father and Mother chose a place upon their farm at the Middle River for a burial place it was on the bank of the river. And to this favourite spot they would often walk on Sabbath afternoon it commanded a fine view of the eastern side of Green Hill and of the bends of the river fringed on its margin and banks with beautiful Elms and other hard wood trees.

After mother's death I wrote the following lines

Elderslie thy winding woods and streams  
 When spring o'er thee her verdant mantle throws  
 And nature all rejoiced in Pheobes beams  
 I'd walking oft with heartfelt pleasure new  
 With amorous flight the joyful songsters flew  
 My every sense with glowing ardour thrilled  
 And from thy breast poetic raptures drew  
 My heart both rising deep devotion filled  
 To him who gave us all who man such pleasure willed.  
 My circling time then whirled on wheels of gold  
 The time with seraph wing through seasons flew  
 No ominous baleful star my woes foretold  
 My flocks thrived crops rich luxuriant grew  
 Sweet balmy zephyrs o'er the woodland blew  
 Thy envious death a fatal dart hath thrown  
 To grave my love my hope my treasure drew

The smile that played upon the lips is flown  
 My dear Eliza is to death dominion gone.

In Sabbath summers eve when all was still  
 My dear Eliza walk and mine you grove  
 Of evergreen that spiny crowns you hill  
 The dark green conic fir and white birch strove  
 Their beauty to display as past we'd rove

The flood below the floury margin lave  
Thick foliage overhung it from above  
Bright sunbeams dance upon the silver wave  
In life we choose that lovely should be our grave.

O ye wild groves where now your bloom  
Oderiferous wafting fragrance in the gale  
You once had shade and walks but raise my gloom  
Mementoes dear of her whom I bewail  
Eliza gone ah cheerless is the vale  
Each shrub and tree that in the garden stands  
The fragrent woodbind that enraps the pale  
Each call her memory up and care demands  
Each shrub I hold it dear was was planted by her hand.

As when the bursting gloomey cloud is past  
Out shines the sun a glorious bow appears  
And gem reflected hues of glory cast  
Nature a lovelier robe of emerald wears  
On flowerles stems the blushing rose appears  
Eliza racking pains deaths conflict o'er  
More lovely then the rose her form uprear  
Dark bursting clouds hang o'er the scene no more  
Ther [heav'n] glory bright with rich effulgence pour.

Why o why has heav'n ordained it so  
 That I remain a pilgrim marked by gloom  
 That I must still a lonely wanderer go  
 Still busied memory lingers by her tomb  
 Fancy recalls her now in [virgin] bloom  
 As when by Etricks classic stream wood  
 My ardent soul too narrow found the room  
 When she in prime of youth and beauty stood  
 And our now death parted vow of union vowed.

Now no congenial spirit my bosom warms  
 To light the gloom Eliza is no more  
 When I'd be sad no more her presence charms  
 I'd linger by her grave when tempests roar  
 Unmindful of the rage my spirit soars  
 To the bright region free from all alarms  
 O God 'twas hard but teach me too adore  
 Wish I her here frail nature me unarms  
 My soul says no but frailty close in your arms.

Like norther meteors in in the evening Sky  
 The memory of the joys that past and gone  
 Elume the gloom and through the [???? ] fly  
 Mournful yet dear I love to think upon  
 Oh reminiscence sweet canst thou atone  
 Thy memory dear shall ease the bursting sigh  
 She gone she gone I'm left alone  
 Gone to join that great and glorious band  
 Beyond the flood heav'ns happy land.

*“Home Sweet Home”*  
*“Home is home be it ever so homely”*

The following lines were composed while on  
 a visit to my fathers at the Middle River farm.  
 I was walking and composed as I went along  
 the west side of Green Hill.

1. Green Hill while circling around thy base  
 Sweet thoughts of home would me solace  
 My weary steps with vigor brace  
     Beyond compare  
 Maternal love the fond imbrace  
     My Heart was there
  
2. As near the eastern heights I drew  
 My fathers dwelling ‘pears in view;  
 Cottage white smook curling blue  
     I think I’m there  
 And hear the friendly how de do  
     O friendships dear.
  
3. O nearest dearest friends on earth  
 Encircle the parental hearth  
 O rich the boon the social mirth  
     When we return  
 Dear dear the home that gave us birth  
     We distance mourn.
  
4. I now the eastern slope descend  
 Afar the sky and mountains blend  
 The waving corn in billows bend  
     Beneath the brease  
 And many [milkmaids] ditty [bland]  
     Sweet scene to please.

5. I'll reign Pegasus flying speed  
 That neighing prancing shakes his head  
 A widow here in mourning weeds  
     In Sables drest  
 Bryden lies numbered with the dead  
     Mong men the best.
  
6. O hadst thou had but classic lore  
 Thy powerful mind would boundles soar  
 Thy floods of eloquence to [prove?]  
     In Strains sublime  
 A noble mind this rustic love  
     Now past from time.
  
7. And you old Vulcans burly son \*  
 Where is thy hammer and the dun  
 The smuty joke and merrey fun  
     Has ever ceaced  
 Thy day is o'er thy work is done  
     Thou too disseaced.
  
8. I. D. thou has survived the storm  
 Time bow thy once proud martial form  
 Yet still thy step is free and firm  
     Though fire and smoke  
 You still might ride in caplain trim  
     In battles shock.
  
9. High honoured and elusterous name  
 While Scotland lives will live they fame  
 Douglas in proud thy kin to claim  
     Ansistors great  
 In saints or in battles flame  
     I sing their fate.

10. Comingled passions thrilling start  
 And through my veins with ardour dart  
 Here liv'd the loved one of my heart \*  
 Heven endow  
 With worldly bliss and joy impart  
 She brake no vow.
11. Now here the stream that I love best \*  
 The river 'tween the east and west  
 I'll seat me on they banks to rest  
 While I renew  
 A scene by art and nature drest  
 A pleasant view.
12. There wittey Davey on the hill \*  
 Is he jockose and merrey Stile  
 And sings a song with daddy Bill  
 With loud huza  
 And vexing care and sorrows kill  
 Song be their day.
13. His Betey love of the Nine  
 O may she flourish like the vine  
 Sweet cherub on her lap recline  
 To crown her joy  
 Old Elie Hannah blamed with wine  
 Her prayer a boy.
14. D. M. in youth thy prospects high  
 Agile thy body quick thine eye  
 For scence and wit there's few could vie  
 O fatal state  
 True oak is oak best weet or dry  
 I love the Streo

15. O plant the Lauril on his grave  
McLeods were ever true and brave  
There banners oft to victory wave  
With high renoun  
God has resumed the life he gave  
In heaven to crown.

16. My flight is o'er my Mother here  
My sisters and my father dear  
Suffuse my eyes that joyful tear  
They are all well  
I now can breathe the free'r  
Pegasus fell.

Between the 7 and 8 verces insert this verce

Old Nugent too is gone oh me  
Now closed the backanalian Spree  
Now staid the sleep bold firm and free  
Laid up the gun  
That volleys poured to victory  
With Wellington.

Edward Brigdon. William Hatch. Old Nugent. James Murphy an  
Old Soldier. J. D. Deacon Douglas.

10 verce. Maragaret Douglas, now Mrs. Rob<sup>t</sup> Gerrard.

Witney David David Fraser, Daddy Bill [William D's Father]

Fraser. D. M. David Marshall much given to drink

McLeod Alexander McLeod

Note: On the 65 page of this manuscript I have inserted the above lines  
from memory, but afterwards found among my papers the above which  
I prefer.

*Written by my Father after Mothers death*

“Near by her grave the river flows  
 Upon its banks the green wood grows  
 There feathered songsters oft I see  
 In summer make sweet melody  
 The humming birds come also here  
 The juice of baum away to bear  
 To see her grave I sometimes go  
 When covered deep with virgin snow  
 Here when my rac on earth is run  
 May I be laid by my loved one.”

Yes he is now laid by his “loved one.”

Father composed the following for a head stone to be erected at my Mother’s grave.

## In Memory

In memory of Elizabeth Daughter of George Hardy  
 and Isabel Grham Berwickshire Scotland and wife  
 of Robert Oliver Elderslie M.R. She was born May  
 1794. Married Sept. 1811. Died 2 1843. Much regreated.

Here lies one livey gay in this cold narrow house of clay  
 A virtious wife a loving mother kind to parent sister  
 brother. Twelve children she to us did bear nine lives she  
 train with pious care doth sleep. Her mortal part why  
 should I weep now free from trouble calm. Her spirit left  
 this lone abode defending on the lamb of God. Almost her  
 last words were do you prepare for death and Come to me.

Father requested me to write an Epitaph without letting me know what he has composed himself. The following is a copy which composed which he choose with addition by himself of the quotation from Proverbs.

*In Hope*

*of a resurrection to eternal life through the mercy of God by Jesus Christ. Rests the mortal part of*

*Elizabeth Oliver*

*Daughter of George Hardy and Isabel Grham  
Berwick Shire Scotland and Wife of Robert Oliver  
Elderslie M.R. She died Aug<sup>1</sup> 21 1843. Aged 49 years.*

*“She opened her mouth with wisdom in heart was  
was the law of kindness. She looked well to the ways  
of her household and ate not the bread of idleness.”*

Father died 28 years after my mothers death in the 86 year of his age in the month of June 1871. About 3 years after my mothers death he was married the second time to Miss Catherine Ross with whom to the time of his death he lived over 25 years. There was no famely by his second marriage his widdow still lives at Westvile with her neice of the same name whom Father and Stepmother brought up. Who was married to my Brother George’s Eldest Son Isaac by whom he had two daughters.

“Each varying scene of changeful life is from the Lord alone.

“He gives in gladsome bowers to dwell or cloths in sorrows shroud

“His hand hath formed the light his hand hath formed the darkness<sup>90</sup>

As the oses in the deasert to the weary parched and thirsty Arib. So my mother was to me a spring of comfort a sunny place in my affections my first great love.

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<sup>90</sup> Text from *The Christian Psalmody, comprising the Book of Psalms arranged in suitable portions and congretational hymns...* (1834), Hymn 125, page 247.

*Recolections of Eminent men Novascotians*

I was personally acquainted with Adams G. Archibald now Governour of Nova Scotia.<sup>91</sup> I head him plead his first cause in the Court House Truro it was a cause of ejectment. I have rode round with him on canvassing excursions in New Annan when he sought the Suggestages of the people

as their representative in the house of Assembly. I often heard him speak in the Truro Court house I was often there as a juryman and Witness. He was then a pleasant enough fellow in private I recolect on a law suit between I. M. Oliver and Edw<sup>d</sup> Langele of New Annan. I was subpeaned as a wittnes by Oliver. In a preliminary examination he pressed hard upon me to antidate the real date I told him I would not say anything but what I knew to be trueth. I niver had so high an opinion of Archibald after that Oliver lost the Lute and probably he would have gained it if the time that Arch<sup>d</sup> wanted to make out had been the true time. I carved a stone Sun Dial for his gardin in Truro. And brought a Croscut Saw for him from Halifax when I was there for breadstuffs. In the year one Thousand Eight Hundred and Corn Meal.

*Rev<sup>d</sup> John Geedie<sup>92</sup> Missonary Anitrum*

When we lived at the Denoon farm about a mile below Pictou Town Mrs. John Geedie Johnys mother was in poor health. And got rooms in our house during the summer months for the benefit of June air and conveniance for bathing. I then became acquainted with Johny who would be about three years my senior. I was about 7 and he would be about nine or ten years of age.

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<sup>91</sup> Adams George Archibald. Born 1814 in Truro, Nova Scotia; died 1892 in Truro Nova Scotia. Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, 1870-1872; 4<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, 1873-1883.

<sup>92</sup> John Geddie (1815-1872). "The father of Presbyterian missions in the South Seas."

he was small of his age dark complected and thought something peevish I did not like him very much he was not jovial and kindly and often left his mother to go to school with a tear in his eye. I could not then see any thing that foreboded the Christian hero I had no correspondence with him afterwards. Till he tried to arouse the Presbeterian Church. In the missionary cause. And Said to the Church "lo I am here send thou me" I was then recognized by him as an acquaintance of boyhood but he was then a man of one idea. The mission had little time or spirit to renew acquaintance. I never thought much of the wisdom of sending mission to Polinisia or the New Heberdies. Among the lowest and most degraded of the Human race Canibals. "Dog will eat dog" but these monsters feasted on one another My idea was that they should have chosen a nobler life of the human family for evangelizing on his visit to nova scotia I heard him lecture in James Church New Glasgow but did not make myself known to him.

*Dr. Dawson Geolgest etc.*

I was acquainted with J. W. Dawson from the time we were boys. He was a fine mild pleasant boy [studious] but not in the least arrogant or overbearing and we kept up the friendship till he left the Province for McGill College. He was in some way connected with the Bee a newspaper published under his fathers name to which I used to contribute. And when I went to Pictou I used to call on him he spoke highly of my contributions and encouraged me to write. He used to mention me as their "correspondent" And which he was Superintendent of Education he visited me several times and he was always a welcome visitor.

When he was Superintendent of education he used to ride in a two wheeled carriage then in fashion called a fly a very homely one. I repaired it once in New Annan. He carried around with him a Pick and hammer and had lots of different specimens of rocks. I took him to a vein of copper ore upon my place he said it was rich but could not be got in quantity to pay. The same vein was wrought on another part of the farm after I sold it to the Late Abram Patterson Esq. and sent away in barrels but was after a time relinquished. In our conversation, said that he did not think that there was any gold to be got in Nova Scotia here he was mistaken. And shortly after he published a work on the Geology of the Province where the same idea is entertained. Before this I felt I could sit at Dawsons feet but my faith in him began to give way. And further though I have been in favour of Temperance all my life when He

published a pamphlet endeavouring to show that the Scriptures spoke of wine as proper to be used it was unfermented<sup>93</sup>. I could not think that a man so wise as Dr. Dawson would try to prove this. I believe that intoxicating wine was used. What does it mean when Jesus made wine the Governour Said thou hast kept the good wine until now. No man putteth new wine into old bottles. Wine that cheers the heart of God and man Give Wine to him that is of a heavey heart. No man having drunk Old wine straight desireth because the old is better.<sup>94</sup> Drink no longer watter but use a little wine for thy Stomacks sake. This publication will shed no honour on Professor Dawson in my opinion.

200 [labelled 100]

John Stiles was a son Easrial Stiles. Him and I were Schoolfellows near the 3 Mile Inn, In a large unfinished pavilion roofed house built by a man of the Name of Logan. Stiles and I were generaly very good friends. And as all the schoolers carried a piece with them Stiles had some very white butter on his bread for to tease him I told him that it was hogs lard Stiles resented this and struck me but I did not turn the other cheek but struck him but a clout or two settled him he was taller then then I was and looked stouter but he was no match for me at boxing When he conducted the Mechanic and Farmer I wrote a good deal for that Papper and was a welcome correspondent.

William Ives was a fine fellow always pleasant and agreeable. And a favourite in the school he was nearly man grown and I was only about 10

John Campbell afterwards the Rev<sup>d</sup> John Campbell was a diligent scholar and assosiated little with any of the schoolers I met him some years after And teasingly said to I suppose you will be coming out a minister the answer I got was “o damn the ministers” I thought that a terrible expresion. And I always thought of it when I heard him preach. But I was to blame for teasing him he Babtised my eldest son Robert at Tatamagoushe.

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<sup>93</sup> Dawson, John William, Sir, 1820-1899. *The testimony of the Holy Scriptures respecting wine and strong drink: being the substance of a course of lectures delivered before the Pictou T.A. Society.* Pictou, N.S. : Pictou County Temperance League, 1858.

<sup>94</sup> Bible. New Testament. (King James Version). Luke 5:39. “No man having drunk old wine straightaway desireth new.”

In the 149 page of this manuscript I have written a good deal about my father. He came to New Glasgow and rented a house about 100 yards from me from John. F. McDonald Esq<sup>r</sup>. I there attended him as well as I could and shaved him and otherwise made him as comfortable as I could allways visiting him twice a day at at least and oftener if he was not so well as common He read a great deal and it was his ammusement. Authenic history was his favourite reading he delighted to read McAuly History of England<sup>95</sup>. He allways kept up Famely worship reading the Bible and praying. And then amused himself with some Historical work. He scarcely read any works of fiction even Sir Walter Scots works he did not value much he was a great lover of trueth and strightforwardness. And would make great sacrifises for the sake of trueth. I niver knew him to tell a willful lie.

He was fond of reading of Battles and Scotish heroes Sir William Wallace and King Robert Bruce and for Wallace called his farm at the middle river Elderslie the place where Wallace was born he could recite by heart warlike poems such as “Chevey Chase” and “Sir James the Rose” etc. He was honorable and independant and manly and scorned to do what he thought a mean act. And from what he told me in his dotage In youth he was combative and would fight for his honour and what he thought to be ????? his rights though he never wanted to fight for fighting sake but he was high strung and for his size strong and powerful with great endureance and nervous energy. And his [antijonest] unvariably came off sccond best if I was to belive him and I did belive him.

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<sup>95</sup> Thomas Babington Macaulay, *The history of England from the accession of James the Second.* (1849).

*This leaf is inserted*

*Hard Times on entering on possession  
of the Middle River Farm*

This farm was occupied by a man of the name of Robert Watters contained two hundred acres and was bought by My Father. And one David Rogers who was next neighbour when we lived at the head of the Harbour the divided it and cast lots for the part each was to have. My father got the poorest land but there was a square log house upon his lot by lot he afterwards purchased Rogers part and then 50 Acres from one Hugh Fraser. Now it was a farm of 250 Acres but before this was accomplished there was much hard work and pinching I had very hard work Father kept me continually at work very often poorly clothed and barefoot. Often foot sore and wearied I have longed for Sunday when harrowing with an old nag. The life and spring was almost wrought out of me.

I nearly lost life by unsuitable clothing. Much of the upland was grown up with second growth wood on a piece that had been cut and burnt I was sent to twitch the scorched poles to the house for firewood. Of trousers I had only one pair and they required mending Mother made me put on a pair of Fathers. They were far too large for me. As I was about hitching the hook into the ring chain it caught into the head band of the trousers and of the fiery old mare set with a gallop with me for a [twitch] I called out wo! wo!! But the faster she went in this fashion I was [lurched] over a corduroy bridge over a swamp for at least a hundred yards and then there was another 100 yds over.

Unnumbered #2

Spikey sharp pointed newly cut alders to go over if the buttons or button holes did not give way it was dreadful to think of it short as the time was I did think of it and the thought was horrible. But by the mercy of God I was enabled to grasp a stump while she made a quick turn and the fastening gave way before I got far into the spikey path and Old Cate galloped home with the [swingletree]<sup>96</sup> clinking at her heels. I got up unhurt but with no cover for my nakedness the shirt and Trousers were torn to shreds in front when the old mare appeared at the door in an excited state Mother went to look for me. And when she saw me trying to hide myself with my torn cloths she could not think what happened me but I told her what happened she felt glad that was not worse.

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<sup>96</sup> A **swingletree** (British Isles) or singletree (North America) is a wooden or metal bar used to balance the pull of a draught horse or other draught animal when pulling a vehicle.

Solomon somewhere says the destruction of the poor is their poverty. It had very nearly caused my death. The old mare always made a rush when hooked to a twitch.

A narrow escape from bleeding to death. I had pleased my father by a considerable period of steady work. One day he told me I might amuse my self that day in any way I thought proper. I got wearied with nothing to do and got a drawing knife and went to the woods to peel Hemlock Bark to finish a little tanning we were doing at home. I was not long at work before I cut my knee dreadfully across the cap of the knee. I cut an artery and the blood spurted at every pulsation like watter from a Syringe. I heild the lips of the wound and sent my Brother George to the house to get help.

Unnumbered #3

*School School at the Brook  
Near Samuel Archibalds Taught by  
Old Mr. John Casiday*

I went for a few months to this school and got praise for improving my time Mr. Casiday was an Irishmnan. He was only a middling scholar he used rod or Taws seldom he used to make delinquents stand in a corner on a Stool. Sometimes he used a ugly mask with goose quils for teeth which was much dreaded when some great fault was committed he sent out a Jurey to decide what punishment the Culprit was to recive. A Forman was chosen and the cause was argued pro and con with greatest earnestness and solemnity the sentence was generally approved by Mr. Casiday who passed sentence on the culprit I niver offended I think upon the whole he was a good teacher. And could teach very well what he understood. He went from the Middle to live in the Magdalan Islands and died there. He brought up a Granddaughter a reputed daughter of the late Adam Carrs. She was rather picked at by some the scholars especialy the females I supose on account of iligitamacy. She was a fine looking fair haired girl. And I befriended her and protected her and shamed her persicutor. And for my kindness she got the name of Mrs. Oliver. If I loved it was Calf love for I niver thought of marriage. The Poet says "pity melts to love"<sup>97</sup> I have the conviction that the female sex are less noble and forgiving and apter to find fault than the sterner sex. Poor Mary I could not bear to have her chided for no fault of her own. When fully grown up she was well married and fulfilled the duties of wife and mother.

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<sup>97</sup> Dryden. "The mighty master smiled, to see / That love was in the next degree / 'Twas but a kindred sound to move / For pity melts the mind to love."

Unnumbered #4

[where Oliver continues the story of his near-death by bleeding]

Father came to the woods and carried me home it was bound up and I was put to bed I felt it [eassey?] but in a little the blood was seen on the floor in considerable quantity where it had soaked through the bed [tike] Then there was quite an alarm least I should bleed to death. Astringents were tried but failed. Cobwebs were tried but failed to. A. McLeod our neighbour said he had known pigs dung proving good in stopping bleeding it was applied and the bleeding stopped. But I was very weak with loss of blood and when it was healed up if went to work fast I would like to faint. But in a little time I was myself again.

*A Snake winds itself round my leg*

Father was mowing some poor hay and making me follow him with a rake to draw the swaths into one. I unknowingly had tramped on the tail of a snake and it wound itself round my leg. I looked down and the reptile was up to my knee. I ran and kicked and kicked and ran but his snakeship heild on till some bushes obstructed my way to the river to which I ran it then let go I was not hurt in the least. I was more frightened then hurt. I had a ugly feeling and this fear of its supposed venemous bite made me run and kick like furey.

*Mousey runs up my Trouser leg*

While raking hay a mouse ran up my Trouser leg. He took a frolic round the seat of my trousers. I grabed round and round on the outside and at last caught it in corner I could not let down my trousers there were ladies in [illegible] What fun I [bottom of the page torn]

Unnumbered #5

*Sabbath School*

Of teachers the late John Douglas Deacon was Cheif. Though he was well supported by Andrew Marshall Isaac Archibald David Archibald William Fraser and Mrs. David Archibald and others. I regularly attended this School when ever I was at my father and learned much and loved to go and after I was well grown up was frequently employed to teach when a vacancy among the teachers ocured. In the early days of Sabbath Schools there was a vacacation during the winter months and the school was kept on the barn floors of either Deacon Douglas or William Fraser. After that in a log school house near where the present one is at Alma. Then at Archibalds Mills. The Late Robert Dawson took a great interest

in Sabbath Schools about the year 1854, And went round the country endeavouring to stir up interest in them and I believe did much good. I attended school at Pictou when I was with McLaurin, at Durham when I was at Leatheds. Since that time I have Taught Sabbath School in New Annan and then in New Glasgow for about 40 years out of that time I was 13 years superintendent of James Church Sabbath School.

*How I was elected Teacher Superintendent  
Of James Church*

I had no intimation until the Teachers insisted I should take the office I think I took the office to hastily. I was hardly aware of its responsibilities. I got along very well with the teachers Mr. John Millar was the only one who did not seem to cordially acquiesce in my election he was the difficult to manage among them all though there was no real trouble he often seemed [uneasy] and restive.

Unnumbered #5

On all important matters with respect to management of the S. School I generally held a short meeting after the S.S. was dismissed and brought the subject before the teachers and if the thing was argued and there was a difference of opinion it was put to vote and the majority carried this I found to work well and every teacher found that there was no important step taken without the majority being in favour of it and any of the Teachers could at the meetings submit his views of any thing advantages to the S.S.

*A man of the name of Taylors long  
in the water yet resuscitated*

Taylor or Taylor was from between Rogers Hill and the West Branch of River John and a Mason by trade and had left his home to work at his trade at Porta Bella at the Canal and a man about 40 years of age.

On a Sabbath day he went to bathe in a lake through which the Canal runs he swam out boldly into deep water to a high rock that rose out of the water which was surrounded by deep water on all sides and rested himself on the rock for a little time and then went into the water again to return to the shore while on the way returning he sunk and was for an hour under water before he was recovered. It was thought that undoubtedly he was drowned. But attempts were made to resuscitate him which were effectual in bringing him to life which were successful and though he lived he was not able to work any more at the Canal. I have mentioned this to several Doctors they all doubted me he said that some fit

came over him in moment. I saw him many years after this. And he told me he never felt well after the long imersion. And that all heard of it said they [bottom of the page cut off]

Unnumbered #7

*On Marrying a Widdow*

I wrought and borded for two or three weeks at Dartmouth with an Englishman of the name of Ash. He was married to widdow the union was not a happy one. Mrs. Ash was coninually complaining to her husband about this and that and telling him how well off she and her first husband were of. Ash I thought did his part fulley as well as she did hers. She was a most disagreeable partner. After this I would not advise any friend to marry a Widdow. The saying "first love can only love once." When a woman is first married to a man she realy loves and he dies her mind is likely to revert to the good points in his character while the blameable and unworthey traits are smoothed over and forgotten. A maidden marrying when her feeling are warm and her passions strong when the union with her husband is disolved by death. Can hardy on a second marriage be expected to give a second lover the respect and love she gave to the first. And during married life there is likely to be compareisons of the past and present often unfarely given against the second husband however this may be I then thought If God in Providence gave me a feamale partner and she should die I would niver seek a Widdow for a Wife. Ash's wife had some wining ways but her continual talk about her first husband spoiled all. And soured Ash and no wonder when she was continually picturing his dead husband to him as being a pargon of goodness.

Unnumbered #8

*Effects of Using undue influence  
of Geeting a young Girl to marry a man  
of 45 years of age.*

My Uncle John Oliver was a kind man in maney respects but he was a despot in his famely and would not submit to any advice from any of his famely. William Bell a man of at least 45 years of age in fact some avered that he was 50 paid his addresses to Miss Oliver a young girl of between 15 and 16 years of age but she repelled him and as he did not succed with the girl he appealed to her father who was favourable to Bells proposal and urged his daughter to mary Bell. But she told her father she did not love Bell and would not mary him. But he used coercion and chastisement in order to make her submit.

Finally she gave way to her father's will and was married to Bell. The result was that she did not live happily with him and often reflected on her father for causing her to marry an Old man. Her feelings ran after the young men of her own age and she was not prudent enough to conceal her longings for a more suitable partner. She was handsome and perhaps [????] though improper approaches were made to her in praise of her beauty and pleasing address. The result was that Bell was jealous of her. They were both of them to be pitied She for her longing for a suitable partner. He for his mistrust of his wife.

From the above we may learn the impropriety of Parents going beyond prudent advice. And men desiring marriage where love is not reciprocated by the fair one. As for the young female [illegible]