

# Incidents of A Life.

Being a Record of 70 years experience of Gods Goodness & Mercy; Psalm 23 - 6

Surely goodness & Mercy ~~will~~ <sup>shall</sup> follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever; Psalm 23 - 6

By reference to the Parish Register of the Parish of Ordequhill - County of Banff - Scotland, and to the fly leaf of my Mothers Family Bible; it appears, that I was Born, at Overton in the said Parish on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1789, being the same year in which the French Revolution burst forth. I was the youngest, save one of Ten Children, (4 Sons & 6 Daughters) all of whom have come to a respectable old age except 1 Girl (Hellen) who, Died in Infancy of thump of Measles. There are yet living, Isobell - Mrs Heshburn; Elisabeth - Mrs Christie; Mary - Mrs Morrison; <sup>aged 74</sup> <sup>aged 72</sup> <sup>aged 68</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> the youngest of the Family and myself, aged 70.

My Father was a man of Great Physical force, being 6 feet 3 inches high; he, and all his ancestors, so far as I have been able to trace them, were Roman Catholics: they are said to have emigrated from Ireland, some centuries ago - in disguise, accompanied by one John Gordon, they having been implicated, as two Principals, in one of those many struggles Ireland has engaged in, unsuccessfully to regain her Liberty from the English-Saxon Rule. These two men John Gordon & Tho Dawson, according to Tradition are the Parties referred to in the well known Song or Ballad of "Jack & Tam an' a' Comin"; Be this as it may, the head, or chief of the

Family, in the North of Scotland has, for a long time been the Descendants  
of Crombie in the Parish of Marnoch, which claimed my  
Father as a kinsman, and with whom he was always on terms of  
intimacy. My Grand father was James Dawson, Farmer of Oletton  
Parish of Cairney, who married a Miss Gordon of Tulichalm, in  
the Neighboring Parish of Ruthven. By her he had two Sons, John  
(My Father) and James who, Rented a Farm in the Neighboring  
Parish of Ruthven, and was the father of a large Family, Chief  
Sons. My Father died before his Wife, and was buried in our  
place in Cairney. His Wife married again to some person in  
seen, and at her Death was interred in her own Family Ce-  
metry in the Parish of Ruthven, by her two Sons aforesaid.  
I have good reason for believing that they were all Roman Catholics.

My Father was much Superior to the ordinary Class of Roman  
Catholics, in Education, Intelligence and Liberality. While he  
claimed the liberty to think for himself in religious matters  
he freely extended the same right to all others; It was, therefore  
a settled point with him, never to enter into any religious  
disputes. He was a strict observer of the Sabbath day, and  
seldom failed in his attendance at Chappel, altho' distant  
3 or 4 Miles, at a place called Aberchirder, in the Parish  
of Marnoch. He read Protestant Religious Books, as well  
as Roman Catholic ones, and on some occasions heard Protestant  
Sermons, for which offences he was subjected to Discipline &  
Penance by his Priest. He was attentive to his Private De-  
votions, when I was a mere Child, I can remember having  
seen him repeatedly on his Knees at his morning and  
Evening Exercises. He was emphatically a man of Peace,

both in & out of his family, and never suppressed zeal for  
propagating his own Faith, to disturb his good understanding  
with his Neighbors, or mar the Peace of his own family.

I have been told that he asked my oldest Brother (George)  
when about the age of 15 or 16 if he would go with him to the  
Chappel, which he declined, and, besides this, I am not aware  
that he put the same Question to any other of his Children,  
we were all, I believe Baptized by the Parish Minister  
in Infancy, our Mother taking the Baptismal engage-  
ments on herself. This liberality on my Father's part constituted  
in the mind of his Priest and his fellow-worshippers, another  
serious offence, for which he was threatened with the Ana-  
themus of his Church. In the Parish, he was highly esteemed  
as a man of Great Probity and uprightness of Character, so  
much so, that in almost every instance of Differences arising  
among his Neighbors, recourse was had to his Mediation,  
and he seldom failed to reconcile them; another evidence  
of the estimation in which he was held is to be found in the  
fact, that for a long Series of Years he held the responsible  
and honourable office of Parish Birleyman, to which he  
had been appointed by the unanimous voice of the Parish  
ioners, the Duties of which consists in turning over Stacks of  
unthreshed Grain, laying aside <sup>an average</sup> ~~a~~ Sheaf for every twenty or  
5 percent of the whole, which is threshed out & cleaned  
and measured on the spot to determine the quantity in  
the Stack, and both Buyer & Seller are bound by Oath to abide  
by his Decisions. There is only one of such officials in every  
Parish, so that he has a monopoly in his Trade, and the 5 per Cent  
of Grain forms his remuneration.

he died on the 18<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> in the year 1822 at the age of 80 years and was buried with his ancestors in the Old Parish Cemetery of Carviny, over which a Tombstone was erected by myself and Brother George in 1824.

When I left home for the N<sup>o</sup> A Colonies in 1811 my Father was very much affected at our Parting, he shed many Tears, and could scarcely refrain from Crying, - I took advantage of his being in that Condition to speak to him about his Religion, and among other things I said, I begged of him to read & study the Bible and I promised him that if he did so in earnest and in a Prayerful Spirit, it would guide him as to what he should believe & what to reject. and concluded with a hope that if it pleased God to spare us both to meet again, he would be prepared to change his Creed for the Protestant one. The next time I saw him again, which proved to be <sup>the</sup> last, was in the Winter of 1816, at which time, I found that the Priests still managed to get him to hang on to his old belief, tho' with a good deal of reluctance, and had to bid him farewell in that unhappy State as I could not get him to come boldly out a Protestant, he promised, however, to give the matter another Consideration Six years after that Interview he died, and as I had heard nothing of any Change in his views, I was left to conclude that he had died a R<sup>o</sup> Catholic. The Reader, then may judge of my feelings when I tell him, that not a year ago, a Sister who was present when he died, communicated to me through a valued Correspondent the cheering fact that he died a Protestant. For a long time he had not attended the Chappels, with which the Priest was very angry, he thought, no doubt, that the

best punishment he could, inflict upon him would be  
not to visit him in his sickness till he sent for him, but  
in the meantime my Father, having had some very friendly  
interviews with Rev<sup>d</sup> ~~John~~ Primrose an Aulicurg  
Minister <sup>at Whitehill</sup> in the West Parish, (Gungah) sent for him, when  
he found he was dying, and he was by him when he  
breathed his last, and heard him express his firm be-  
lief in Christ as his Saviour. This intelligence has been  
to me a most unspeakable comfort and has relieved me  
from a load which has hung on my mind for more  
than 30 years, for which I desire to Express deep thankfull-  
ness to almighty God.

My Mother was a Pious, good Woman, and a member of  
the Established Presbyterian Church; she gave all her Children  
a careful training in the Scriptures and the Shorter Catechism  
thus discharging the obligations she had taken upon herself  
at their Baptism. The Sabbath afternoons were always  
spent in Catechising, Reading the Bible and other Religious  
Books, in which Exercises our Father took no part, nor  
interfered. Her Father was George Mitchell Esq, Pro-  
prietor of the small Estate of Frenclough in the Parish  
of Forgue, Aberdeenshire. He had one Son (James) who  
studied Medicine and Practised in that Parish, I have  
not been able to learn who he married but he had Issue  
4 Daughters and no Son, - he therefore left the Estate in the  
hands of Trustees to be managed for their Benefit, but  
upon the Event of James, the second Daughter, marrying  
Dr Todd of Evro - Perthshire, it was deemed best for

all Parties to Sell the Estate, that each might find their Share of the Proceeds to their own liking, this was done and each ones Share amounted to about £600 Sterling. My Mother, Died 7<sup>th</sup> March 1805 at the age of 49 and was Buried in our ancestral resting place in Cairney. This took place when I was only 16 years of age.

The earliest Occurrence of my Childhood, of which I have any Recollection, must have taken place when I was little more than two years old. My Mother, had just given Birth to her 10<sup>th</sup> and last Child (Robert, now in Pitou, & Scotia) on which occasion, she was so ill, and was for a long time so feeble, that her Medical adviser, was of the Opinion, that it would be risking both her own life and that of the Child to attempt to Nurse it herself; a Nurse had therefore to be looked out for him, and the Choice fell on a Mrs James Copleand, whose Husband, occupied a Farm & a Mill in the Parish, and who had just before had a Still born Child; at same time the Doctor advised that I should be removed to some Neighbour House for a short time, till my Mother gathered some Strength, as they could not get me kept from annoying her with my Childlike Noise. Copleand the Miller had a Brother (Alexander) who rented another Farm in the Neighborhood, and who, altho Married for several years had no Children, his Wife offered to take Charge of me till my Mother got well and I was, accordingly, removed there, together with my own Cradle Bed which was placed at the foot of Mrs Copleand's Bed, where I should have slept very comfortably, but for one Circumstance, to be related shortly. The time of my Removal was in Winter, and one day I slipped out of the House undiscovered by any one, to

Play, and observing a nice piece of ice, around the Mouth of  
a Well, which was Built up of Stone to the Level of the Ground,  
I thought it would be a fine place to Slide on, and it was no  
sooner thought of, than done, when Plump went into the Well,  
and from that Moment lost all recollection of what had  
happened to me, till some hours after, when returning ani-  
mation was making me Raav, out with Pain, on Looking  
about I found myself in my Crib, Surrounded with curious  
faces, applying heat & friction to my Body. The preservation  
of my life at this Time seem little short of a Miracle, for I  
had been absent more than an hour, before I was Missed, and  
when they found me, I was not in the Well, but lying on the  
Ice at its Mouth, Drenched with Water, half frozen and  
apparently Dead, In the hands of most People Dead I should  
have been to all Intents & Purposes, but Mrs Copleand was a  
Clever Woman in Cases of that Kind, and I was not the first  
Drowned Person that she had assisted in restoring to Life.  
How I managed to Scramble out of the Well, without assistance  
half Dead, as I was, I know not, and none but God Knows for as  
I said before I lost all Sense and recollection from the time I  
fell in. This accident made me Carefull ever after not to stray  
out without permission; but my escape from this danger,  
proved only the Precursor, to another, if possible, still more  
appalling. Mrs Copleand had both previous to their Marriage  
been Servants to the Proprietor of the Parish - Gordon of Park, he  
as Grieve or overseer of the Farm, and she as Waiting Maid  
to Lady Gordon and it was notorious to all about the House,  
that they most thoroughly hated one another, every body was

therefore talking by surprise when <sup>was</sup> it announced that they had both  
resigned their Places, and were going to be Married; it was even  
said by some that they took this course to get reconciled one a-  
nother, be this as it may, it soon became known to many that he  
Drank hard and that they lived unhappily together, of this I soon  
had but too good evidence. Very soon after my accident at the Mill  
I came to be roused out of my sleep almost every night, by Cop-  
land coming home late at night, quite drunk, and as often  
as he did he dragged his Poor Wife out of her Bed and Beat  
her severely with a Stick, which made her scream, and partly  
from sympathy & partly from Fear I screamed  
also, tho he never touched me, This continued for some  
time, and I was afraid to tell my People of it, lest he should  
Strike me also, when, one night he not only beat his Wife thro  
the House, but dragged her out of it in her Night Cloths, and  
across a field thro the Snow, to a Brook called "the Muckle  
Burn", which ran in front of his Farm, threatening all the  
way that he was going to Drown her, but her Peaning  
Screams, together with mine and his own Threats & Curses  
made such a Noise that some Neighbours were alarmed  
and came to her rescue, otherwise there is no reason to  
doubt but he would have put his Threats in Execution &  
probably would have Drowned me also to stop my Mouth  
from telling on him, for I had got out of bed too in the  
fright and was following them through the snow, half naked  
and crying bitterly. This put an end to my staying there, but I  
never can forget the scene witnessed that night; it is worthy  
of remark that altho Mrs Copland sued for and obtained a

Bill of Divorcement and a Separate Settlement, that he courted  
her successfully a second time and they lived long afterwards  
as Man & Wife, whether happily or not I can not say, as I had  
no opportunity of knowing.

The next memorable incident of my Childhood occurred,  
when I was about 4 or 5 years old. Our family had been re-  
peatedly visited with Meazels & Hooping Cough, but now  
Small Pox came along, and prostrated not only all the  
Family who had them not before, but nearly all the young  
People in the Parish were laid down, and many Deaths  
was the melancholy Result. Vaccination with Cow Pox had  
not then been discovered, so that every young person had to  
lay their account with passing thro the Ordeal of the  
Small Pox at some time or other, in Early life. All our Fam-  
ily escaped with their Life except Sister Helen, who died  
about 9 years old; except her I was the most severely handled  
by them. Our Sick Nurses & Friends were, for severall Days  
looking for my Death, but altho I was for more than a Week  
insensible & Blind, my Eyes being entirely closed by the  
Swelling & ulcers they occasioned, yet it pleased God to bring me  
through the Crisis, altho it left me in such feeble & Precarious  
health, that it was many years thereafter before I was in any  
thing like good health, and my Eyesight was so much affected that  
ever since I have been both Short Sighted & Weak Sighted. One  
circumstance connected with this Illness, is as vividly impressed  
on my memory as when it occurred. — after I had passed the  
Crisis and my reason began to return, I became impatient  
to have my Eyes opened, and when there was no person with

I seized the opportunity to untie my hands (for they had been tied by the Doctors Order to prevent me from tearing open my Eyes & Ulcers) and tore open my Eyes, and the first object that presented itself to me, was a Sack full of Meal leaning against a Box in an adjoining Store room, the Door of which had been left open - my father had just had it brought from the Mill and had it placed there ready to be emptied into the Box. This sight so overjoyed me that I called out with all my remaining strength, that I "Saw a meal Sack", and very soon I had all who were on their legs in the House about my Bed to see what was the matter. This Rashness of Mine or Carelessness of my attendants, the D<sup>r</sup> predicted would, in all likelihood, cause <sup>me</sup> total Blindness in early life, but, thank <sup>God</sup> the Prophecy has not been fulfilled, at this time my oldest Brother (George) was at Aberdeen College finishing his Education, preparatory to his studying Law, or Divinity (which he had not yet determined) until he had so determined, he applied for and obtained the Situation of Parish Schoolmaster in our Native Parish, which happened to be vacant at the time, he held this Situation for some years, and then engaged himself to a Gentleman of the name of Campbell in the Isle of Mull Argyleshire as Private Tutor to his Sons, of which he had a large family. After a while they all got Commissions in the Army when my Brother came home and entered himself as a Law Student with Arch<sup>d</sup> Young Esq<sup>r</sup> W<sup>o</sup> Bauff. But, to return to my own <sup>History</sup>.

As soon as I had recovered fairly from the Small Pox, I was sent to the Parish School, then taught by my Brother, as already stated. I had been but a short time there, when I fell into a most grievous

Sin, or rather two Sins, for it is the Nature of all Sin to reproduce itself, in an aggravated form. At School, we had one hour in the middle of the Day for Play and to eat our Lunch, which every Boy brought with him; after Lunch, one day, a parcel of the other Boys and myself got to work to throw Small Stones up on the Roof of a one story House occupied by an old Widow Woman, with a view to make them drop the Lum, as we called it, which was just a wooden Substitute for a Chimney; I was the successful competitor, and, unfortunately, broke some Dish she had standing about the fire side. All the other Boys were off when they saw what was done, and they left me alone to settle the matter with the old woman. The first thought that occurred me about it was, that I had better not run away, but to go in and frankly own to her that I done it, to offer an apology and to pay her for the Loss, in the confident hope that she would forgive me; in this, however, I was disappointed, I met her in the Door, looking quite furious, and brandishing a big Stick, after getting my Name, she dropped her threatening attitude, said she would not touch me herself, but would inform the Master what I had done. This vengeful conduct on her part, unfortunately changed my good Resolution. She watched till she saw my Brother pass her Door, going from his Dinner to open School, called him in & told him the Story as she had threatened. I knew that he could not, in conformity with the School regulations of these days, let me escape from a flogging and the fear & shame of undergoing that before all my School-fellows drove me to the commission of a second crime with a view to avoid the consequences of the first one. I knew

that it would avail me nothing to deny that I had done it as  
more than a Doz<sup>n</sup> of Boys saw me do it, and I had, besides  
admitted it to the old woman; I could not therefore muster  
Courage that afternoon to appear at school, but made <sup>a mile from</sup> home  
when there, said nothing about what I had done, but told my  
Mother a premeditated, deliberate Lie - Namely that I had  
taken unwell after eating my Lunch. My Mother, not sus-  
pecting how Matters stood lost no time in giving me a Doz<sup>n</sup>  
of Medicine. My Mother, to do her memory justice never tried to  
protect me from Correction when I did things worthy of it,  
but she generally out of Sympathy to me, took this duty on her-  
self and she administered it in a much Mitigated form  
from what I had reason to Expect from my Father, who  
was a severe disciplinarian, by this means, I soon came to prefer  
a Rap from my Mothers hand to a flogging from my father  
but in as much as no Crime in my Mothers estimation was  
so Great as falsehood, I had no reason to look for Lenity  
even from her. When my Brother came home at Night he  
brought his Paas with him, when I was immediately brought to  
Court, and they agreed not to say any thing to my Father about the  
matter till it was all over and they had convicted on them-  
selves, providing that I frankly owned my fault & promised  
not to repeat it. My double Crime was accordingly punished  
first by my Brother for injury done to the Old Woman, and again  
by my Mother for telling a Lie, and I think it was the severest  
flogging she ever gave me. Shortly after this event my Brothers  
& Sister & I were invited to Dancing Party at a Neighbours  
House about 1/2 a mile from ours, but it happened that

on the same evening a Notice had been given out that the  
much celebrated Preacher Mr Haldane was to Preach a Messie  
many Sermon, at another house about 3 miles from my  
Father's, I resolved to attend the latter, in company of a  
Mechanics Wife who promised to call for me, and bring me  
home, which she did, at this most of my young companions  
were not a little offended, including my own kindred.  
That Sermon was the first that made any impression on my  
mind, it was on the words, "Believe on the Lord Jesus and  
thou shalt be saved" <sup>come unto me, all ye that labour and  
are heavy laden & I will give you rest!</sup>

When I was about 7 years of age an occurrence of no ordinary  
kind, took place in our Parish, this was the establishment of a Sabbath  
evening School, by a man of the name of Mitchel, a member of the  
Anti-burgher Congregation at Whitehill, under the charge of Rev  
Mr Primrose (Father of Jas Primrose Esq<sup>r</sup> of Pictou, N.S. and  
Alex<sup>r</sup> Primrose Esq<sup>r</sup> of Halifax N.S.) this man was assisted by  
other members of the same Congregation, and by some pious  
individuals who resided in the Parish, who, much to their credit  
joined in this good work. The Parish Minister (Gray) and  
all his Sep<sup>r</sup>ia, opposed this movement with all their  
might, yet, in the face of their Threats, which were never  
enforced, and, believe never were intended to be, my Mo-  
ther, sent me and some other sisting to the school, and I con-  
tinued to attend it either as a Schollan or a Teacher till I  
was about 17 years of age. During a large portion of  
this period I was sent to the Parish School, during the Winter  
half year, and assisted my Father on the Farm during the  
Summer Months, where, under various Teachers I received,

the elements of a good English Education, Arithmetick &c  
For some months I was put in a Latin Class, as my Mother  
was very anxious to give <sup>me</sup> a College Education, but my Bro-  
ther, George, who had himself gone through a regular  
Course at College, and other Friends, advised her to re-  
linquish this plan, owing to the Extreme weakness of my Eyes  
which they thought would unfit me for Study. This was  
a sad disappointment to me, for my whole desire was, at  
that early period of my Life bent on the acquisition of a Lib-  
eral Education. From the age of 14 to 17 I was, principally  
employed on the Farm with my Father, but at the latter  
period intimating to him my wish to leave a Trade, he told  
me to choose one; I chose that of a Saddler, when he engaged  
me to a Mr Robt Milne of Huntley for 4 years. Here a fresh  
Instance occurred of my Father's perfect freedom from Big-  
gamy, for, altho' he might easily have selected a Re Catholic  
Family for me to board with, and thus almost to a cer-  
tainty have secured my becoming a Re Catholic, more es-  
pecially as some of them were his own, yet he  
selected a respectable Pious Protestant Family of the name  
of Robertson; and I remember quite well, that when  
he sent me away, he cautioned me against forming  
any Companionship with young people of doubtful  
Character, but rather to associate with those who were  
noted for Piety and good Moral Conduct, without  
even a hint that he meant Re Catholic Piety & Morals.

In Mr Milne's Shop there were generally 12 to 14  
Young Men about my own age, besides a Foreman

who, at this time was one John Wright, a man advanced in Life, who had been in Business for himself, but had been unsuccessful. He was any thing but a religious character, but some of the Apprentices were very profligate & immoral in their behaviour, and presented to me such examples of Human depravity, as I had never witnessed before, but, fortunately for me, there were a few others of quite an opposite Character - they were decidedly Pious & altho, belonging to different Communions they stood firmly by one another as Brethren, Two of them were Church Members, and besides taking a part in Sabbath School instruction, they met once a week along with some others, in the evening for mutual Prayers, to which they invited me, and, having at their command, a considerable quantity of Religious Books, they freely offered me the use of them, of which I availed myself. They also invited me to attend their several places of Worship, on the Sabbath Evenings, of which I also availed myself, but attended the Parish Church in the forenoon where I had rented a sitting. At the age of 19, after much serious reflection I resolved to give myself to the Lord, and accordingly I applied to my Minister, the Rev. Mr. Mouno, a Brother of the late James Mouno, Cabinet-Maker in Pitou N.B., and I was admitted to the Communion for the first time in the Summer of 1809.

At this distance of time, I have no distinct recollection as to what it was which influenced me to take so decided a Step, at so early a period of my Life, but

think that the bent given to my mind in Sabbath School, and the fortunate circumstance of my being afterwards brought into the Society of Religious People, was mainly instrumental in producing this Effect. Here, I should not forget the early & careful training my Mother had given me, a part of which was making me commit to memory a variety of Psalms, Hymns & Portions of Scripture, most of which pertain to this day, and I have no doubt that I was influenced in choosing the Established Church, rather than any other Communion, from the circumstance of my Mother being a Kirk Member. I sincerely loved my Mother, and, at that early period of my life, and so shortly after having parted with her in Death, would have deemed it a species of Sacrilege and a dishonour, to her memory, to have joined any other Communion. The first Psalm was a special favourite with my Mother, which we all had to learn & retain, as being penned by David, under the Divine inspiration for the Express purpose of guarding the young from the contagious effects of choosing bad companions. Learning & retaining the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 121<sup>st</sup> Psalms were no less carefully enjoined on us, as leading Gods love over his children, and of placing ourselves entirely in his hands for guidance and protection; — These, and about a dozen other Psalms & Hymns were, in my childhood, so thoroughly committed to memory that I have retained them ever since. My apprenticeship was spent partly in Huntly and partly in Keith, where Mr. Milne had also a Shop under the Charge of a Foreman of the name of John McDonald, having 3 or 4 Lads under him

He was a native of Glenlivet, and from sorry to say that besides managing Mr Milnes Business, he also carried on, unknown to Mr Milne, a considerable Trade in Smuggling Whiskey. The Bible informs us that "the way of Transgression is hard," and accordingly, Mr McD. after he left Keith and came to America forged some Bills, for which he was tried and sent to the Penal Colonies for 14 years. What became of him afterwards I know not as never heard any thing more of him.

The time of my apprenticeship both at Keith & Huntly was spent pleasantly enough, when, at the former I boarded in a Mr Morrison, an old man who in his younger days had made himself a little competency as a Cotton Manufacturer in Glasgow, and then married a Woman who was a Native maid to the Ducie of Gordon at Gordon Castle. They lived happily enough but had no Family and no Religion. While I was at Keith, I communicated once with Mr McLean Minister of the Parish Church and occasionally went on the Sabbath day to visit my Sister Jane who was married to a Mr Wilson, in the Neighbouring Parish of Boharm, and went with them to Church, and when in Huntly I paid occasional Sabbath day visits to my Sister Mrs Alex<sup>a</sup> Morrison and my Sister Margaret who was then unmarried and lived with an old Aunt in the Parish of Torquhallise by the Residence of my Cousins the Misses Mitchels, so that I made the same visit seven both, always. Sister Margaret afterwards married Mr

John Morrison, Brother to Alex<sup>r</sup> and is yet living.

At the End of my Apprenticeship (1811) I fell in with a Mr Mitchel, a relative of my Mother's who had been a good many years in the Island of Miniclacl. N.Z. and was supposed to have made some Money there, He proposed taking me with him, and I partly promised to enter into terms of agreement for a specified time. He had a vessel at Gnanock with a Cargo of W<sup>h</sup> Produce and went there to have it disposed of while I was consulting my Friends and making up my own Mind as to ulterior proceedings, when, all at once we were taken by Surprise, by observing in the News papers that Mr M— had committed Suicide at Gnanock. Here was one of my earliest designs set aside by the decree of Providence. It so happened that at the same time Edw<sup>d</sup> Mortimer esq<sup>r</sup> from Pictou N.S. came home on Business and to visit his Friends in the North of Scotland, and as I had made up my Mind to go abroad Somewhere, I called on him while he was staying with his Sister the Late Mrs Forsyth of Keith. After some Hesitation he agreed to take me out, on an agreement to serve him 3 Years as a Saddle for £20 Crovney a Year, he finding me Board and Washing — There were 3 Others, a Carpenter a Mason and a Cooper engaged with him at the same time, and after a little preparation we all set out together, to Walk overland to Greenock where the vessel (Amphitrite capt<sup>n</sup> Pat) was

David Pat

lying to receive us. This journey of 180 miles on foot was the first trial of my Physical Powers, in enduring fatigue. It is true I had frequently Walked from Huntly & Keith to my Father's, a distance of 10 miles and back again the same day, with no inconvenience, but, Now, for my Companions, had to foot it at the rate of 40 to 50 miles a day over very bad Roads and carrying each of us a considerable Pack of spare Cloths, Bread &c (our Principal baggage we sent by Carrier by way of Aberdeen & the Post Road, for the sake of making a short cut we were advised to go by a Path, which took us through the Grampian Hills, by Kildrummy Castle, and which led us in a pretty straight line to Perth. We started on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1811, about mid-day, from Keith, and at night reached a little Town or village called Tamintoul. It stands on the left Bank of a rapid running stream, I think called the Avon, it stood therefore between us and the village, and we could find no means of getting across it, neither Bridge, Boat, canoe or House, it was swollen very high with the melting snows in the Mountains above, we could see no House on our side, so we held a consultation as to what we should do, On examining it we found a Place that looked like a ford, and, cold tho it was we decided to strip and wade through it with our cloths on our heads & shoulders, we succeeded in this uncomfortable way in crossing safely to the other side altho it took us Breast high, and it was just as much as we could do, to resist the rapid flowing stream,

when we got into the village, and began to look for a Lodging House we met another difficulty, none of the People spoke English, and we had no Gaelic, at least we thought so; it turned out, however, that Peter Grant the Carpenter understood & could speak the Gaelic, he was a Native of Strathspey. By this means we succeeded in getting a sort of Public House, tho' none of the Best, yet the best we believed in the village. we got a comfortable Supper beside a Peat fire, and a sound sleep on Heather Beds, the first time we had ever enjoyed that Luxury. On this our first days Experience in Highland Travelling, we passed through some very pretty Scenery just bursting into Spring, we passed along the Eastern Base of the far famed Cairngorms, and each of us picked up, and pocketed, the best Specimens we could find of its famous Pebbles. Our second days Effort we had reason to believe would prove the most fatiguing and it proved to be so. We started at day light in the morning up a long valley called Glanavon, down which the stream <sup>ran</sup> we crossed the previous evening, with so much difficulty, ~~Across~~, our only Road, was a mere sheep path, and it often lay us along the face of Precipices so steep & high, that a single false step would have plunged us into the River some hundreds of feet below, here the Mason & Carpenter found no great difficulty, being accustomed to go on Skafolds on the Roofs of Houses, but it was quite otherwise with myself and the Cooper we therefore put the two first in the front, and scrambled after them the best way we could. When near the

head of the Glen, at a place where we had to leave it & turn  
off to the left, we came to <sup>a</sup> Hut on Shilren as the Shepherd call  
it wheres in a Sweep of the River, forming a nice piece of land  
or Hangy Ground. The Occupants of the Hut, a Man, his Wife  
& a Boy, were all in the field Plowing, in the following man-  
ner, a Cow was yoked to the Plow, a horse went in front  
of her, the man held the Plow, the Boy went behind the Cow,  
applying a Switch to her hams and the Wife went in front  
of all, Back foremost, applying vigorously a Cudgel  
to the horses face; as might be expected, more than half  
of the ground was left untouched by the Plow, as the poor  
animals, by such treatment, went Zig-Zag, and that only  
by fits and starts. The People, however, were very kind to  
us, the moment we arrived, the Cattle were turned adrift,  
the Wife took us into the Hut, treated us to a Glass of real  
Highland Whiskey - cooked a Meal for us, in the best way  
she could, Baking oat Cakes, about an inch thick on hot  
Stones covered with <sup>Peat</sup> Ashes, and refused to accept any  
remuneration from us when we left. Very shortly  
after leaving these hospitable people, we entered on some  
Gigantic Mountain Scenery. For some time we had seen in  
the distance before us Mountain Tops covered with  
Snow, we now entered among them & passed through some  
Gorges covered, here & there with <sup>in</sup> immense Snow Banks 20 or 30  
feet deep. When passing through this Winter Scenery, and  
at the greatest height we had attained, we saw a little  
to our left an opening in the face of a little hill, what  
seemed to be an open Stone Quarry, we saw also a

sort of Cart Road, leading to & from it, we turned aside to see what <sup>it</sup> was, and it turned out to be an immense Bed of Marl composed entirely of what we supposed to be Sea Shells, of many varieties, the People in the Low Countries had found it out and were carrying it off to manure their fields, it formed a subject of conjecture to us how Sea Shells could possibly come to be there at some thousand feet above the level of the sea. Early in the afternoon we began to descend the Southern Slope of the mountains and to leave the snow behind us, and we soon entered some forest scenery when we saw a flock of Deer we passed a River by an Old Bridge, a little above Kil-drumny Castle (in ruins) and at night came to the old Hostelrie of Spittal of Glushie, <sup>embosomed</sup> amid some very pretty scenery at the foot of Loch Catrine, one of Sir W<sup>m</sup> Scott's Celebrities. This days exertions proved far too much for me, for I had no sooner entered their House when I fell down in a fainting fit, from which however I soon recovered by bathing my feet in warm water, and taking some warm stimulants inside. Indeed we were all so much exhausted that we concluded to spend a day there recruiting, our next days journey led us through a beautiful agricultural country, along the banks of a pretty river, which, as we approached Perth, formed a junction with the Tay. We reached Perth a little after dark, and had some difficulty in finding a lodging house, after some enquiry we were shewed one where the people consented to lodge us for the night, it was a very mean looking one, and, <sup>the occupants were</sup> ~~was~~ none of the best, character, for

two of our number who, slept in a separate room from the  
other two, told us in the morning that they overheard the People  
of the House, thro' the Night conceiving plans how they might  
Rob us, and as they could, sleep none in consequence, it is  
more than likely, they were deterred from carrying out their  
purpose from hearing them, on the Watch: as for my self &  
Companion we slept soundly. In descending from the  
Spittal to Perth we had a beautiful view of the Ochil Hills  
and of the County of Fife generally in the distance.

Our next days journey brought us to a small Country Town  
called Blackburn, - close by Sherrif Moors, and the day following  
we reached Kirkintilloch, within a few miles of Glasgow, on  
approaching this little Town, and when about a mile from it, we  
came to a Bridge over a small Stream, and found 7 or 8 young  
men loitering about it, who, as soon as we came up to them be-  
gan to abuse us by calling us bad Names, and telling us that they  
would not let us pass till we gave them some money to drink  
this of course we declined, but we were puzzled to find out how to  
get past them without trouble. Peter Grants Highland Blood  
was so much stirred that he called us all aside a little and  
proposed to make a united rush upon them with our staves  
and give them a good Doubling, which he thought we might  
easily do, as they had no sticks, and he proposed to lead in the van  
this, we all declined as a most hazardous attempt. At this time  
we saw a Man with a Horse and Cart advancing in the same  
Road we had come, when, immediately went and met him  
and after telling him our circumstances, ~~then~~ he immediately  
told us all to stick close to him at the Cart, and he would  
take

us through them or he would leave the Marks of his Stick (he also had  
a Good Sabling in his hand) on some of their heads. As the Man was  
apparently very strong and able to fulfill his promise we took  
courage, when he set the Horse to a gallop ~~to~~ <sup>and</sup> we went thro' them  
in a moment bidding them Good bye. They threw some stones after  
us which did no damage, but we were not done with them yet  
<sup>the Reader</sup> as you shall see shortly. We kept company with this generous  
individual till we got into the Town, when he kindly shew'd  
us a House of entertainment, where he assur'd us we would  
be well taken care of. We had scarcely, however, got our meal  
finished, when we heard a Crowd of Men rush into the House  
calling out loudly for Liquor, the waiter shew'd them into  
a Room adjoining the one we occupied, and in passing in  
we saw them and knew them to be the Rowdies who had  
molested us at the Bridge. After getting Liquor they com-  
menced shouting & singing profane songs, and every now &  
then undiscour'd that we were the Subjects of their  
meniments we were, therefore, at no loss to judge what  
was their intentions; fatigued as we were with our days  
journey, we were neither in good Condition nor Spirits to  
enter into a Scuffle with such a Set of Blackguards. Tired tho'  
we were, we sit up to a late hour, in the hopes that they would  
go away or the Landlord expell them; this was a vain hope  
for after sitting till past Midnight they were still there & getting  
more & more Noisy, Not knowing well what to do, we call'd  
the Landlord and told him how the matter stood and  
that we apprehend'd they intended to attack us in our Beds  
he promised to get them out of the house as soon as possible

but added that it would be no easy matter, as they had all  
got drunk, he advised us to go to bed, and said that if he  
could not get them out soon he would send for some Con-  
stables and clear the House of them. We went to our Bed-  
rooms (2 Rooms with the Doors within about a foot of one a-  
nother) two in each, and lay down with our Clothes on, for  
we knew well that we could sleep none while these men  
were in the house. We locked both our Doors inside, &  
it was well we did so, for we had no sooner laid our-  
selves down when they made an attempt to burst them open.  
We heard the Landlord and some waiters urging them to  
desist and go home, but without effect, very luckily he  
had sent for the Constables before that time, and while  
they were all in the midst of the Melee the Constables rushed  
in and with our aid and that of our Host & his Servants  
they were all secured and marched off to Goal. We then  
got to bed, and had a little disturbed sleep, toward the  
morning we rose late and after taking Breakfast pro-  
ceeded on to Glasgow, where we made no stay, and to  
Paisley, where we found a Stage Coach was to leave for  
Greenock in an hour, we engaged seats some inside  
and some outside as we could get them, and in the  
mean time we took a hasty dinner & started, we  
had not, however, gone far till at a change of horses  
where we also changed the Drivers, and for a short time  
got one Mad drunk, he applied the whip to his Horses  
and made them go at full Gallop up hill & down hill  
so that we expected every moment to be upset and get

dashed to pieces. Like all other madmen, the more  
we remonstrated with him, the harder he drove, un-  
till, luckily at the foot of a hill we discovered that one  
of the axle trees was broken - we all dismounted and  
after walking about a mile we came to a Blacksmiths  
Shop and had the axle mended, here we also got a sobby  
driver and drove safely into Greenock. Here we were  
detained about a month. The vessel was advertised to sail on  
the 20<sup>th</sup> March, but did not leave the Tail of the Bank till the 11<sup>th</sup> April  
we found the vessel in the Dry Dock undergoing repairs, and it  
was some time before she began to take in cargo, in the mean  
time I got a letter from Mr Montague, covering me to a  
Mr Brunton, furnisher of Sadling Handman in Glasgow and  
requiring me to go up there and select Tools and Stock for one year  
but limiting me to the amount of £100. I spent the time we were  
detained at Greenock pleasantly enough, altho it rained nearly  
all the time, we all felt thankful that we had nothing but fine  
Sun shining weather, all the time we were travelling, never  
having got a drop of Rain all the way. The weather tho Rainey  
was every <sup>day</sup> getting warmer and finer, and altho unknown to us  
was, in fact preparing the way for our getting a pleasant pas-  
sage out. The Spring of 1811 was an unusually early one; when  
we left Banffshire the Farmers were all plowing & sowing, the  
grass fields were beautifully green, and in passing through the  
agricultural districts of Perth and Stirling we found the Winter  
wheat 5 or 6 inches high and completely covering the ground  
while in Greenock the Cornet & Gooseberry Bushes were in  
full flower & leaf - yet after we reached Peterhead 5 Weeks  
later the Farmers had not commenced their field operations

and Willows & other Early Native plants had only begun to swell  
their Buds. I need say nothing about our Passage as we had a  
very fine one, <sup>we left Greenock on 11 April</sup> and arrived at Pitou, on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> May  
1811 - There were in the Cabin, E. Moutinon & John Dawson Esqrs  
and a Mr Goodlett from Edinburgh, <sup>or Leith</sup> and in the Steerage  
there were about 30 including us 4 - they chiefly consisted of  
Masons & Carpenters & their Families, whom Mr Moutinon  
had engaged to assist in building his stone house which  
he had begun the previous year (now called Norway  
House) There were besides, one or two Farmers which Mr M  
intended also for his own use on the Farm.

When I left home, I had very little money with me, and my  
journey and long stay at Greenock had nearly exhausted that  
little, all my stock when I arrived in Pitou was one Guinea  
this, however, did not discourage me in the least - I had  
good health, and I had laid in a good stock of clothes, &  
my Boarding was to be paid by Mr Moutinon, so that I had  
no need of money, nor any legitimate way of spending it;  
accordingly at the end of my first year's service, I had still  
some portion of my Guinea in my Pocket and my £20 all  
to the good. Before I had been a year in Pitou, I had one of  
those remarkable Providential deliverances from <sup>of those</sup> sudden  
and Painful Deaths which it is the object of this Memoranda  
to record. Mr Moutinon put me to Board with one Mr  
Alex<sup>r</sup> Shaw, a Stone Mason, who had worked all sum-  
mer at his Stone house, but who had undertaken to  
build some Cellars & Chimneys in the Country, in the  
Fall in company with a Brother in Leith (Mr Blinck)

their, wings being two Sisters, both at that time without  
children, - they occupied a small house which had formerly  
been the residence of Squim Patterson, it stood in  
his old Orchard at the Point, and believe was the  
first erected Log House in Pictou. One night in the  
month of Dec<sup>r</sup> 1811 when the two Tumants, Sheng & Bond  
were up the Country I was wakened up in my little  
Geomet bed Room, almost suffocated with smoke,  
I had no light, nor had I the means of making any,  
neither had I any means of escape but either to leap  
out at the Window, or rush down the stair which had  
a Door at the top of it, and escape by the Entry door  
I had no time to deliberate, being almost suffocated, I  
at once gathered up all my clothes that I could lay  
my hands <sup>on</sup> and made for the stair, when the moment  
I opened the Door I saw that a large part of the floor  
and the feet of the stair were on fire, I made a  
Run down through it and in making for the  
Door I stumbled over a Bucket full of Water &  
another one stood beside it, these I took up first  
the one and then the other, and emptied them  
on the worst parts of the fire. I then opened the  
Door and ran out naked as I was and closed  
the Door behind me. I then went to a Window in  
the Wicams bed Room and advised them to escape  
by the Window as they could not do so by the Door  
without setting their clothes on fire.

after helping them out at the window from and put  
on some of my own clothes, as the night was very  
cold and snowing. There was a well close by the  
House from which the women carried Water  
and as fast as they did for the door and  
threw the Water on the worst of the fire till I  
finally got the better of it. This was as providen-  
tial an Escape as the one made from being  
drowned in Caplans Will.

Before I had been a year in Mr Mortimers employ, I began to see  
that there were several things I could turn my attention to in order  
to increase my little stock of money after I came in possession of my  
first years salary, without in the least interfering with my duty  
to Mr M<sup>r</sup>, accordingly I agreed with him as to what time I should  
devote to his Service which was from 6 A.M till 6 P.M. I mentioned  
my views to Mr M<sup>r</sup> to which he offered no objections, only he set it  
down as a Rule for my guidance that I should engage in no-  
thing that would interfere with my duty to him. Keeping this  
Requirement in view, the first thing that I directed my atten-  
tion to, was the Purchase & manufacture of Furs into Mens & Boys  
Capes; Ladies Gloves, Muffs & Tippets (Boas had not then been thought  
of) Fox, Marten, Mink, Musk Hat & Otter were all then being  
plentiful about Pitou, and, as no one in the place had turned  
their attention to this Branch of Trade, leaving it all in  
the hands of Pedlers, who wheedled them out of the Peoples hands for  
almost nothing, I saw that a very handsome thing might be made  
of my little Capital by turning it over & over a number of times  
in the course of the Winter, in which I was not mistaken

For, in almost every instance the Fur, I sold more than doubled the Price I had paid for them, whilst those I manufactured generally yielded me 4 or 500 per cent of Profit. My first years experience left me in Possession of over £200 of Clear Gain, which to me then was quite a fortune. In succeeding years my Gains from this course increased for a time, when the Fur Brevving animals began to get exterminated, and the resident Traders began to find out that I was making money by the Trade, they all got after it, so that in a little it ceased to be Profitable when I gave it up;

Indian Porcupine Quill Manufactures was another Class of Wares which during my agreement with Mr M - I dealt in, and Ship Captains was my principal Customer for them, and they never grudged a good Price for a good article. The Porcupine was then Exceedingly Plenty in N. Scotia, but like other aborigines they have now got so scarce that they may be considered extinct. By the means I have mentioned, together with the most rigid Economy, I was able, at the end of my 3 year apprenticeship with Mr Montmor, not only to purchase the stock of unmade Saddles he had on hand, but also to pay Mr Milne of Huntly £20 Sterling for the last year of my Brothers apprenticeship, £10 more for his Passage out and £10 more for his outfit. I was induced to do this to gratify the intensity of his desire to come out and join me in Business. As I have mentioned my Brother (Robert) I may state here that he chose the same Trade that I did, he entered Mr Milnes Service, at Keith in 1810 and came out to Halifax with Captain <sup>Brig. Oswald</sup> in May 1813. I knew that he was coming out then, but did not know by what vessel, altho I had reason to believe that Capt<sup>n</sup> Oswald would pick him up, I was therefore anxious to find some other command

to Halifax in order that I might meet him there, and it so happen-  
ed that one presented itself at the time in the following manner.

A man of the name of Campbell, a British Subject belonging to  
to P. E. Island had been captured the previous year in an American  
Privateer, into which Service he had volunteered, and he was  
confined as a Prisoner of War at Melville Island, the Depot for  
Prisoners at Halifax, he made his escape from there and was  
again captured at Pictou trying to get over to the Island  
he was committed to jail there, and shortly after the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Mr  
Campbell a Brother of the Prisoner and one of the Executive Council  
of P. E. Island, came over to try to <sup>get</sup> him liberated, he applied to the  
authorities in Halifax for that purpose but without success, The  
Col<sup>l</sup> of the Militia of Pictou got orders to send him back to  
Melville Island in charge of a sufficient force, His Brother of-  
fered to take him down & deliver him up, but however safe  
that might have been it was not deemed regular, and Col<sup>l</sup>  
Montimor Pitcher upon me and another man in his own em-  
ploy to be the escort, giving me the command. I did not re-  
lish this Service very much, and would much rather that the  
choice had lighted on some one else, but I did <sup>not</sup> like on the  
other hand to offend Mr Montimor by refusing, It was ar-  
ranged that the Brother should be allowed to accompany  
as also and that we should all go on foot, the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Mr Campbell  
and I to sleep in our room and the Prisoner & my men in  
another, and we had authority to put irons on the Prisoner if  
he shewed any design of again making his escape. We left  
Pictou in the afternoon and put up at the Co mill House the  
first night, and the next day went on to Palleys - nearly  
60 miles

and the day following at Sun down reached Halifax all well  
but very much fatigued, and it <sup>was</sup> 10 o'clock before we got our  
Prisoners delivered at the Depot. I have introduced this little  
Episode merely because it is connected with my first in-  
tercourse with my Brother on American Soil, I knew  
he was coming out, but did <sup>not</sup> know by what vessel, nor whether  
to Pictou, direct, or to some other Port, but had a presentiment  
that he would sail to Halifax, as I had, in one of my Letters  
mentioned the Louisa, Captain Oswald as a good vessel  
and Captain. When within about 9 miles of Halifax and  
near the head of the Basin we noticed a man and a Woman  
sitting on the Roadside at a Spring of fine Clear Water tak-  
ing their thirst, and as the afternoon was wearin we were  
also thirsty, and drew near to partake with them, the readers  
may judge then of my Surprise on finding the two persons to be  
my Brother and one of my Cousins (Miss Barbara Mitchell)  
who had accompanied him on a Pleasure Trip across  
the Atlantic: - they were thus far on their way to Pictou, hav-  
ing arrived the previous evening in the Louisa had we  
not been thirsty it is almost certain that we should have prop-  
ed them without recognition, and it is still more certain  
that they would not have recognised me, in the sort of Dress I  
then wore, surmounted as it was by a Sword & Belt in the  
style of a Militia officer. After enjoying a laugh at our sin-  
gular meeting I succeeded in persuading them to return with me  
to the City and to stay there about a week till the vessel was  
ready to come round to Pictou, and come with us to  
avoid the disagreeable walk of 100 miles over Land, which  
would have completely done up our Cousin, as there were then  
many parts of the Road, not passible by a Horse;

after that, delivered my Charge to the Commanding officer at  
Melville Island, and, rested myself a day or two, returned  
by land, to report Progress and, prepare for the reception of  
my Friends. I had, at this time, still a year to serve Mr Mont-  
more on my agreement with him, and, at once saw, that in  
my now, altered circumstances, it would be most desirable  
for me to try to make a compromise with him for it, so that  
I might be free to act on my own account, and as Mr M-  
seemed to be as anxious as I was to enter into any arrangement  
that would close up his saddling speculation without loss; I  
found no difficulty in entering into a compromise by which  
I took the Tools, Shop and, all the unmade up stock off his  
hand at a fair valuation and he took my obligation to pay  
in, made up stock in half yearly instalments during the year  
previous to this time I had, for a sum agreed on with Mr M-  
boarded myself, that is I kept Bachelors Hall by which I saved  
some £10 or £12 of money, but as our Cousin Siquier  
had intention to stay all Summer with us, I now hired  
some Rooms for our accommodation, and, installed Miss  
Mitchel as our House Keeper, she bought a Farm at Mt-  
Tom intending to come out the following year with her  
Sister Mary, to take up their abode there but never did.  
She went home in the fall of 1813 with Capt<sup>n</sup> Oswald. I and  
my Brother now commenced Business under the name of  
Jesse & Dawson, the Capital being all mine, and in  
1814 I bought the corner Lot on George & Church Street  
near the Court house and built the House thereon <sup>in 1816</sup>  
which is yet standing in possession of one D. Fraser.

In 1812 I presented my Certificate of Membership from the  
Kent's Sepcion of Huntly, to Rev<sup>d</sup> Thos McCulloch, and was  
admitted, partly on it and partly as the result of Person-  
al examination. To some, who act very differently, it may  
appear rash and presumptuous to associate thus early  
with the Company of Believers, but from of a very  
different opinion, and from fully persuaded, that  
no greater evil can befall a Christian Church than  
to permit her young people to postpone from year  
to year, their making a public profession of their  
Faith, till they become so immersed in the Political  
realities of life, that they lose all relish either for  
Religion or the Society of Religious People: Such  
People very generally, when they get married apply  
to the Church Sepcion, for Priviledges, not to themselves, for  
they are quite ready to admit that they are unfit for  
that, but for Baptism to their Children, and sorry  
can they but too readily obtain their wish, and I  
regret exceedingly that such a practice has been intro-  
duced into the Church. I believe it to be unscriptural  
and a most ensnaring thing for unreflecting men  
In my own case, I can conscientiously say that early Co-  
municating has been blessed to me in a variety of ways,  
In the first place I feel assured that it has been instru-  
mental in keeping me aloof from many temptations  
to Sin, into which, but for the check of my being a

Christian Professor, would certainly have been carried headlong  
in the vortex of folly & dissipation to destruction.  
In the second place, I have found, that, when beset with commercial  
difficulties. — Exposed to sudden & extreme personal dangers  
Or, visited with personal or family affliction; in humbling  
myself before God, Praying to him for direction, and firmly  
relying on his promises, he has not forsaken me, but, on the  
contrary, has afforded me that protection & guidance, which en-  
abled me to surmount all my difficulties, escape from  
dangers, and to say, "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and  
scourgeth every son whom he receiveth," would, therefore  
recommend all young people to give themselves early, even  
earlier, than I did to the Lord.

In the beginning of 1813 Prayer Meetings were for the first time  
held in the congregation; I have now, no recollection who led  
the way in this honourable movement, but think the late  
Dr. McCulloch had a principal hand in it, as it was he who  
first asked me to attend it. It was held for a few years in  
the late Joseph Beegs Stone house — then for some time it  
itinerated from House to House, and ultimately was  
moved to the Session House. I can not recollect a single in-  
dividual now living, besides myself, who attended it for  
the first few years of its existence, but it is consolatory  
to recollect that, altho' the founders are nearly all gone, the  
thing itself has never been discontinued and it is now  
highly prosperous, under the guidance of Mr. Jas Baynes  
I omitted to notice in its place, a remarkable Provi-  
dential deliverance I had in the fall previous (1812)

from perishing miserably in the Ice. In the month of Dec<sup>r</sup>  
I think, of that year, I had occasion to go to Umiak-  
gonish, to purchase a lot of Fur which I knew to be there  
in the hands of a merchant. Previous to starting, I had  
made enquiry as to the state of the Ice upon that Har-  
bor, and had been assured by what I thought competent judges that  
it was safe for foot passage. I did not want to take <sup>the</sup> road round  
the head of the Harbor, as it was very bad and nearly doub-  
led the distance, accordingly I set out by way of Little Harbor  
and when I reached Kingshead passed <sup>on</sup> Mr McDonald, who  
lived there and kept the ferry what he thought of my buy-  
ing to cross on the Ice, he said he thought it was safe and  
would not hesitate to cross it, if he had any goods, and  
gave as a reason that he had seen the Indians crossing  
it that day. This removed my fears, and after getting instruc-  
tions from McDonald how to steer & where to land I started  
I got on my way till I was something more than half  
over, when all at once I noticed the Ice bending beneath  
all around me and the Water coming up at cracks  
I at once saw that if I attempted to turn back over the al-  
ready broken Ice, I was lost, and that my only chance  
of safety was to run swiftly and lightly straight forward,  
this I did, and after so running for nearly a <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> of a mile  
the Ice bending beneath me all the time, came to better  
Ice and shortly after made the Shore in safety.  
This occurrence gave me such a fright at being foolhardy  
with bad Ice, that it taught me a wholesome lesson I was  
ever after terrified at venturing on doubtful Ice.

In 1814 Pieton Sabbath School was begun, under the Guidance of myself and my brother, but we soon got the assistance of a number of other young men & women, our Ministry gave it a sort of Papine approbation, but never patronized it by his personal attendance; some members of his family, however, attended it. In 1815 an Election of Elders took place in the Congregation; the Choice fell on John & Jas Patterson two Brothers, Don Cameron of Chance Harbour, & myself; I pled very hard to be excused, at least at that time, on account of my youth & inexperience, but after a long debate the Congregation finally adhered to their first Choice. It may well be conceived that this event proved a subject of deep and serious Reflection to me, as well as of ardent & earnest Prayers for Divine Guidance; I felt an entire want of confidence in my Qualification for so important and solemn an office.

All the other nominees, as well as those already in office, were old enough to be my Father; the Responsibility which devolved upon me, whether I accepted or rejected, perplexed me much, in fact they seemed for some time to hang as it were, in a Balance; not knowing well to what side Duty impelled me, I Prayed Earnestly to God, for Direction, when the Lord himself seemed to lead me by a way I knew not, to stand forth for the honour of his Name, saying to me, "fear not, I will make my strength perfect in your weakness". Having devoted myself anew, to my Heavenly Father, in Prayer, and supplicated him to lead me in the way he would have me to go, - to cast in my lot now unreservedly with the people of God, ~~that~~ I had ever yet done, and to keep

me from improper desires of the Riches & Honour of the World, presented to be Ordained an Elder. This office I continued to hold 41 years, that is till 1856 when I resigned preparatory to my leaving Pictou & going to Mount-Neal. Here let me Praise and Bless God for this further token of his Loving Kindness, in permitting me to Exercise the office of a Steward in his Vineyard here below, and in making that office instrumental in Keeping me aloof from many of the fashionable Vices & follies of the time and place. All the others who were Ordained with me have long since paid the Debt of Nature.

When my Brother came out in 1813 we entered into Partnership in the Saddlery Line, under the firm of Jas & M<sup>r</sup> Dawson, the Capital being all Mine; It was but a small Business, but what taken in connection with the other matters I had added to it, of Fur, Manufactures & Indian wares it did fair to support us decently, and it would probably have been well for us both if we had been content to stick to it alone; but in 1816 we added to it General Merchandize, chiefly in the Hardware, Soft Good and Stationery line, in which, by close attention we were generally prosperous, but still we were under the impression that we were not doing enough, and in the fall of that year, we took the Assignment of a <sup>the Captain of</sup> Ship called the "Seaton" of Worthington, from Mr Thos Dawson which he was unable to Load. I went up with her to Waller and bought her Cargo there, and then took Papsy home with her to Liverpool, to see her Cargo sold, and to make arrangements with furnishers in England & Scotland for our future Supplies. I employed in Liverpool as agents Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dempsey & Picard, and they succeeded in

Selling the Cargo tolerably well, we made a small Leaft upon it,  
but it was tugging <sup>and</sup> we expected as much. We had a  
very stormy Passage, <sup>Home</sup> being often Seading under beam Poles, The  
Vessel was staunch & strong, but had two very bad faults, She  
would not Lye too under any Sidel, and She steered so badly  
that in Gales She took 4 men at the Wheel. Capt<sup>n</sup> Juvonhall  
was a most disagreeable Companion in the Cabin, being  
both a Blasphemer & a Dunchead. He promised to intro-  
duce me to a respectable Boarding House in L Pool, but in  
place of that he introduced me to a House of Bad fame, of  
course I never went within the Bar & left him there and got a  
Porter to show me the House where the Ships owner put up when  
in the City for this and other Misdeemeanors. Mr Morrison  
the Owner unshipped him when he came up. The night before  
we got into Liverpool we were very nearly lost on the  
<sup>Formby</sup> ~~to the~~ <sup>or Chester</sup> ~~shore~~ <sup>between Holyhead & L Pool</sup> Sand, in a Northwesterly Gale & Snow storm at day-  
light the Captain after telling me to prepare for the worst  
as he had little hopes of saving me, went up to the Mast-  
head, the vessel being at the time, almost on her beam ends  
and while he was up there I saw what I never expected to  
see - Capt<sup>n</sup> Juvonhall on his knees, when he came down  
asked him for an Explanation, when he said he had sighted  
the N West Bury, and found he was not quite so near  
the Shore as he expected, that he had therefore some hopes  
of saving the Ship & our Lives, for which he thought it his  
duty to thank God. My Business being done in L Pool  
I took Passage to Greenack in a Ship in Ballast, and was  
again nearly wrecked on the Isle of Man,

I spent the Winter of 1860 & 11 chiefly with my Friends in Banffshire  
and in the Spring of 1861 came out in the Brig Good Intent. Cap. Hibbard  
belonging to Mess<sup>rs</sup> J. & Gibbons of Aberdeen to whom I sold a  
Cargo for the West India Home. - There were about 30 Steerage Passengers  
in the vessel, <sup>including Mr John Geddes & his family</sup> there were in the Cabin only My self and a Mr Peter  
Morrison, Brother of the two Morrises who married my Sisters,  
Christina & Margaret. It was a singular Arrangement of Providence in  
bringing me into contact with this Individual. He had been out  
some years in America about the Carolines, but until I met  
with him in the Good Intent I had never seen him nor  
heard any thing of him, altho I had spent some weeks with his  
Brothers. It appeared that after I bid them farewell, which I did  
some weeks before the vessel sailed, as I had some Business  
to attend to in Aberdeen, he had come home, having <sup>in</sup> made  
a considerable fortune abroad, but was in an unsettled  
State of mind, nearly amounting to Insanity. He heard of  
me being about to leave for Scotland, and took a Notion  
of going with me and his friends being but too glad to get  
quit of him, they had him sent to Aberdeen and his Passage  
paid, without consulting me about it, so that I knew nothing  
of him till the Evening before we sailed when he introduced  
himself to the Captain & myself. Like all maniacs he was  
Exceedingly cunning; so guarded was he, that altho we were  
2 Weeks Wind bound at the Orkneys, we had not in that time  
discovered his actual Condition. We saw, indeed that he was an  
unhappy, cross grained, & disagreeable man, always contradicting  
whatever was said to him. This Sulkyness & Illtemper increased  
so much that by the time we were a week at Sea the Captain

and concluded to admonish him. This we did one day at dinner when my Friend very deliberately rose from the Table and walked into his Bed Room, saying as he went, "I'll soon settle that hash" directly after he went in, we heard him snapping at a Pistol, when the Captain sprung to his feet, and burst in upon him, and found him in the act of Loading a Pistol with Slugs, the Mate was with us and on hearing the struggle followed the Captain and it was nearly as much as we could all do to wrench the Pistol from his Grasp; fortunately he had not primed it or some of us might have been shot. The Pistol & Ammunition were thrown overboard, and the Captain made some of his Men tie his hands behind his back with Rope yarn, and kept him so till next day, telling him that if he did not then promise in the most solemn manner, to behave better to the end of the voyage, he would for the safety of all on Board have to put hands Cuffs on him. The Amende Honorable however, was given and at my request he was set free. This scene let us into the actual condition of the unfortunate man, and after that we managed him under the conviction that we had to deal with a Maniac. It had a most unfortunate effect upon poor Capt'n Hibbard, the next day his skin was quite yellow with the jaundice and continued so till some time after he arrived at Pitou. Mr. Moonson after reaching Pitou wanted to stay at my house, but I had seen enough of him and made him go to a Boarding House. He went about Pitou the most of the Summer, grumbling at every thing he saw, and then went to Halifax & took a passage from there home, where he lived for some time in a most

unhappy State, and, I believe, finally ended his days in  
a Lunatic Asylum, in Bowdoin

In 1817 I built the Schooner Harmony for the W India Trade, she  
was of 96 Tons Register, I fitted her out first on a fishing voyage  
to the Labrador Coast, and then sent her with a cargo of Fish to  
Demerara, she made a highly profitable voyage, ~~but unfortunately~~  
~~unfortunately~~ I had, both vessel & cargo insured for £1500 out and  
back to Halifax, <sup>only</sup> as it was winter and she could not come  
to Britain. On the opening up of the Navigation, <sup>so</sup> of A Partner or  
<sup>who</sup> had a vessel there also from the W Indies, consulted toge-  
ther, and we agreed to send down one John Kennedy, who  
was esteemed an excellent Pilot from Halifax to Pictou, to  
come round in one of the vessels, the other, to keep company  
this, we were to do without insuring, however, on second thought  
did not like to risk all, and insured £500 on the cargo,  
my Captain (Captain Jas Arthur) took offence at this arrange-  
ment, and thinking himself a better Pilot than Kennedy  
he sailed the Evening before the time agreed on, and on the  
next Night thereafter, in a thick Snow Storm got the vessel  
on Shore in Radley Bay, Isle Madame, where she went to  
pieces and nothing was saved but the skins of the crew,  
here was a clear loss of one Thousand Pounds thro' my own folly  
and inexperience. In the fall of ~~this year~~ <sup>1819</sup> a Company was  
formed to build a Large Brig to carry on the Trade between  
Pictou & Liverpool - the Parties were D Crichton, Jas Taylor  
Henry Hatton and ourselves, Captain Hibbard to command  
her, she was called the Entrepriise, she performed 2 Voyages  
yearly for some time and was on the whole a profitable  
concern, she cost us about £4000 & carried a cargo <sup>of</sup> 600 Tons.

Up to nearly this time the House of Edw Mootinon & Co had Monopolized nearly all the Export Trade of Pictou, but about 1816 & forward they began to get behind with their furnishes at home and their Supplies of Goods were cut off, <sup>on</sup> this their Customers here withdrew from them, - these naturally came to us and others who could supply them, so that what between Sadding, Fishing, Lumber Trade, W India Trade & Ship Building, we had our hands full.

In Decr 1818 I married Mary Rankine only Daughter of John Rankine Esq<sup>r</sup> of Loanvick, Sterling Shire Scotland and the same year dissolved Partnership with my Brother as he had begun to show symptoms of that unfortunate malady to which he has been, less or more subject ever since; we valued our Property, Real & Personal at £1500 one half of which sum (namely £750) I paid him partly in money partly by share in the Brig Enterprise and the Remainder in Bills of Exchange on Britain to enable him to lay in stock for his Business. This year, also Dr McEugon asked me to assist him in reorganizing the Pictou Aux<sup>y</sup> Bible Society, which had scarcely ever met since its first formation, in 1813, in this, however, we did not succeed, till 1823, when I was appointed Secretary & Depositary, & on the Death of John Patterson in 1848, also Treasurer, in 1850 resigned Secretaryship, & in 1855 Treasurer & Depositary.

In 1817 our Sadding Furnisher in Glasgow - Mr Minchess recommended to us a young Friend of his as our Agent in Glasgow we did not then require his Services, but unfortunately in 18<sup>20</sup>~~17~~ we got him to charter for ~~the~~ <sup>me</sup> the Barge Demlop, Captain Brown for a cargo of Timber, which I shipped to

The amount of £450 and consigned to Findlater, being under no suspicion of his circumstances. In the Fall of the same year I also chartered a small Schooner called the Friends, owned by the master, Captain Peat, and consigned her also to Mr Findlater. Afterward the cargo on board I found out that Capt Peat was heavily indebted to certain Parties who would not let the vessel proceed till they were paid; in these circumstances I had to make advances to the Master almost to the value of his vessel & Freight - so that after deducting what he repaid me and what I worked out of Mr Findlater I sustained a loss by this concern of ~~£500~~<sup>£600</sup> Sterling, and altho in most countries you would have found Equitable Laws to protect consigned Property from the hands of Greedy Creditors, I found that in Scotland it was not so, and they accordingly seized my Property and divided it among them, not even giving me the Privilege of Shaving with them. - It is true, I might have made Mr Mindless liable for my loss, but he was a poor man with a large family and therefore, I preferred to put up with the loss rather than add to it the cost of Litigation.

In 1820 or 21 a most disagreeable fracas took place between me and Revd Thos McCulloch, our Minister with whom I had been on the best terms, and to whom & his family I had shown much kindness, and altho I was the injured party, and used every means in my Power to regain his Confidence and Esteem, I found all my advances in that direction quite fruitless, and he not only refused to be reconciled to me himself, but in the stile of old feudal Times

he left the matter as an heir-loom to his Family to prosecute  
me & mine to the Death, it affords me no small Satisfaction  
however to reflect that I tried every legitimate means of  
reconciliation and, when that failed - forgave him long  
before his Death, I shall not go into any of the Particulars  
here as it would only give me pain, to avoid which I have  
long since consigned to the flames all of our disagree-  
able Letters & powder I could lay my hands on, I shall  
only just mention that the Nature of the offence was of that  
Sort which frequently occurs with men of cunning &  
revengeful Temperaments. He had got into the Habit of  
complaining of his Congregation that they were not Supporting  
him as they ought, forgetting that in the first place he was  
depriving them of that attention to his Ministerial duties  
which they had a right to claim from him. For further  
ance of his objects he had got in the habit of calling Meet-  
ings of the Cong<sup>n</sup> frequently to lay his Complaints be-  
fore them, <sup>& generally concluded by saying that he would preach 4</sup> on one of these Occasions, the Cong<sup>n</sup> seemed  
<sup>to be satisfied</sup> of nothing was done by that time for him he would leave  
disposed to take him at his word, to prevent which he  
<sup>then</sup> immediately called another Meeting when I was in Halifax  
on Business, at which he denounced me as his Enemy and that  
of the Cong<sup>n</sup> for some innocent but true words I had uttered  
in the Sepian some days before, by this means he succeeded  
in turning the attention of the Cong<sup>n</sup> from himself &  
his threats and to pass a Resolution in my absence con-  
demnatory of my conduct, but it was not long therafter  
when the Doctor forgot himself so far as to renew his  
Complaints, when the Cong<sup>n</sup> took him at his word and

let him go, at same time they virtually recinded the Reso-  
lution they had recorded against me by recalling me  
to <sup>resume</sup> my place unconditionally in the Session. The Dr  
found that time that he had not a dear friend to through  
overboard, as he had done me for his own safety, while  
he afforded a fine Illustration of the old adage, that the  
offended may forgive but the Offender Never.

Misfortunes generally do not come single, accordingly in  
the same year in which the Dr and I shipped a vessel came out  
with a cargo of Emigrants, <sup>shipped at Annapolis</sup> consigned to me for cargo, but  
Chartered outwards by one Col<sup>l</sup> Fraser. On their arrival  
here, a Number of the most respectable of the Passengers came  
before Rob<sup>t</sup> Patterson Esq, and made affidavits to the Effect  
that the Shipper had evaded the Laws at Annapolis either by  
deceiving or corrupting the Customs Officers, and had filled  
Barrels purporting to be Bread, Beef, Pork, Meal &c, with  
offal & Gummy & Stones & Earths, and that the actual amt of  
Eatable Provision on Board would not be sufficient  
to keep the Passengers for 2 weeks, — that after being on  
short allowance for several Days they fell in with a  
vessel that supplied them, otherwise they must have  
been all starved — Col Fraser did not take his Pass-  
age out with them but came in another vessel which  
was also short Provisioned. These affidavits Mr  
Patterson at the Request of the Passengers got Published  
in one of the Halifax Papers, and I took a Statement  
from the Captain & Mate of the vessel to the same

purpose and had it published as a warning in the H<sup>+</sup>  
Recorder - on this Col. Fraser brought an action against  
me and, another against Mr Patterson for Libel it was  
tried in the H<sup>+</sup> Court Col. Fraser thinking that he had  
more chance of recovering before a special jury there  
than in Pitou, but in this he made a sad mistake,  
we were advised to know the facts and plead justification  
which proved to be the best made of defence for the jury  
gave a verdict of 1/2 Damages, which put the Col in for  
all the Expenses which were very heavy as we had a  
number of Witnesses brought from Scotland, but  
besides a world of trouble and uneasiness it caus-  
ed Mr Patterson and a heavy Expense which the  
Court would not saddle the Plaintiff with.

Shortly after this, I think in 1822 a Captain Matheson  
Master of the Brig Mary of Aberdeen, belonging to the  
firm of R. Gibbons & Sons called and stated that  
he had got his vessel on shore on the Meagdale  
strand, being on his Passage from Minimachie  
to Leith, he did not wish to abandon the vessel, but  
appeared quite anxious to get her off and bring  
her to Pitou for Repairing, I was not very willing  
to advance him money on her, but he succeeded in  
persuading me to do so, he struggled on with her all  
Summer & till late in the fall, when he got her at  
last to Pitou, she was a mere wreck, yet I did  
not see how I would get my money back without  
Repairing her and send her home, as I thought the  
Owners were

Responsible men, and I did not wish to disoblige  
them, as I had some dealings with them before  
after loading her and putting all her Expenses together  
I found I had Expended upwards of £600 on the  
Conceon for which I took the Captains Draft on  
his Owners, but by the time the vessel got home  
Mess<sup>rs</sup> Gibbans were Bankrupts and not only lost  
the whole of my advances, but sunk a great Deal more  
in trying to Recover the Proceed of the vessel & Cargo  
which I failed in doing owing to omitting to  
take a Botomry bond on the vessel.

When speaking of the Dunlop - Capt<sup>n</sup> Brown, I should have  
mentioned a Circumstance that nearly cost me my Life.  
I loaded that vessel in Tatmagouche, but I had to take a part  
of the Cargo from R<sup>e</sup> John & Point Bruy. on one Occasion  
I was taking a Raft of about 100 Tons from R<sup>e</sup> John, the  
Weather was fine & calm on a Summer Evening when we  
started from R<sup>e</sup> J. I had concluded to take my Passage on  
the Raft and we had no Boat except a little Leaky Flat  
little better than a Log canoe, but I had arranged with  
Captain Brown to send off his Ships Boat at 9 o'clock to  
meet us, We got on about half the Distance pretty well  
but about 10 o'clock it came on to blow quite strong  
from the S<sup>W</sup> East, a short Buble of a Sea got up which  
in a little time Broke the Raft all to Pieces and there  
being no appearance of the Capt<sup>n</sup> and the Boat, every  
man had to look out for himself, I made for the little  
Flat, but before I reached it, two of the men had got  
into it, and it being half full of Water, they upset it,

Every one then laid hold of a Log, and some of us got hold of two, one below each arm, by which means we floated much easier & safer than on one; The wind was driving us straight for the Malagash Shore, which we soon reached, and all escaped with our Lives. The reason Captain Brown afterward assigned for not sending his Boat to meet us was, that the Weather looked stormy till about 9 or 10 O'Clock and he concluded that we would not have started.

About 1824 or 5 Losses came heavy & thick upon me, & it made no complaint, as these were years of extraordinary Commercial Distress every where. Unhappily in 1824 I fell in with Robert Patterson (Red Bob) and Barnabas M'Ge of Merigonish, and as Timber was thought to be exhausted about Pictou and the Parts adjacent, they proposed each to provide a Cargo for me at Bras D'Or, Sealie in Cape Breton, this, of course let them into my Shop & in a very short time each had run in Debt to me for several hundred Pounds. These two men turned out to be the most accomplished Rogues I ever met in with. Before I was aware they had got in my Debt that would more than load two vessels each, and being quite out of my sight there, in place of Refusing my Timber to load the vessels I had ordered out, they sold it <sup>to</sup> Kavanach & others and to cover their Roguery said that he had stolen it from them. Luckily for me, in 1825 my Agents sent out only two vessels to load them, and it was with the greatest difficulty that they were got dispatched. After they were loaded and

for the Parties Credited for the Timber, they were still owing me  
more than £750 which they never paid me and, to add to the  
misfortune one of the vessels was lost on the Passage home  
and, altho I had ordered insurance it was not effected owing  
to the vessel being out of time before my instructions  
were received - this cargo was worth £300, and the cargo  
that got home made me a loss of £160 making a total  
loss by these two men of £1260. J. Thos Hill Esq &  
Mr Peabody

The same year I engaged from two men, little better than  
the former two, two cargoes of Timber to be delivered in Ant-  
gonish & Poughet Harbours. They both provided the Timber  
but I was bound to take delivery on a particular day, and  
my agents at home not having succeeded in selling it, I had  
to put it all in Booms for the Winter and, when the Spring  
came, the Booms broke, and the Timber went all adrift  
I sent men & material to gather & secure it, but the Portion  
I got of it cost me more than it was worth, and though  
I loaded one large ship there in 1825, partly by purchasing  
other Timber, yet my loss on this transaction exceeded £800.

In 1823 I had succeeded in collecting about 2000 Quintals  
of Dry Codfish suitable for the Jamaica Market, and, not  
finding a suitable vessel in Pictou to take them out, I wrote  
to my L-POOL agents to charter a vessel there. They sent me  
a Cumberland Brig called the Hannah Peabody, I loaded  
and sent her out consigned to Robt Grahame Esq of Kingston  
the cargo met an excellent market, and, if but for one  
unfortunate circumstance I should have been a con-  
siderable gainer: that circumstance was that by the Charter

I was bound, to find a Cargo, home to Liverpool from Jamaica  
Mr. Guahume laid out the whole Proceeds of the out ward  
Cargo, for Produce and, put it on Board, but beyond that he  
could not get a single Barrel on Freight, as the English houses  
which owned all the Produce, had their own Ships lying at  
the Wharves loading for the English Market, the Consequence  
was that I had to pay over £600 Sterling of Dead Freight, and  
the Concern upon the whole left me a Loser of £500.

Still the same year (1824 & 5) I bought from Mr. James Campbell  
the Sch<sup>m</sup> Margaret, of which my Brother in Law, <sup>Mr. Rankine</sup> owned a  
small part, for the West India Trade, and put James Tate on  
Board as Master, he had been Employed for some years by  
J. A. Patterson, as Master & Supercargo, they said to their  
entire Satisfaction, I consigned the Cargo to him, and instructed  
him to call first at Barbadoes where he would leave the  
State of the Leeward Markets, he did not sell there but  
proceeded to Demerara, where he sold, but unfortunately  
he had been there before, and had formed acquaintance  
with some bad Wemen; these got hold of him, and by  
keeping him continually drunk they succeeded in getting out  
of his hands the most of the Proceeds of the Cargo, when he  
became sober again, he was so ashamed of his conduct  
that he made up his mind to keep the vessel, and never to  
return; it was a long time before I could hear what had  
become of him or the Vessel - as he never replied to  
my Letters, at length, however, my Agents in Barbadoes  
who were very clever, active men, discovered him trading  
on his own account among the French & Danish Islands

and, they having a Power of Attorney from me sent an  
officer of Police after him and brought him a Prisoner  
in the vessel to Barbadoes, While there, the vessel was claim-  
ed by Parties to whom Fate had mortgaged her, our  
agents, by putting in their own Security for these Debts sac-  
ceeded in getting the vessel liberated and sent him home  
in charge of a new Master, Fate being still a Prisoner,  
when he arrived here, I transpired him to fail, &  
altho, he had committed a felony for which no doubt  
he might have been Hanged, I thought it better to try to  
get something out of him and let him go, but after try-  
ing my utmost, all I could get from him, was, an ack-  
nowledgment from a House in Demerara, who had  
bought a part of the out ward cargo, <sup>to amt of £120</sup> and not being very  
substantial, they had never paid Fate, even this Fate  
tried to conceal from me, This being all I could get from  
him I sent for his Father (a ~~Slave~~ man near Parosby) to see  
if he would do any thing for his son, but he said he had  
nothing to give, being a very poor man, he admitted that  
he owned some land together with his son but it was  
nearly all in the Wilderness State and worth very  
little however, this being all I could get, I took a Draft of  
it and discharged the Prisoner, 150 Acres of this Land  
I have since sold for £30 and there is 150 Acres more  
to sell - I took a Draft on the Demerara House from  
Fate for what they owed, and sent it to my agents in  
Barbadoes, who recovered a part and part became  
a bad Debt. They applied what they got to relieve the vessel  
from Mortgage

The vessel herself was little better than a Whack, having been away nearly two years, and never cleaned, repaired or painted.

There being still some debt of Tait's contracting lying against the vessel I sent her out, to ~~the~~ Barbadoes with a Cargo of Fish under Command of Capt<sup>n</sup> Dobinson (another of poor Patterson's old Captains) I ordered my Agents to sell the vessel there if possible & Remit the Balance of Proceeds to my Agents in Halifax and in the event that the vessel would not sell, to write said Agents to procure her back to Victoria for £500, They could get no offer for her and therefore cleaned her in Ballast and wrote for insurance as directed, but here another unforeseen Misfortune awaited me; the vessel by which my Agents sent the Letter to Halifax made a long Passage, and before it was received, Captain Dobinson was hurrying met with a severe Gale in the Gulf Stream, which upset the vessel; another vessel, bound to Quebec, fortunately came up while the ~~Mary~~ was in that Position, and took the Men & Crew off the wreck when she immediately sunk, this vessel had a fine Run to the Gut of Canso, where they re-shipped Dobinson & his men in a Sch<sup>r</sup> bound to Victoria, which they reached in 21 days after leaving Barbadoes.

The actual Loss I made by this concern amounted to £900,

In 1824 I built a very handsome little Brig of 170 Tons I loaded her with primeica Fish and sent her to my friend Rob<sup>t</sup> Graham of King<sup>s</sup>ton, from which she proceeded to Liverpool with Sugar, Molasses & Rum consigned to Canon & Miller on the Passage, and only a few days after sailing Capt<sup>n</sup> Thompson got her dismasted, when he bore up to Antigua for  
Repairs

where he succeeded, besides Loss arising from Delay, a heavy  
Bill of Expenses, and yet it was not heavy enough to Enable  
me to recover from the Underwriters, owing to a Clause  
in the Policy, limiting their Liability. I recovered nothing  
whereas, if the Bill had been £50 more, I would have recovered  
the whole - Say £400. But this was not all the Loss I was destined  
to lose by the velocity. Ship Property was down to a low figure  
and my agents were glad to accept £300 less for her than she  
last was. W<sup>h</sup> Produce was also very low in L<sup>o</sup> Pool at the  
time, and I had instructed C<sup>o</sup> Millers to hold the Cargo  
some time, <sup>if the market was low when it arrived</sup> they did so, for several <sup>months</sup> at my Expense for Ware  
house Rent insurance &c, and then sold it for a mere trifle  
when, had they held it one week more, the sales would have  
nearly doubled, so much had it risen in that time, I might  
rather say, they transferred it to my Credit in their Books  
at a time when they must have foreseen the change in value  
which must soon take place. They afterwards sent the  
most of it out to this Country where they must have real-  
ized a hundred per cent on it. Total Loss by this vessel & Cargo <sup>£1200.</sup>

In 1825 I built the Brig Huskisson of 300 Tons and sent her  
also to C<sup>o</sup> Millan, of L<sup>o</sup> Pool - This vessel & Cargo made me a Loss  
of about £700. In 1826 I built the Brig Sir Walter Scott,  
and went home in her myself, with a view to try to get a  
something better Price for her than I had done for the other 2  
she was of 250 Tons and cleared out for Leith, we left Pictou  
on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 26. we had a fine Run thro the Gut & Clean of the Land  
But the Captain, in his Haste had forgot to benify his Com papers  
and it was not till we were some days at Sea that we

discovered that they were wrong, - they had been given to a  
Watch making in Victoria of the name of Page, to adjust & a pretty  
adjustment he gave them. After talking our departure from the  
Gut of Canscau we steered a course, which, had our compasses  
been right should have taken us more than 100 Miles clear  
of Cape Race, but on the 4<sup>th</sup> Night after leaving the Gut, the  
Wind blew a Gale from S East end, laid us a little off  
our course, we were standing to the Northward, close hauled  
under close Reefed Topsails when at a Quarter to 11 P.M.  
the Mate, whose Watch it was, sung out Land on the Lee  
Bow, all hands were instantly on Deck, and when the Cape  
and I got there, the vessel was in Stays, and the Land, being  
Quite high and so close that we could easily have found a Gun  
on Shore, at this time the Wind heaved some Point to the  
South, and we stood to the westward, and did not strike or we  
would have been all lost, we were entirely at a Loss to know  
what part of the Coast we were on, but in an hour or two  
we made Land again, with Rocks lying far out off it which  
altho the Night was quite Dark & Blowing and Raining  
we could easily see by the Huge Breakers which were  
dashing over them, we had to Wear the Ship this time, and  
we now found we were in danger, and had the wind con-  
tinued long we should have soon been on Shore, as we could  
not carry Sail to work the vessel out in such a Gale, we  
continued turning from Side to Side, till daylight, which I  
thought never would come, when we found that we were  
in the Mouth of Placentia Bay, and had been turning  
all Night between Cape St Marys & Cape Chapeau Rouge

Most providentially for us the Wind moderated at Day light  
and, came round to North West, where it continued with little  
variation nearly all the Passage with frequent Snow Showers  
and, such continuous Cloudy & Foggy Weather, that we could not  
see the Sun to get an observation, and we found ourselves  
getting so rapidly to the North and into total Darkness that  
we had to had to make as much as 3 points more than  
usual allowance for variation of the Needle. we only  
saw the Sun twice on the Passage and the last time it was  
only just skimming the Horizon at 12 o'Clock, when we found  
by our ~~Observation~~ reckoning that we were only 80 Miles to the  
S West of the Tava Islands. Taking it for granted that this was  
our true Position we laid on for the But of Lewis Island  
which we made in a thick Snow Storm, but fortunately in the  
day time, which gave us sufficient warning to put the vessel  
about; had we made it in the night time it is more than  
likely we would have run on shore before <sup>we</sup> had time to do so.

The Weather was so unsettled and stormy that we resolved  
to try to get into Stornaway. we stood round the North Side of  
the Island, but before we came near the Harbour, Night came on  
and the wind headed us and blew a Gale, there was no-  
thing then we could do, but turn all Night in the Minch  
which we did, and in the Morning we were nearly up with  
the harbour, but still blowing so hard that no Pilot  
Boat could come off to take us in, we determined to try  
it ourselves, we got the vessel close hauled and laid her head  
straight in, but the Wind baffled us so much, blowing down off  
the High Land that we were almost on the rocks before us

of Captains

got inside, we were met by a Ships Boat, a little within  
the entrance of the Harbour, ~~which~~<sup>who</sup>, under the supposition  
that we would certainly be on Shore came out to assist in  
saving our Lives, it proved to be the Captain of a Prussian  
Vessel which was lying at anchor, he could not board  
us, as the Sea was running high even inside the Harbour  
he led us in however, for which purpose we shot three  
Seils, and never was I more thankfull for my personal  
Safety. As a proof that the vessel was a good Sea-Boat, we  
made the Lewis Island in 19 Days from Aictau. where,  
at Stornoway, I made up my mind, to have the vessel & go over  
land to Edinburgh. The first chance that offered to take me to  
the main land was about a week after my arrival, when  
a small old Danish Sloop came in with a Cargo of Salt  
from Sinepael bound to Ulapool; we left Stornoway  
in this Craft about 9 o'clock in the Morning, the Wind  
being quite fair but blowing hard & heavy Snow Showers  
when about half way across, I was sitting in the small  
Cabin with the Master and some other Passengers,  
when I observed Water coming up through the Cabin  
Floor, I showed it to the Captain when he rushed on  
Deck and set all hands to work at the Pumps but  
found this quite useless, as they were already choked  
with the Salt. fearing that the vessel would sink very soon  
the M<sup>r</sup> made his little Boat to be unloosed and ready  
to spring into, in the last extremity, and which would  
have done us little good, as ~~it~~ would not have floated  
with half the People we had on Board, we then took off the

1 Hatch from the Cabin floor and, Sit all hands to work to  
2 Bail out the water, with Buckets, we continued incessantly  
3 at this job, about 5 hours when we were nearly all Exhausted  
4 but fortunately we were nearly at our Port, with our ut-  
5 most Efforts we were just able to put out the Water as  
6 fast as it came in. It was quite Dark when we reached  
7 Ulapool, the Captain brought her along side a Small Pier &  
8 made her fast. we were all terribly done out and made  
9 as quickly for the Billage fare, as we could, but before  
10 we got there and Dry clothes on, a Messenger came to say  
11 that the vessel had sunk at the Pier, here was another  
12 narrow escape, for which I ought to feel everlasting Gratitude  
13 to God. After resting ourselves some days at Ulapool, we left  
14 to cross the Country to Dingwall, the Ground was deeply covered  
15 with Snow, we were 4 in all, including myself a Mr Hay  
16 ~~and~~ who took his Passage with me in the Sir W Scott  
17 and 2 other Gentlemen, and we could only get our Horses  
18 and that was no more than sufficient to carry our Bag-  
19 gage, When about half way we came to a River deeply  
20 Swollen, with Rains that had fallen some days since was  
21 There was no Bridge, and only one house that we could  
22 see, and it was at the opposite side of the River, we  
23 made Signals to the People, and after waiting some time  
24 a Man on a horse landed, the River, he took one of us  
25 behind him at a time, and by that slow and some-  
26 what dangerous process he took us all safely across  
27 I need scarcely add that the whole of this journey to  
28 Dingwall we had to perform on foot,

From Dingwall we took the Mail Coach to Edinburgh  
where I waited nearly two weeks before the vessel arrived  
My anticipations about Leith as a market <sup>at</sup> for Langel & Langa  
was by no means realized, the Langa sold very low indeed  
but I let it go at auction, as I saw no good in holding it  
for the vessel, altho' I kept her advertised all winter  
I never got an offer for her, and in the Spring I had to come  
away and leave her in the hands of an Agent, after lying  
there more than a year, at Expense she was sold for £600  
leaving me a Loss of upwards of £200 on Langel &  
Langa. I stayed the most of the Winter in Edinburgh, where  
I was much indebted to the Kindness of the late George  
Mercaer Esq & his Lady. I stayed a few weeks in Leith  
so as to be near the vessel in case any one wanted to  
look at her, and I spent a few weeks with my friends  
in Banffshire. In the Spring of 1827, after settling as  
far as possible with all my Creditors in Britain I took  
Passage <sup>from Greenock</sup> in the Good Old Ship Thetis, Cap. Auld for  
Pictou, we had a fine Passage, and made our Port in  
19 days. Owing to my continuous & heavy Losses I did  
not attempt to bring out any Goods with me Except  
a small Stock of Books & Stationary from my friends  
Messrs Olivar & Boyd, having resolved to try my hand  
in that Line, I also had a few Consignments from  
other Parties. Shortly after arriving in Pictou and while  
the Thetis was discharging, I had another of those al-  
most Miraculous Escapes with my life, which, to me have  
been of such frequent recurrence. A Lighter had come



brought to the Honour in at that time would, not have  
realized half the Sum, what was to be done under these cir-  
cumstances lay entirely with my Creditors, and I submitted  
the matter entirely to their decision, at the same time stat-  
ing my Reluctance to offering them a Composition, preferring  
to Toil on all my life for their Benefit, rather than submit  
to the disgrace of Bankruptcy. They all without hesi-  
tation yielded to my wish, some of them asked nothing  
but my Promissory Note, without Security, payable at a  
distant day, while to the others I gave a Mortgage of all  
my Real Estates, which, both Notes & Mortgages were con-  
tinually paid up to the last Shilling both Principle &  
Interest. I can let me take no Credit to myself for this re-  
sult, for had not the gracious hand of God been working for  
me all the succeeding years, I must have gone the way  
which nearly all those have gone who driven to the  
necessity of mortgaging their Property, namely disap-  
pointment, Dissipation and an early and dishonoured  
Grave. The case was altogether different with all those  
others who, at the fall of the Great House of Martinon &  
Co entered into competition for the large Foreign Trade  
carried on in Britain by that House, they all without ex-  
ception, but myself, compounded with their C<sup>rs</sup>  
and some of them, greatly to their dishonour concealed  
their effects from their C<sup>rs</sup> so as to pay but a mere trifle of  
the just claims on them. All my Creditors held forth  
nothing to me but the language of encouragement, they  
said all, that they had got so many proofs of my  
from 1818 to 1826 I usually do not from 12 to 20 before to Britain

integrity, sobriety & honesty, that they could trust every  
thing to myself, one of them afterwards entrusted me with  
large consignments, which yielded me considerable sums  
as commissions, another interested himself in procur-  
ing for me the highly responsible situation of Agent  
for Slaves, which, from time to time, yielded me some-  
thing in the shape of fees & remuneration for services  
performed. This <sup>agency</sup> I held from 1828 to 1857. 29 years  
when I resigned it (See Letter of Thanks in Appendix)

Thus, in 1827 I began that Business which was destined  
to carry me gradually out of all my worldly embarrasments &  
for many long years it was truly uphill work, for I had not  
only to maintain my credit with my furnishers but had  
to provide for my Family and pay more than £200 a year  
for interest, all out of my small profits, which at first were  
but small owing to the circumstance that all the Cash Merchants  
in Picton of those days dealt in Books & Stationery as  
well as me, and I could not get them to relinquish it until  
I drove them all from the field by underselling them.  
My furnishers in Scotland assisted me in this by giving me  
all the discount they could possibly afford, and my dear  
Partner in life did all in his power to keep up my spirits  
by adopting a strict course of saving and economy besides  
aiding me by his counsel, of which I stood greatly in  
need, for there is reason to fear that I had not only been  
going down hill in my worldly affairs, but had also  
been declining in my spiritual life, for altho' I continued  
generally attentive to the external duties, of Personal,

Family & Public Religion, and abstained from every thing  
which would bring a Reproach on Religion, in the Eye of  
the Public, yet I had not that inward Satisfaction, that I have  
since enjoyed, when I was deeply engaged in Secular affairs,  
and I have good reason for believing that God has, in his A-  
dorable Providence, led me thro' the deep Waters of affliction,  
and Sanctified to me many painful bereavements that he  
might bring me nearer to himself, and to shew me how en-  
tirely dependent I was on him, for all things both Spiritual  
& Temporal. I was now led in deep Humility to implore the  
divine Blessing on my prosecuting this new Line of Business  
and more especially that he would preserve my health  
and life, till under his Blessing I might be able to discharge  
all my Debts honourably, and I bless his holy Name he  
has not only answered this Prayer, but has far Exceeded it  
by providing for my declining years much more amply  
than I dared to venture to ask, I have now to Pray that he  
would make me a good Steward of his Merciful Goodness,  
and that he would accept my thanks for keeping me from falling  
into those debasing Vices, into which the Unfortunate are  
sensible to fall — that he has sustained me while wading  
thro' a Sea of Difficulties, and that he has so blessed my  
Substance that I have been enabled to pay off all my  
just debts, and pay off all relieve my Property from all  
encumbrances, for all which unexpressed Mercies, I  
bless & Praise his Name.

In 1834 the man who had printed a Newspaper in  
Pictou for some years, got in Debt by Mr's management

and was obliged to close up his Business. His Executor, who had taken an assignment of his Effects offered me his Press & Printing Materials, and at once saw that it would be highly advantageous to me in more ways than one to get the concern into my hands, - it would enable me to advertise largely and cheaply and reap the same advantage out of other Peoples Hands, who might be disposed to oppose me in my line of Business, and it would be a good Employment for my two Sons, should any of them make choice of such a Calling.

I then commenced a Weekly Newspaper and called it the "B. & C." This Paper I continued to edit & print for 3 years, when an event happened which induced me to sell off the Printing Establishment, and confine myself to the Books & Stationery. On the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1837 my youngest Son (James) being then 13 years of age, was seized by Scarlatina, and on the 17<sup>th</sup> he died. This severe and sudden chastisement, inflicted by my Heavenly Father, I bore up under with all the Christian fortitude I was able, and endeavoured to improve the said event as much as possible, but it was a severe trial to me, and much more so to his Mother, whose affliction knew no bounds. Her sufferings were so great & protracted, that for several months she got no sleep, and for a long time, I had no hopes that she would survive it. I often thought that her Reason or her Life must give way under it, but it pleased God to restore her so far, after a very protracted suffering, that she was able to attend to her ordinary Duties in the Family, yet her general Health was so far impaired by this event, that she always complained

of Pain & uneasiness about the Region of the Heart, and eventually in 1854 it proved the Cause of her Sudden Death, for several months after James's Death, I was but a poor Comforter to the afflicted, but, on her account, I had to suppress my own feelings, as well as from a sense of due Resignation to the Divine Will, yet my heart was often little to break from the intensity of my Grief, so strong had my affection been for my poor Child that for many years after the sad event, so often as my Thoughts went in that direction, a deep and solemn solemnity crept over me, even altho' I saw it to be my Duty to submit to the disposal of the Divine will. Perhaps, in all this I deeply sinned and grieved Gods Holy Spirit, and therefore, he made it the precursor of a still deeper affliction with which he visited me on the 21<sup>st</sup> Jan'y 1864 in removing her whom he had given me as a Baseline Comforter and a

Early in the Previous month of Dec<sup>r</sup>, she was attacked with a severe cold-called influenza. Our Family Doctor (Dr Anderson) attended, and had pronounced her out of danger, and had, some days previous ceased to visit her, I thought too that if any danger had existed, it was now past, I observed with great Satisfaction and thankfulness that her Respiration had become quite easy — the Cough had almost left her, and her Spirits had nearly recovered their usual tone. On the previous Evening I had convened a Meeting of the Committee of the Bible Society at 7 O'clock in my House, and Dr Anderson being one of them, at 9 O'clock when the Meeting adjourned I called him into Mrs D's Room, where he conversed with her a few minutes and bid her Good Night.

In Pains

out through the Parlour he remarked to me that he was  
glad to find her so well. After Family Worship we both went  
to bed at our usual time, which might be about 10 o'clock,  
she fell sound asleep, but almost immediately awakened  
in a fit of coughing, she wanted to get up, but the night  
was exceedingly cold, and I persuaded her to keep her bed,  
I got up myself and held her head for some time till the cough  
abated a little when I handed her a Mixture which the  
Dr had given her to use, when attacked by the cough  
after some time the cough left her, when she again fell asleep,  
but it was much more disturbed than her first sleep,  
when between 12 & 1 o'clock A.M. 21 Jan'y, the cough again  
assailed her, more violently than it did the first time, &  
without paying any attention to my remonstrance, she  
got out of bed and went into the Parlour, and sat down  
on a chair in her night clothes, where the cough continu-  
ing incessant and severe, I became alarmed and got up  
also, I covered her with a shawl to keep some of the cold  
from her, I held her head in my hands and tried to persuade  
her to let me help her into bed, <sup>without success</sup> when, after some little time  
the cough abated but was succeeded by a quagling in her  
throat as if choking, her weight fell gradually upon me  
as of a person going into a faint, it was with the greatest  
difficulty I was able to keep her from falling off the chair,  
she faintly said to me - "I think James I am dying" - these were  
the last words she ever spoke; my alarm now became very  
great - I had no one to help me nor any light in the room  
our girls slept in the Garret where were no bells;

I asked her again if she would not allow me to help her in  
to bed, that she might get assistance, when she made an effort  
to rise but fell back upon the Chair. She made a second effort  
when with my assistance she succeeded in getting on her  
feet, but when she got to the Bedside she became weaker  
and sunk down in an easy Chair, which, luckily was  
placed at the Bed Side. I knew it would not do to let her  
sit there, as she was getting quite cold, and the fire was  
almost out. — I then put forth all my strength and suc-  
ceeded in getting her into bed, by which time her Eyes  
had become almost fixed, and her Breathing almost  
imperceptible. I called aloud to the Girls and when  
they came to my assistance I left her in their charge &  
ran out half <sup>dragg'd</sup> naked to get the Doctor, and on my  
way called up Tom to run in and attend to her till I  
got back, when I got to the Dr's House I pulled his Door Bell  
for fully a half hour, at least it seemed so to me,  
without being answered, and when I was, the Answer  
was, he is in the Next House to your own (A P Kops) attending  
on a sick Child. On my return I met the Dr at my own  
Door going in, he had heard an unusual Noise through  
the Wall and under the persuasion that something  
was wrong he was just going in to call & see. There was  
only a Lath & Plaster wall between our Bed Room and the  
one in which A P Kops's Child lay. When we got to her  
Bedside, she was still held in a sitting Posture on the Bed  
but Life was extinct, so that I had not the melancholy  
Satisfaction of seeing her die. This sad event, at this  
Painfull

to the flesh, has, Nevertheless been sanctified to me in  
more ways than one, on looking at it as an event coming di-  
rectly from the hand of God, he has shewed me the sin & folly  
of repining or fretting at his Providences, as both she and I  
did when James was taken from us; and under the influ-  
ence of deep resignation to the Divine will to say with Job  
"The Lord Gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be  
the Name of the Lord". During my whole married life she  
was truly a help-mate to me - always anticipated my  
wants, my affectionate Companion in affliction, my Counselor  
when in Difficulties, and my encourager in well doing.

When James was from home on Business she seldom went to  
bed till my return, and on one Occasion when she thought  
me in Danger when Sickness overtook me in Halifax she started  
to come to me in the Silence of the Night, in the midst of a  
Snow Storm and nearly lost her own Life in the attempt,  
If she had a fault, it was in indulging too much affection for her  
Relatives, which made her sufferings acute beyond description  
when the hand of God took any of them from her. On look-  
ing back to this sad event - sad indeed to me - but greatly  
blessed, I trust to her, I feel great thankfulness that God saw  
meet, in Great Mercy, to remove her, without any apparent  
suffering; this thankfulness was not a little heightened by the  
consideration, that while he had taken her to himself, he had,  
in Great Kindness, left me an affectionate Son & Daughter in Law  
and Grand Children, with whom I immediately took up my  
Residence; but little did I then think that in less than 2 years  
I should be separated from them also, Not by Death, thank

God, but to such a distance that it became exceedingly doubt-  
ful whether I should see them again in life. It happened  
at this time that the then Professor of Natural History in Ed-  
inburgh University died, and my son having for some time  
set his desires upon a Professorship in a College, immediately  
made application for the vacant Chair. 3 or 4 others did  
the same, but eventually they all withdrew from the Com-  
petition except Professor ~~Allen~~ of Dublin College and  
himself. The decision of the Patrons being in the Balance  
for some time, causing a good deal of uneasiness and  
Suspense, but eventually Prof<sup>r</sup> ~~Allen~~ having, no doubt the  
the largest influence at head Quarters, was preferred by  
the Patrons, and it is a fact worthy of being recorded,  
that my son being at Halifax <sup>aug<sup>r</sup> 1855</sup> waiting the arrival of the  
Packet from Boston to take his Passage to Britain to press  
his claim, by the advice of his friends there, received a  
Letter notifying him of the appointment being made in  
favour of his competitor. On the same day that he rec<sup>d</sup>  
this Letter in H<sup>+</sup> rec<sup>d</sup> another for him from the Governors  
of McGill College, Montreal, stating, that on the recomen-  
dation of the Governor General they had resolved to  
offer him the Situation of Principal of the University  
with a Salary of £500 per annum and a free Dwelling.  
Here was an unmistakable interposition of divine  
Providence which did, <sup>not</sup> fail to call forth my heart-felt  
Thankfulness, as might be expected, my son turned  
from the Situation he had lost, and directed his at-  
tention to the one he now had in his offer, and after

a little correspondence, the offer was accepted on condition  
that he should have time given him to visit Scotland to  
collect some information there as to the various system  
pursued in the British Universities. This was granted  
and accordingly he took his passage in the next Packet  
thereafter. He returned in October, and without com-  
ing to Pictou proceeded in the Packet to Boston Mont-  
real with his Family. I accompanied Mrs D - and the Family  
to Halifax, and saw them all safely on Board the Packet, I bid  
them all farewell - I must confess with a heavy heart, being under  
the impression that this might be the last time I might see them in  
the World: the day following I returned to Pictou to meditate on  
my lonely situation. My situation now, was pretty much the  
same as it was the first seven or eight years that I spent in  
N Scotia, with this in as far as family ties were concerned  
but with this cheering exception, that I had an affectionate and  
trust worthy Aunty whom I had brought up from Infancy  
to take care of myself - my house, and to assist me in the  
Shop - I endeavoured to console myself with this wise arrange-  
ment of my Heavenly Father, but, above and beyond all this  
I had the Promise of God that tho' all men should desert me, yet  
"he would never leave me nor forsake me". Miss Rankine  
was at this time engaged to marry a Mr <sup>ina</sup> Stewart, yet she  
very kindly postponed the consummation of her own wishes, that  
she might attend to my comfort, till I could make some ar-  
rangement by which I could close up my Business and Retire  
to live the rest of my days with my son, for which kindness  
I shall ever feel grateful.

For a long series of years, I had held the Highly Responsible  
and honourable situations of Elder, in the Congregation,  
Superintendent of the Sab - School, and Secretary, Treasurer  
& Depositary of Pictou Auxy Bible Society and agent for the  
L. M. Fair Society - all these Quaternally, besides being agent  
for Lloyds, but in my now altered circumstances, I saw it  
would not do to retain these any longer, as I could not  
attend to my own business and do justice to them, it is not  
to be wondered at therefore that, one after another I now  
resigned them, all as fast as I could, without injury to their  
<sup>prospective</sup> interests, and I now began to think how I could wind up  
my business to best advantage; this, I found very difficult to  
accomplish, but God came to my assistance, as he has always  
done in difficulties. Early in the summer of 1856 my son, from  
a feeling of great anxiety, which he naturally enough indulged  
in about the sorry condition of his aged parent, came to pay  
me a visit and to use his influence to get me to close up  
my business and come to reside with him. This I promised  
to do as soon as I saw any prospect of doing so to advan-  
tage. I felt however very desirous to know, from personal  
inspection, what prospects he had, of the permanency of his  
situation - for this purpose I took a voyage the same sum-  
mer to Montreal in a Schooner, and stayed one week  
with him, and came home by Boston & Halifax. The visit  
upon the whole gratified me much, and I made up my  
mind to accept the first reasonable chance of disposing of  
my stock and business. Nothing however occurred till after  
New Year 1857 which gave me the least hopes of doing so.

without incurring a very heavy loss. I was afraid to adver-  
tise, being fully assured that if I did so, some or more  
would, at once start up in opposition to me, thus rendering  
my chance of selling out almost hopeless. About  
the time I last refused to however it pleased God to  
bring in my way a chance of selling out which I  
could not have anticipated. Mr. M. Pherson of Nov-  
way house called on me one day, not seemingly with  
any intention of making me an offer for my stock &  
Business, but rather to elicit information as to my  
intentions. In the course of our conversation he stated that  
he had a son in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company who  
was dissatisfied with his situation, owing to some sup-  
posed oversight of his claims for advancement in the service  
and, farther, owing to the impossibility of getting his children  
educated as he would wish, was desirous of coming to  
Scotland, if his father could suggest any business for him  
by which he could make a living. He had also his son  
James on his hands, in an unsettled state of mind as to  
what line of life he should pursue, he did not like Farm-  
ing, and was rather inclined to go to sea, of which the  
Old Gentlemen entirely disapproved. With a view there-  
fore to meet these wants, he had thought of asking me if I  
was desirous of parting with my Business, and if so, he  
felt disposed to make me an offer; this introduction, after  
many other intercessions, led to our concluding a bargain for  
my whole stock just as it stood, to be delivered on the 1<sup>st</sup> July next  
thereafter in the same condition as to value, and in the interim

his Son James was to Enter at once with me as an apprentice  
till the day of Delivery, he being entirely unacquainted  
with the Business. Mr. M'Pherson also Bought the House in  
which the Business was carried on; the Price he Got for  
both was exceedingly Low, perhaps not more than half the  
Real value, but then Payment was Sure, and Got without  
any Trouble, and an Accident just with to one of my Legs  
about a Month before, by which I was laid up, with uncertainty  
as to when, if ever, I should Get the use of it, pre-disposed me  
strongly to accept Mr. M'Phersons offer, Low tho' it was. ac-  
cordingly the young man was taken into the Shop, and he applied  
himself to acquiring a Competent Knowledge of the Business  
with such assiduity, that long before the 1<sup>st</sup> of July he was nearly  
as well acquainted with every thing about the Shop as my  
self. every thing went on with the utmost cordiality between  
us up to the very day of delivery & Payment. In the original  
agreement the house and Shop were only Rented for a Lease  
of 3 years, but in the following Winter, he made me an offer  
to purchase, which I accepted. After delivering him the Stock  
&c I lost no time in talking my departure for Canada, having  
Previously closed up all my accounts as far as possible  
and left the remainder in the hands of Jas. Primrose Esq.  
to be closed up and disposed of as he could find opportunity,  
and here I must do the people I dealt with the justice  
to say that with very few Exceptions, they settled up their  
respective accounts with readiness and pleasure. My Son  
came down in May of this year to see me, and was very anxious  
for me to go with him then to Canada, but I felt myself so

unable to move about with my Leg, that I had to resist  
his Earnest Solicitations at that time to <sup>me</sup> move, but by the  
time I did start, it was so much better, that I stood the  
Journey much better, than I expected. I took Miss Rankin  
with me, however as a precautionary measure in  
case I had given out on the way. I should <sup>have</sup> ~~be~~ men-  
tioned in the proper place of my Narrative, as an  
additional Evidence how God in his Goodness, was  
arranging Every thing <sup>for</sup> to my <sup>good</sup> wishes, as evidenced in  
the fact that shortly after my agreement with Mr  
M'Pherson, I had some Correspondence with the Late  
Lewis Cuvier Esq, about Purchasing my Farm, which  
was giving me much trouble what I should do with  
it - this negotiation resulted in a Sale, also at a very  
low figure - yet I was well pleased with it, as it was  
narrowing in my own Trouble in closing up, and  
if I had left it unsold and left in the hands of an  
agent the Buildings, fences, Hedges & Fruit Trees would  
soon have gone to ruin, and in a few years it would  
not have sold for the half sum of what I got for  
it. I have great reason to thank God for all his Mercies  
connected with my removal, more especially for  
the way in which he has arranged all Events connected  
with it to my hand, rendering Every thing pleasant  
and agreeable - resulting as it has, in leaving me a plentiful  
of ample means to live on during my remaining Days.

Here, it may not be unprofitable, either to myself or the reader, to take a short retrospective view of what I have written, bearing, as my case does, such a close resemblance to that of the Patriarch Job. Cast on my own resources at the early age of 22, in a Land where every thing was new, and strange to me, with only a solitary Guinea in my Pocket. — Twelve years later I was at the head of a Business, second to none in Pictou, shipping yearly, from 10 to 15 Langoes of Timber to G<sup>r</sup> Britain, — 3 to 4 Langoes of Fish to the West Indies, and receiving in return as many Langoes of India Produce, — fitting 10 or 12 bpsels annually to the Gulf and Labrador fishery, and building a bpsel yearly for the British <sup>market</sup>, so that, had any person, at that time offered me £10,000 for my property and Business, it is not at all likely I would have accepted it. — 4 years further on (1827) I was reduced to the verge of Bankruptcy; God had seen meet for my Good, to strip me of all the substance he had bestowed on me — not only so, but in Debt also to the extent of between £4000 & £5000, for which I had nothing to pay — true I had a good Deal of Real Estate, but at that time it was unsaleable at any price, what then was I to do in these circumstances? Very many, when so situated lose their Moral Character, never to be retrieved, either by defrauding their Creditors, or, betaking themselves to dissipation, or both, and ultimately, sink into an early and dishonoured Grave, it pleased God, in his Great Mercy to order my Lot otherwise. It was not the Wish of my Creditors to discourage me, by subjecting me to the Painful of Bankruptcy, always distasteful to a true Scotsman; all they asked was my Promissory Note, to which I added Mortgages of all my Real Estate, without reserve, by way of security, but which was in fact no security at all, as it would then have sold for half the sum it represented. 1827 I saw me commencing a New Line of Business, beginning, in short, the world afresh,

with a small helpless Family to provide for, and about £200 a year of interest to pay, besides keeping up my Credit with my New Furnishings of Stock. A part of my Daily Prayers then was that God would so prosper me, as to permit me to live till I could pay off all my Debts, and to this end spent all my energy, by close attention to Business habits, and Economy in every department, by which course in 1838 I began to retire some of my Mortgages, and continued, year after year to diminish them, till in 1850 I paid off the last one, and in 1857 I was able to retire from Business with from £4000 to £5000. This affords a very remarkable instance of what can, under the blessing of God, be accomplished by a steady adherence to habits of industry and perseverance, and a firm dependence on the Divine Providence; in fact the result appears, in my case almost Miraculous, and had it depended on my own un-sanctified Efforts, I must have utterly failed, but as in the workings of Providence the Means are not to be separated from the End, it pleased God about 1827 to bring me into close intimacy with Wm Matheson Esq, and induced him to place unbounded confidence in my integrity, so that whenever any of my Creditors began to feel uneasy and shew restiveness pressing me at same time for Payment, I had recourse to My Friend, who, always lent me a helping hand, and consequently in the end became my only Creditor, and eventually, I paid him off in full, as already stated, in 1850, so I may safely say that under God, he was the means of bringing me thro my difficulties for which I shall always bear his memory in grateful remembrance. Should any one who reads this Narrative be desirous of knowing by what means I was enabled to surmount my difficulties,

I may briefly state for his Guidance, that the following simple Rules, if observed in a humble dependence on God, will carry him through difficulties which, to the mere worldlying would, appear, wholly impossible. First. Total abstinence from the use of intoxicating Drinks & to be Temperate in all things. Second. Avoid all Giving & Receiving Parties. Third. Buy & Sell, with and for ready money, only. Fourth. If in the Course of your Business, you can not avoid Contracting some Debts, let them be as few & small as possible, and only to your distant furnishers. — Debts, due to near Neighbours, are always most dangerous, and should, in every case be avoided.

The means which God employs, sometimes to bring a person out of difficulties, appears highly mysterious, the following incident in my life is an illustration of this. In 1836, I was publishing a News paper called the "Bee" and I accidentally observed in one of my Canadian exchange Papers, that the article of Potatoes had taken a great & sudden rise in the Market there, and that owing to the insurrection which was then eminent, and <sup>from</sup> the short supply of the article which might be expected from the Country, owing to the failure of the Potatoe Crop, it might be expected to go up still higher. At this time there was a very large quantity of this article in the hands of the merchants of Pictou, and I lost no time in consulting my friends in Halifax as to the propriety of their joining me in a speculation on it. Two respectable Houses thought well of it, and advised me to purchase it to any extent I could get it, at a Price fixed by them & promised to accept my Drafts on them for the amount on my making them the consignees of the article, my Pictou Friends, not having informed themselves of the state of the Markets in Canada, sold me readily nearly all they had, and the result was that in about two

months time I realized nearly £600 of Clear Gain on my purchases which I applied partly to pay off my Debts and partly to purchase a small Farm in the vicinity of the Town, to give me healthy Exercise, as my Health was suffering from too close attention to my Business, - especially from the amount of Night Work I had with the "Bee".

The following singular incident has been omitted in Place In the year 181 - There lived at Piquash in N. Scotia a Gentleman of the Name of A. S. Merchant & Exporter of Timber in which he had not been very successful, but he had failed in convincing himself of that fact, for in that year he commenced Building himself a large House, but forgot to count the Cost and accordingly by the time he had finished the Exterior he had Expended nearly all his funds, so that instead of occupying the House, he was under the Necessity of living in the large Pond for a time, but this was only a part of his folly, for very soon thereafter, he laid down a Keel, and set up the frame of a New Vessel, and persevered in Building her, notwithstanding he was getting Poorer every day; somehow or another I came in contact with him, when he mentioned to me that he had the vessel nearly ready for Launching, and wanted to know whether I would assist him in Rigging her. after thinking the matter over a little I consented to make him advances to a stipulated amount on getting a Bill of Sale of the vessel. This was given and she was launched, fitted out and sent to the Labrador fishing for the summer months - she made two Voyages and was tolerably successful, she came in from the 2<sup>nd</sup> voyage about the beginning of <sup>Nov<sup>r</sup></sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> of that year, and after making an ineffectual

attempt to dry <sup>the fish</sup> them, they were put in Barrels and Pickled  
and taken on Board again, together with those Dried from  
the first voyage, he then sent her down to Pictou to take in  
800 Quintals of Codfish which I had served and ready for  
a market, she came into Pictou in the first week of Decr,  
and about the same time Mr S came on land himself  
The vessel, when loaded was to be sent to the W Indies in Charge  
of a Captain, Crew and Supercargo, of my providing, on  
the 13<sup>th</sup> of the Month she was ready for Sea, and to avoid the  
Risk of being Frozen in, she was moved down to the Beaches  
and in the Evening the Capt<sup>n</sup> and 3 Men left her in the only  
Boat belonging to her to come up to Town for Ships Stores  
pretending to return to her late that Evening and to sail to-  
morrow the Morning, but a Snow Storm came on and they con-  
cluded to stay all Night in town and to join the vessel in  
the Morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>. The vessel had been left in Charge of  
two Boys who had no means of getting on Shore. The 16<sup>th</sup> was  
Post day to Halifax (we had Mails there only twice a Week) and  
I had written the Night before to my Agents in H<sup>l</sup> Mess<sup>rs</sup> G<sup>o</sup>  
A Mitchell to have my Interest in vessel & Cargo Insured  
& tried also, to persuade my friend Mr S<sup>r</sup> to Order Insurance  
on his Interest but without Success, he said, however, on  
leaving me that Morning, that he would think of it on  
his way home, and if he concluded to do so, he would write  
his own Agent. The Post left Pictou that Morning at 6 OClock  
and between 8 & 9 OClock while I was at Breakfast a man  
rushed into my house crying that the vessel was on fire  
& immediately ran out and sent off as many people & Buckets  
as I could pick up by Land and as many as the Ships Boies

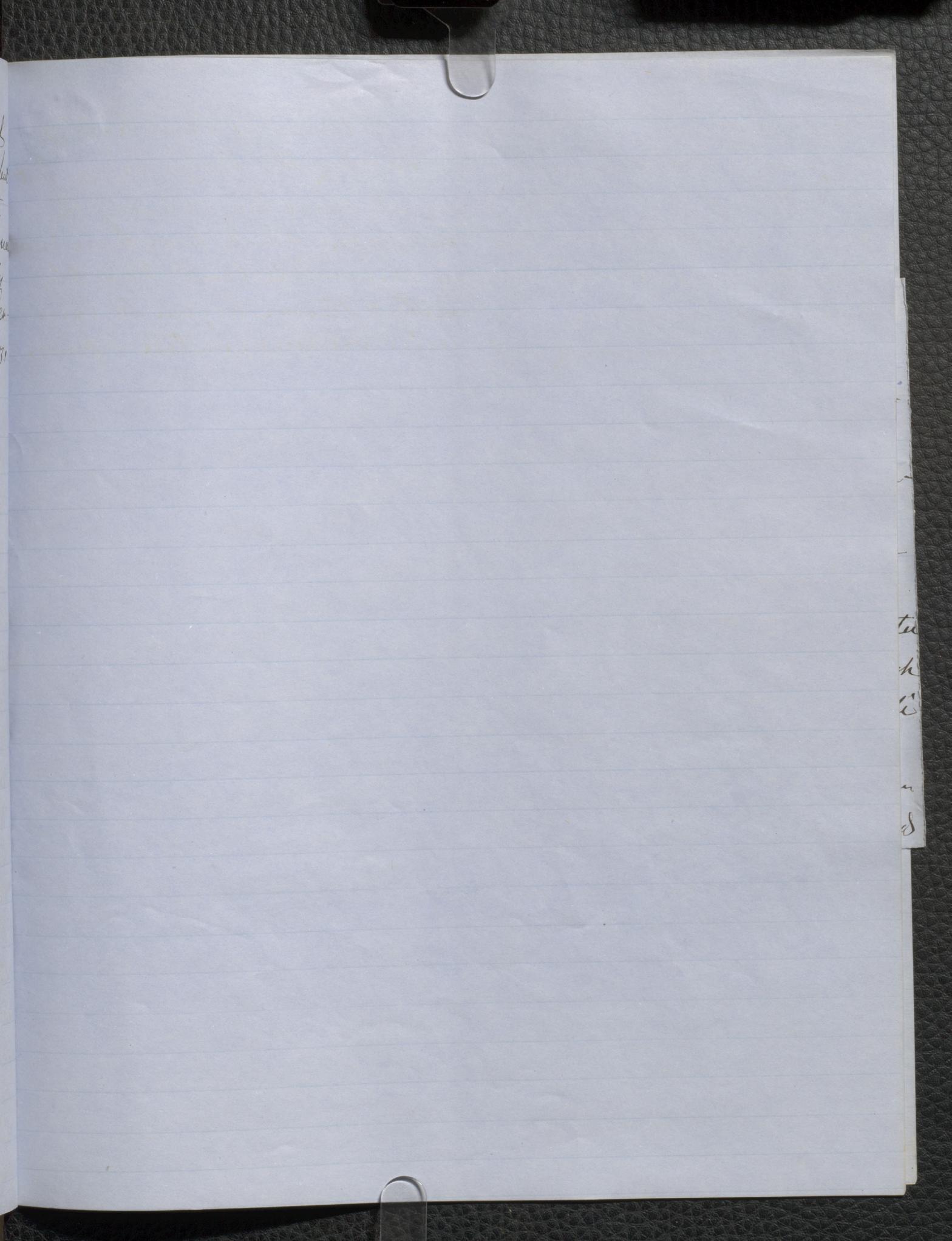
would carry besides (for she had not yet left) but by the time  
the People had reached the vessel she was all on fire from  
Stem to Stern, - the People living near the Shore had seen  
and rescued the 2 Boys and cut the cable and run  
the vessel on the Beach to prevent her from sinking in the  
Channel - by 10 o'clock she was burned to the Water's Edge.

At the time the Alarm was given the Post was only 10 or 12  
miles from Pictou, and it was therefore quite possible to  
overtake it by an Express with the Intelligence, but it was  
not my Business to do so, and no person bore me  
so much ill will as to do it for me. Before the next  
Post day I had the Protest and other Papers made out &  
forwarded, not knowing whether the Insurance would  
be effected or not, but time, the value of Prompt and  
faithful Agents was conspicuous. Immediately on re-  
ceiving my Letter, one of the Mitchells went to an Insur-  
ance office, and after consulting the Directors and agreeing  
with them for the Premium and other Particulars  
of the Risk, the application was filed in the office and  
he got a written Memorandum from the Secretary,  
as is usual in such cases to serve till the Policy was  
delivered, which was to be ready on the following  
day at 12 o'clock. In the interim, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Mitchell  
received a letter from me covering the Protest and  
other Papers connected with the Loss, and altho their  
own interests were affected by it, being underwriters  
themselves in the same office, such was their integrity

that they kept the matter a profound secret till they  
went at the time agreed on, and on receiving the  
Policy from the Secretary, handed him the Protest &c

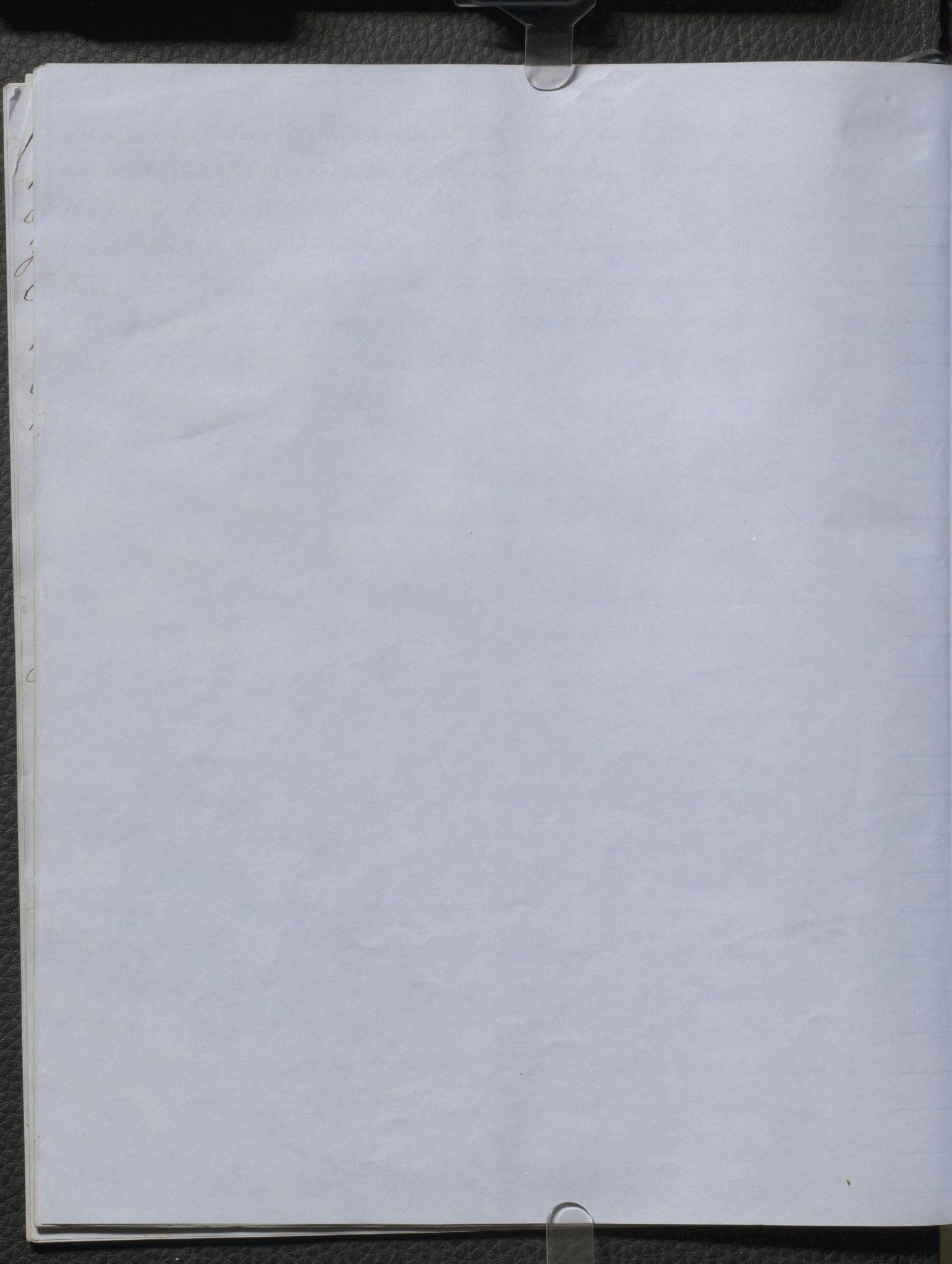
There are many Boards of Administration who under such  
Suspicious Circumstances would have deemed this a fair  
field for withholding payment, but not so these, they  
had indeed to institute an inquiry to satisfy those  
who were not in the Direction of the office, and this course  
I courted to remove all suspicious from myself, and  
the Result was that the Loss was settled without any  
trouble, and the Secretary was directed to furnish  
me with a Letter setting forth that the office Exoner-  
ated me from all blame in the matter, and none  
could be attached to Mr S for he, Poor man, did not  
know, and no blame could be affixed on the two Boys  
who were left on Board to take care of the vessel, for  
they had no Boat and run the Risk of losing their  
lives in the event of the vessel being burned. The fact  
turned out to be, that the Boys bed clothes were not on  
Board, but were to be brought down in the Boat &  
the Night being very cold and stormy they set up late till  
sleep overcame them, and kept up a good fire <sup>in</sup> the Cabin  
Stove and the consequence was that after they fell asleep  
some dry wood which happened to be behind the Stove  
got ignited, and about Day light in the morning  
they wakened up almost choked with the smoke  
and they set to work with all their might to try to Exting-  
uish it, and continued at it till the People on Shore

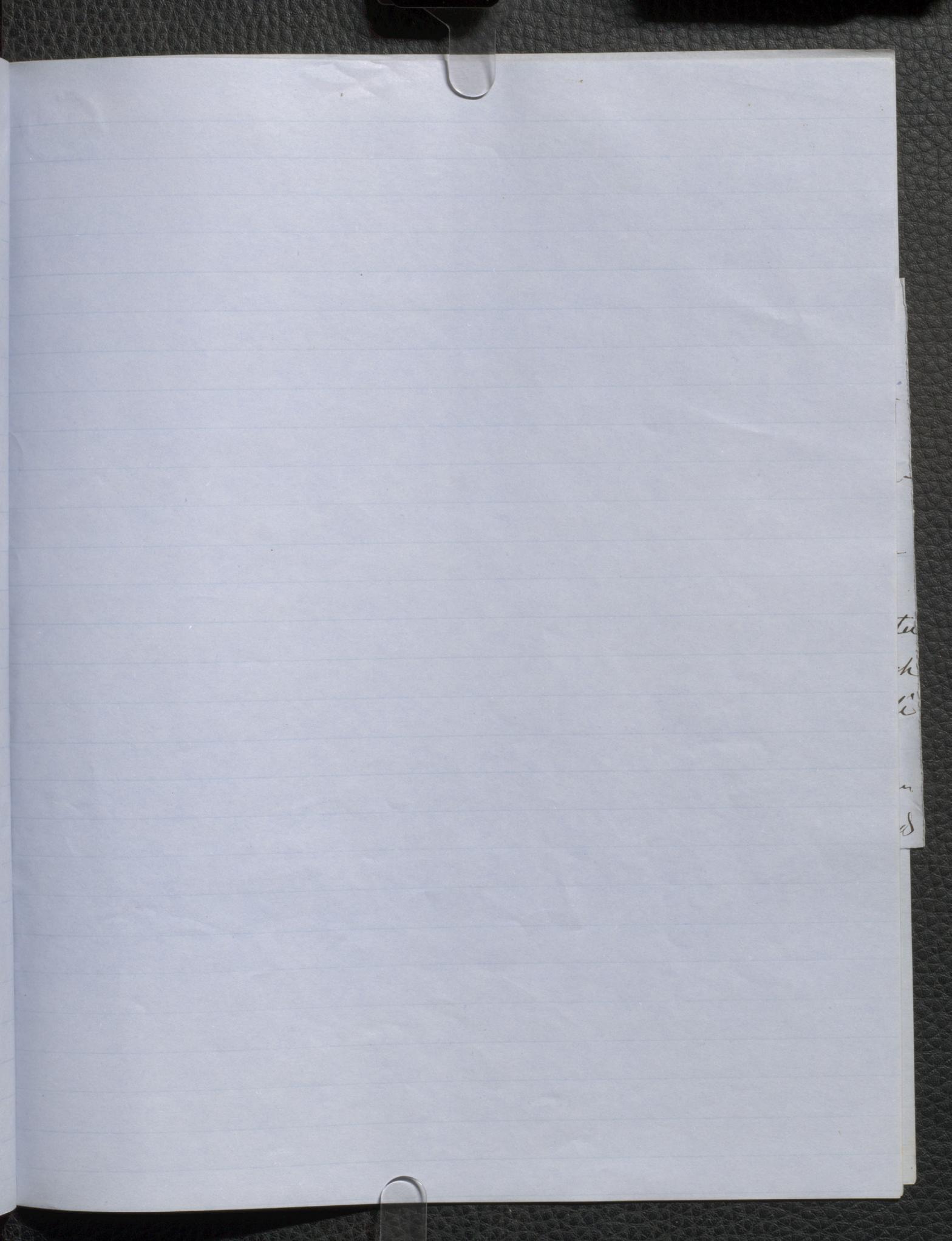
Saw, what had happened, and came to their Relief  
and were instrumental in saving the Boys Lives, but  
not the vessel. This incident shows very clearly the  
great value of the Scientific Discoveries which have been made  
since the year 181 - No such an occurrence could possibly  
take place now, since Electricity & Steam began to Exer-  
cise their astonishing influence on Mercantile affairs,



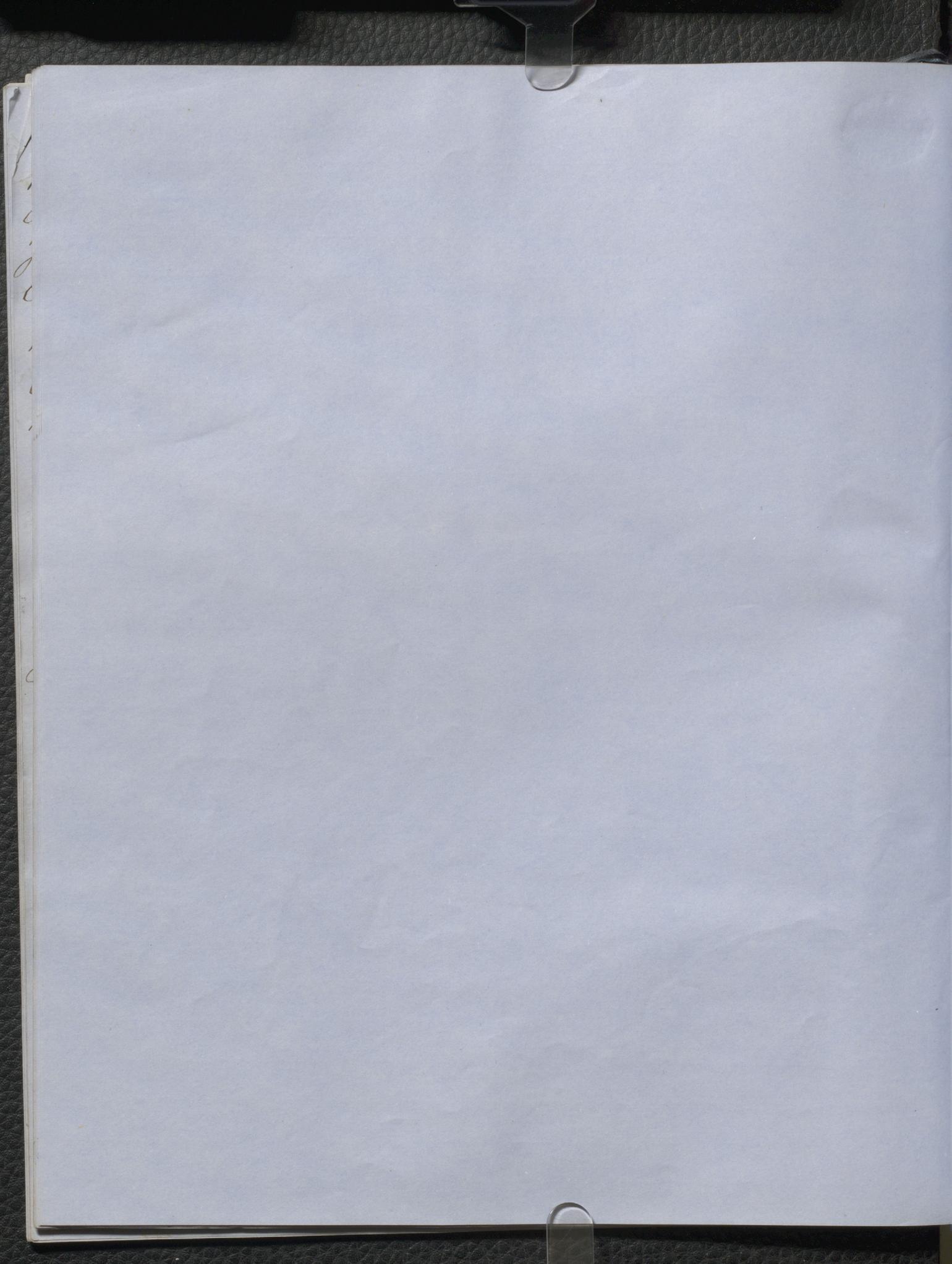
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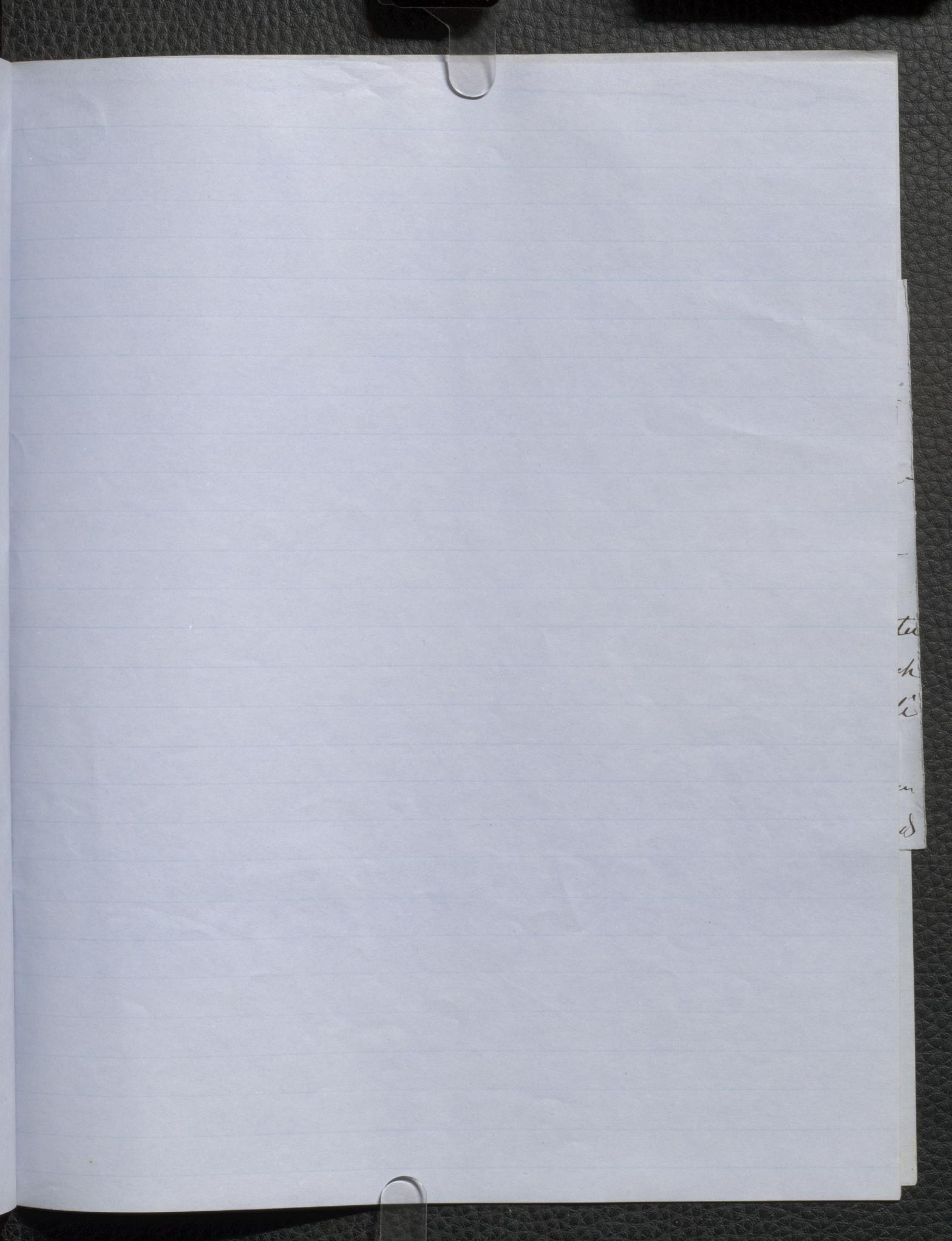
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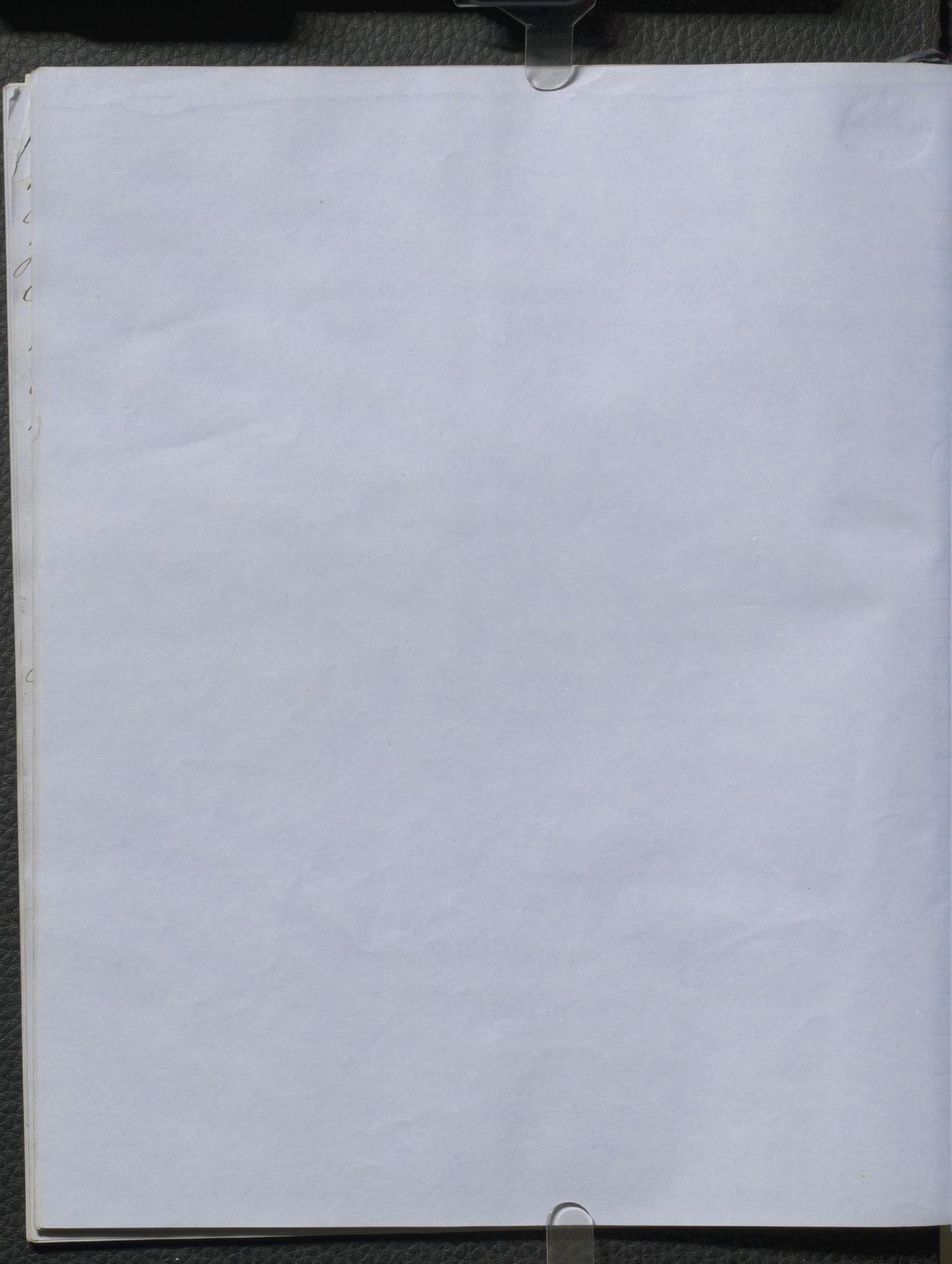
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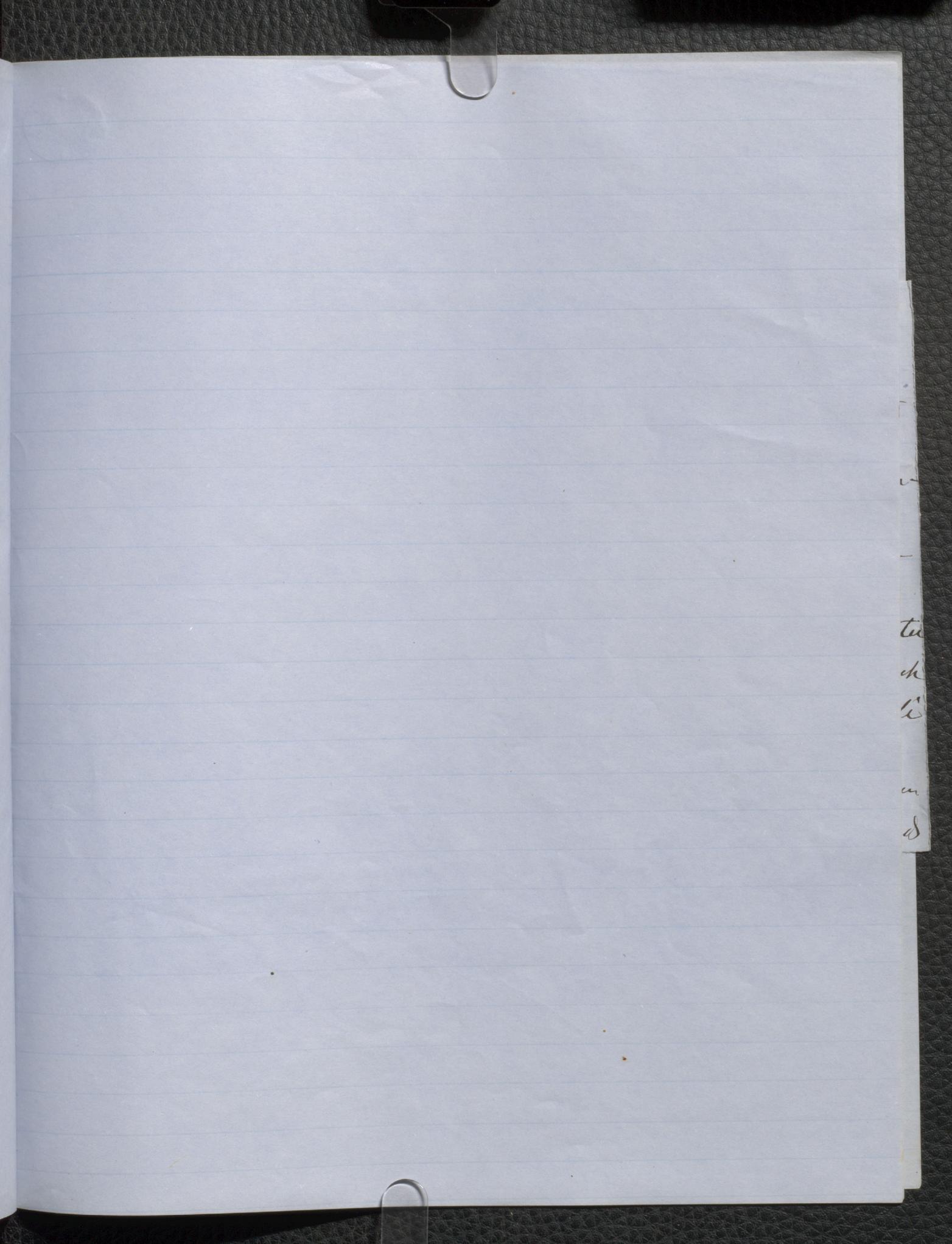
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Two Rules which I adopted in Early Life & have ever since acted upon, have been of incalculable advantage to me - Namely  
7<sup>th</sup> Every thing has a place, and every thing, when used should be returned to its place and be found there when needed again, by attending to this Rule an infinite amount of trouble, annoyance and disappointment is avoided.

2<sup>nd</sup> Never owe Debts to near Neighbors, if you wish to be esteemed Worthy and avoid Bankruptcy. These are the Debts which create ill feeling, Originate lawsuits, and eventually bring on Bankruptcy. if your circumstances be such that you must occasionally take on Debts, let your Creditors be far, remote, Respectable & feeling people, who will not take advantage of your necessities, but in whom you can place confidence, and by acting honestly towards



*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*

1822  
80  
1742

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

FOREWORD

This is a transcription of James Dawson's "narrative diary" which is described in Sarah Helgerson's Guide to Accession 1421 (items 1.14 to 1.40; see pp. 2-6). James Dawson (1790-1863) was the father of John William Dawson, the Principal of McGill University from 1855 to 1893. The narrative is composed of three parts: Dawson's account of his forbears and of his own life till his wife's death in 1854; a description of the events leading to his leaving Pictou and resettling in Montreal; and several entries relating those current events which impressed him as of particular importance, in the years 1857 to 1861.

The most striking aspect of the diary is its religious nature. Entitled a "Memorial of God's Mercies" it follows the twists and turns of Providence, and observes the direct involvement of the divinity in all matters, seeing a moral in every occurrence, and duly unravelling and pondering it. The deity may be called merciful and kindly and loving, yet is also a present, ever-watchful, and disciplinary God who makes his will known both through bounties and catastrophies (which Dawson feels a certain relish in recounting).

Written in old age, the diary provides an account of unwavering piety, but there are hints that, especially during the "commercial" period, this was not always the whole truth.

Although a devout man, Dawson's evangelicalism did not make his life a joyful or restful experience. One feels the burden of self-criticism and an ever-readiness to submit to whatever unpleasantness is bound to be in store. The record is not of joie de vivre but of Providence's ever-present righteous guidance.

I began the transcription as an aid in indexing other Dawson material, finding, at first, Dawson's handwriting so difficult to decipher that I felt that only in writing it out would I be able to make sense of it. I soon became used to the handwriting, but found the account so interesting that I thought it warranted full transcription. In reproducing Dawson's narrative I have tried to keep both the original spelling and the idiosyncratic capitalization.

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History of McGill Project

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Liana Vardi  
History of McGill Project

p.1.  
item  
1-14

Pictou, 25 March, 1849

This being my 60th Birthday calls for the most heartfelt gratitude to God, on my Part, for the numerous mercies he has conferred on me, who does not deserve to be numbered among his honoured servants. My Life has been nearly one continued series of healthful years - during which long Period numberless Temptations have been presented to my mind of gratifying some Evil Propensity of my corrupt nature, yet out of them all the Lord has graciously delivered me.

In many instances too, I have been exposed to the most Eminent Dangers to my Person from Time, Shipwreck, Drowning and other Impending accidents, from all these too the Providence of God has preserved me. I have been Blessed too with Great happiness in my family, and respectable success in my Business. It is true that at times I have been exposed to Severe Losses, almost amounting to Bankruptcy, but these I have chiefly brought on myself by Rash Speculation, but the Lord has encouraged me not to despair but to persevere in honest industry to reclaim my losses, and he has spared me time and health and given me Prudence to do so. He has further vouchsafed me ample access all my life to the means of Grace opportunities of doing Good, Personal Liberty, etc. When I look at all my mercies, Family, and Personal, Civil and Religious, which have been bestowed on me through the loving kindness of the Lord, and the blessed intercession of his son Jesus Christ, what Great Reason have I to cast myself devoutly, and unreservedly at his feet and say with the Royal Psalmist "surely Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever".

J. Dawson

p.2  
1-15

Memorial of God's Mercies

I was born at the farm of Overtown in the Parish of Ordiquhill, Banffshire, Scotland, on the 25th of March 1789. My father John Dawson was a Roman Catholic, as were all his kindred and Ancestors back to the Period when they emigrated from Ireland, said to be about [blank] years ago, and there is a tradition extant that the Scotch Progenitor of the Family was Thomas Dawson who, accompanied by one John Gordon had to leave their native country in Disguise being implicated as 2 principals in one of the many unsuccessful struggles Ireland has made to regain her Liberty from the Anglo-Saxon Rule. And these two men formed the subject of the well-known Scotch Rhyme or Ballad "Pock and Fawn are a'comin'". The head of the Family has been for a long time the Dawsons of Crombie in the parish of Mannocho(?), Banffshire. My father was much superior to the Ordinary Class of Roman Catholics, in Education, Intelligence, and Liberality. While he claimed the Liberty to think for himself in Matters of Religion, he extended, freely, the same Right to all others. He made a point, therefore, never to enter into any Religious Disputes. He was a strict observer of the Lord's day - seldom failed in attending the Chappell, altho distant from 3 to 4 miles. He had Protestant Religious Books as well as Roman Catholic Sermons, for which offenses he was subjected to Discipline and Pennance by his Priest. He was attentive to his Private Donations, as I remember that when a mere Child I have often surprised him on his knees engaged in his morning and evening exercises. He was a man of Peace, both in and out of his family, and neversuffered zeal for propagating his own peculiar views in religion either to disturb his good understanding with his neighbours or mar the Peace in his own Family. I have been told that he asked my oldest Brother when at the age of 15 or 16 if he would go with him to the Chappel, which he declined, and besides this I am not aware that he ever asked a Question at any other of his children, 10 in number. This liberality constituted in the eyes of his Priest and his fellow worshippers another serious offence for which he was threatened with the anathema of his church.

p.3  
1-16

In the Parish he was highly esteemed, as a man of Great Probity and uprightness of Character. This was so much the Case that in almost every instance of Disturbance among the Neighbours, recourse was had to his Mediation and he seldom failed in Reconciling their Differences. He Died in the year 1822, 18th October, at the age of 80.

(Insert) My grandfather was James Dawson of Oldtown - Parish of Cairney who was married to a Miss Gordon of Tulickalm in the neighbourhood parish of Rothmen (?). He had two sons, John (my father) and James who rented a Farm in the parish of Rothmen and was the father of a large Family. Grandfather died before his Wife and was Buried in our Burying place in Cairney. His Wife married again some Person in Aberdeen, and at her Death was interred in her own burrying place in Ruthmen, by her two sons aforesaid. I have good reason for believing that they were all Roman Catholics.

My Mother was a Pious Good Woman and a Member of the Established Religion. She gave all her children a Careful training in the Scriptures and the shorter Catechism. The afternoon of the Sabbath was always spent in Catechising or Reading the Bible, etc...in which Exercises my Father never took a part or interfered. She Died 7 March 1805 when I was only 16 years of age. Her Father was George Mitchell Esq. Proprietor of the Small Estate of Frenleight in the Parish of Farque. He had only one son (James) who Learned the Medical Profession and Practiced it in that Parish At his Death (James') he having no Male Sons and the Estate being under Pecuniary Embarrassment, soon after his Death it was Sold and the Reversion(?) funded for the Benefit of his Daughters, amounting to about £1800 Sterling.

p.4.  
1-17

In my Childhood I was Extremely feeble, so much so that it was thought for many years that I could (not) survive long. This feebleness was produced by frequent attacks of Measles, Small Pox, Hooping Cough; Contrary to Expectation, however, as I grew in years, I grew in Strength. When I was about 7 years of age an occurrence took place in the Parish of no Ordinary kind in these times. This was the Establishment of a Sabbath Evening School by Some members of the Anti-Burghers Congregation at Whitehill under the Care of the 'Rev' Mr. Primrose, Father of the James Primrose Esq. of this place (Pictou) and Some Independents who, much to their Credit joined in this Good Work. The Minister and Session of the Parish Church opposed this movement with all their might, yet in the face of their threats, which I believe were never Enforced, my Mother Sent myself and Some Elder Sisters to the School and I continued to attend it first as a Scholar, and afterwards as a Teacher till I was 17 years of age. During a good Portion of this Period I was Sent to the Parish School, where under various masters I received the Elements of a Good English Education. For Some months I was put in a Latin class as my Mother was very anxious to give me a College Education, but my Oldest Brother who had himself gone through a Regular Course at College, and other friends Advised her to Relinquish this plan, owing to the Extreme weakness of my Eyes, which they thought would unfit me for Study.

p.5.  
1-18

From the age of 14 to 17, I was Principally Employed on the Farm with my Father, but at the latter Period I intimated to him my wish to be put to a Trade. He told me to choose one, I chose that of a Saddler when he Engaged me to a Mr Robert Milne of Huntly for four years. Here a fresh instance occurred of my Father's freedom from Bigotry, for altho he might Easily have Selected a Roman Catholic family for my Boarding House, of which there were plenty in Huntly, among which were some of his own nearest Kindred yet he Selected a Respectable Pious Protestant family for my Residence, and I remember Quite well that when he Sent me away he cautioned me against forming any companionship with young men of doubtful character, but rather to associate with those who were noted for their Piety and Good Moral Conduct, without Even hinting that it was Roman Catholic Piety and Morals he meant.

In Mr. Milne's Shop there were generally 12 or 14 young men about my own age besides a Foreman who was at this time one John Wright, a man advanced in Life, and who had been in Business for himself but had been unsuccessful. Some of these young men were very Profligate and Immoral in their behaviour and presented to me Such Examples of Human depravity as I had never Witnessed before, but fortunately for me, a few others of them were of Quite an opposite Character. They were decidedly Pious and belonged to different Communions. Three of them were Church members, and besides taking a part in S. School

Instruction, they met once a week in the Evening for Mutual Prayers to which they invited me, and having at their command Considerable Quantity of Religious Books, they freely offered me the use of them, of which I availed myself. They also invited me to attend their Places of Worship on the Sabbath Evening (one Burghers, the other Independents). I attended the Parish Church in the Daytime. At the age of 19, after much Serious Reflection, I resolved to Give myself to the Lord and accordingly I applied to the Parish minister, the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Morris, Brother of the Late James Morris, Cabinet Maker, of this Place (Pictou) and was admitted to the Communion for the first time, in the Parish Church of Trinity in the Summer of 1808.

p.6.  
1-19

At this distance of time, I have no distinct recollection what it was which influenced me to take so Serious a Step at so Early a Period in my Life, but think that the Bait Given to my mind in S. School, and the fortunate circumstances of my being afterwards brought into the Society of Religious People, was instrumental in producing the Effects and I have no doubt that I was influenced in choosing the Established Church, rather than any other Communion by the Circumstances of my Mother being a Kirk Member. I Sincerely loved my Mother, and at that Early Period of my Life, would have deemed it a kind of Sacrelege and a Dishonour to her memory to have joined any other Communion. In the year 1811, being then 22 years of age, and my indenturing Expired, I Emigrated to Pictou in the Employ of the Late Edward Mortimor Esq. I had my passage in the Brig Camphitrite Captain David Bart from Grunoch, the owner, Mr Mortimor, and the Late John Dawson Esq. of Pictou, being also Passengers. We Sailed on the 11th of April and arrived on the 19th of May 1811. In 1812 I applied to the Rev<sup>d</sup> Thomas McCulloch for admission to membership in his Congregation, and was admitted to Communion, Partly on the Certificate I brought with me from Mr. Morris and Partly as the Result of Personal Examination. To Some, who act very differently, it may appear rash and Presumptuous to associate this Early with the Company of Believers, but I am of a very different opinion, and I am persuaded that no greater Evil can befall a Christian Church than to prevent her young people, to Postpone from year to year, this making of a Public profession of their Faith, till they become so immersed in the Poluting realities of Life till they lose all Relish (?) Either for Religion or the Society of Religious People. Such people, when they get Married very generally apply to the Church Session not for Priviledges to themselves, for they are very ready to admit that they are unfit for that, but for Baptism to their Children, and Sorry that they but too readily obtain this, and that Such a Practice has been introduced into the Church. I believe it to be unscriptural, and a most Ensnaring Practice for unreflecting men.

p.7.  
1-20

In my own Case I can conscientiously say that Early Communicating has been blessed to me in a variety of ways, for, in the first place I feel assured that it has been instrumental in keeping me aloof from many temptations to Sin, into which, but for the Check of my being a Christian professor, I would inevitably have been Carried headlong in the vortex of folly and Dissipation to Destruction. In the Second place I have found that when beset with commercial difficulties, Exposed to Sudden and Extreme personal Danger, or visited with Personal of family affliction, in Humbling myself before God, Praying to him for Direction, and firmly relying on his Promises

he has not forsaken me, but afforded me that Protection and Direction which Enabled me to say "whom the Lord Loveth he Chastenth, and Scourgeth Every Sin (Son?) whom he receiveth". I would therefore recommend all young people to Give Themselves Early, Even Earlier than I did, to the Lord.

In 1813, a Prayer meeting was for the first time Established in Pictou Congregation, I have no recollection who led the way in this honourable movement, but think Mr McCulloch had a principal hand in it as it was he who first asked me to attend it. It was held for a few years at first in a Biggs Stone House. There are few now living who attended it, besides Jas. Rutter, J. Biggs and myself. There may also be some Ladies living, as I do not remember who of them attended. In 1813 my Brother came out, and in the following year, he and I were instrumental in Commencing Pictou Sabbath School which the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. McCulloch gave a Sort of Passive approbation of but never Patronized it with his Personal attendance, as he did the Prayer meeting.

p.8.  
1-21

This year (1815) an Election of Elders took place in the Congregation and the Choice fell on D. Patterson, Town G<sup>vt</sup> (?), J. Patterson, Donald Cameron Chance H<sup>n</sup> and myself. It may easily be believed that this Event proved a Subject of deep and Serious Reflection, as well as Ardent and Earnest Prayer to me, for the Divine Direction. I felt an Entire Want of Confidence in my Qualification for so important and Solemn an offer arising principally from my want of Christian Experience, and from my youth, particularly as compared with those fathers in the Church who were Elected at the same time, all of them being more than double my age, but when almost overwhelmed with Perplexity as to what was my Duty in the matter, the Lord himself seemed to call me by a way which I know not to stand forth for the honour of his name, Saying to me -"Fear not", "I will make my Strength perfect in your weakness". Having devoted myself anew in Prayer to my heavenly father, and Supplicated him to lead me in the way he would have me to go, to Cast my Lot more unreservedly in with the People of God than I had Ever yet done, and to keep me from Desiring the Riches and Honours of the World, I consented to be Ordained and Elder. Here let me Bless God for this further token of his Loving Kindness, in permitting me to Exercise the office of Steward in his vinyard here below, and in making that office instrumental in keeping me aloof from many of the fashionable Sins and Follies of the time and place. Two of the gentlemen who were ordained with me are now (1850) numbered with the dead.

From 1815 to 1825 I was deeply Embarked in Merchandise, Exporting Timber and New Ships to Great Britain, and Fish and Lumber to the West Indies, and during that period I was Exposed to Great Temptation to indulge in Speculation and even Dissipation the Common Vice of nearly all Traders of that period. I was often so involved in the affairs of the World as to occasion frequent interruption in the Religious Duties of my Family, but for this the Lord in Great Kindness and Mercy laid on me about the Close of the above period, some heavy afflictions, and Sanctified them to my Good.

p.9.  
1-22

[~~(crossed off)~~ At the close of the year 1816 my Business required my Presence in Britain and I took passage in the Brig Seaton of Workington (Worthington, Washington?) Captain Turnbull, for Liverpool. We had a very Stormy Passage, and the Master being a Notorious Reprobate, and there being no other Gentleman on Board, I felt the Passage to be a very unpleasant one. The night before we got into Liverpool it Blew a Hurricane from the North with a heavy Snow Storm and being then in the Channel, the

vessel was almost miraculously saved from Shipwreck on the Chester Sands. When all hope for Safety Seemed to be gone even from the hardy Seamen, I observed Captain Turnbull on his knees in the main top, Supplicating mercy from that Being -perhaps for the first time in his Life whom he had been denying or insulting all the Passage. Yet the very first place he visited after getting into Liverpool was one of his old haunts, a House of Bad Fame. After Settling my Business in the most Satisfactory manner I could, and visiting a Great part of Scotland and a part of England, I returned to Nova Scotia the following Spring in the Brig Good Intent, Captain Eliphas Hibberd, Mr. J.Geddie and family, Alexander Shearer and family and others being also Passengers in the Vessel, which was consigned to me for a cargo.]

p.10.  
1-23 From that Period till the close of 1826 I was deeply Engaged in a variety of Business, Such as General Merchandise, Shipping Timber to Britain, Fish, oil and lumber to the West Indies and Ship Building, the result of which was, like most wordly pursuits, that, after a variety of Good and Bad fortune, I was left Poorer in 1827 than I was in 1816 when I began, and I fear it was no less detrimental to my Spiritual Interests.

For although I continued Generally attentive to the duties of Public, Family, and personal Religion, and abstained from Everything which would bring a Reproach on Religion in the Ey of the Public, yet I had not that inward Satisfaction that I have Since Enjoyed, when less deeply Embarked in Wordly Business, and I bless God that I have good reason for Believing that he has in his adorable (?) Providence, led me at times through the deep waters of affliction and Sanctified to me for the Good of my Soul many painful Bereavements.

On the 8th of December 1818 I was united in marriage to Mary Rankine, only Daughter of the Late John Rankine Esq. of Lonerig, Parish Slamannan. She having followed the fortunes of her only Brother to Nova Scotia, the Late William Rankine merchant Pictou. This connection has been Blessed to me in a variety of ways by my heavenly Father. She has been my Counsilor in Difficulty as well as in prosperity, and my Solace in affliction, and, while God has seen meet to withdraw wordly Substance and Dear Children from me, he has Spared her to be my Companion in old age, and I trust also to Enjoy with me the Loving Kindness of God, when the Concerns of time have disappeared from our views.

p.11.  
1-24 4th November 1855. Nearly seven years have now Elapsed Since the Previous Part of this Narative was written, which has been to me a most Eventful Period of my Life. The General Commercial Embarrassments and Bankrupcy of 1825-6, left me unable to meet my Liabilities by the Large Sum of about L4000. In the Latter year after Settling all my accounts here I went to Britain where all my Principal Creditors were and finding that they were all willing to wait till I should try some new and more safe line of Business. I assumed the sull Liability of the whole of their claims on me together with Interest, and gave them mortgages of all my real Estate.

my Liability at this time for interest alone exceeded L200 per annum. In the Spring of 1827, I returned to Nova Scotia with a Small Stock of Books and Stationary and Commenced Business in that Line -and I Earnestly and frequently implored the Divine Blessing so as to Enable me in this new Line of Business to meet my yearly Liabilities, and Gradually to reduce them, so that I might be Enabled to leave the World in Peace, and without inflicting any Pecuniary loss upon any with whom I had dealings in Life, and I have good reason now to say that he has not only heard and answered my Prayers, but has far Exceeded them. He has since that time Enabled me to wade through a sea of Difficulties, kept me from those Depraving Vices to which the Unfortunate are so liable to fall, and has so blessed my Substance that I have been Enabled to pay off all my past Debts and relieve all my Property from Encumbrances, for all which Undeserved Mercies I now bless and praise his name.

But these years of Uninterrupted Prosperity have not passed without meeting Severe Chastisement at the hand of my Heavenly Father. On the 14 July, 1837, my youngest Son James, a fine, lively, active, and kindhearted Boy just Entered on his academical Studies was seized with Scarlatina, a Disease then fatally prevailant in the Place, and on the third day, 17 July, he Died and his affectionate Parents were plunged into deep affliction.

This dispensation was peculiarly Severe upon his Mother whose affection for him knew no bounds, and the Sadness of the Blow rendered it doubly distressing. Her Suffering(more)for his Loss were so disturbing and protracted that for many months She got no Sleep and for a long time I had no hopes that She would Survive it. I thought that her Reason or her Life must give way under it. It pleased God, however, to recover her so far to Enable her to attend to her ordinary duties in the family. Yet her general health was so far impaired by this Event that She always complained of Pain and uneasiness about the region of the heart. During this Month of Woe and Weeping I was but a poor Comforter of the afflicted, for, on her account I had to Suppress my own feelings on her account as well as from a Sense of due resignation to the Divine Will. Yet my heart was often like to Break from the intensity of my Grief -even altho Sanctified. Altho 18 years have now passed Since this Event, yet I have frequent times a Solemn thought about this dispensation not unaccompanied with Tears. Perhaps in this I have deeply Sinned and grieved the Holy Spirit of God, and therefore he made it the precursor of a Still deeper affliction with which he visited me in the Death of her whom he had given me as my only Comforter here below.

This Sad Event took place on the 21 January 1854. Early in the Previous month of December She was attacked with a Severe Cold called Influenza, our Family Dr. (Dr. Anderson) attended her, and always gave it as his opinion that there was no Danger to be apprehended and a few days before her Sudden Death, I thought too that if Danger had existed it was now past. The Dr. was so far of this opinion that he had for some days discontinued his professional visits, and I observed, with great Thankfulness and Satisfaction that her respiration had become quite easy.

p.13.  
1-26

The cough had almost left her and her Spirits had nearly resumed their usual Tone. On the Evening of the 20th, I had a meeting of the Bible Society, meeting in the House, Dr. Anderson being one of them. I asked her if She would not wish to go to bed before the Gentlemen met. She Said -no! and She set up in the Bed Room till 9 o'clock When the meeting broke up and She walked in and Spoke to the Gentlemen before they departed, and Dr. A. conversed with her. On his return in passing through the Parlour he remarked to me that he was Glad to see Mrs. D. so well. After family worship we both went to bed, which might be about 10 o'clock. She fell asleep, but almost immediately wakened up and a Severe fit of coughing. She wanted to get up but the night was Exceedingly Cold and I persuaded her to ly in bed getting up myself to hand her some cough mixture which the Dr. had given her, after a little time She got over this fit of coughing and was enjoying a Somewhat Disturbed Slumber, when about between 12 and 1 o'clock (21st January) She was again assailed with cough more violently than before and without paying any attention to my remonstrance she got out of Bed and went into the Parlour and set down on a chair with nothing but her nightclothes on, the cough continuing incessant and Severe. I got out of Bed and Covered her with a Shawl and held her head, when all at once she began to put unusual weight on me, her Cough became weaker and She faintly Said to me: "I think James I am Dying". I became alarmed but had no one to help me as there was no Bell String in the Room that Communicated with the Girls' bedroom. I asked her if she would not allow me to help her into bed, that I might get assistance, She immediately made an Effort to Rise, but was unable, with my assistance She Succeeded to get on her feet with arduous (?) Effort but when She got to the bedside, She became weaker and Sunk down on an armchair at the bedside. I Said it would not do to let her sit there as She was getting quite cold and the fire was nearly out. I then put forth all my Strength and Succeeded in getting her into Bed, by which time her eyes had become almost fixed and her breathing almost imperceptible. I called the Girls and ran out half Dressed and called William first and then Ran to Dr. A's House and called long -probably half an hour's time without being answered (when I was) the answer was, he is in the next neighbour's House (A.P. Ross) attending a Sick Child. I then Ran home and met the Doctor at my own Door going in. He had heard the Bustle about her Bed Side (through) the Wall and was coming in to See what was the matter. When we came to her bedside, She was Still held up by William and those Present, but Life was Gone -so that I had not the melancholy Satisfaction of Seeing her Die. This Sad Event has been Greatly Sanctified to me in various ways -on looking at it. God has Showed me the Sin and folly of Repining, and under the influence of Deep Resignation to his Will to Say with Job "the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord ". During her whole married life She was truly a helpmate to me, always anticipated my wants, my affectionate comforter in affliction, my counselor in Difficulties, and my Encourager in well doing. If she had a fault, it was in indulging in too much affection for Near-Relations, which made her Suffering so acute when the hand of God took any of them from her, On looking back on this Sad Event -Sad to me, but Greatly Blessed to her, I feel Great

p.14.  
1-27

Thankfulness that God saw meet in Great Mercy to remove her without any apparent Suffering. This Thankfulness that while he had taken her to himself he had in Great Kindness left me an affectionate Son and Stepdaughter and their Children, with whom I immediately took up my Residence. But little did I then think that in less than two years thereafter I should be Separated from them also -not by Death, Thank God, but to Such a Distance that it became exceedingly doubtful whether I should ever see them again in the Flesh. And now I am left alone, pretty much in the same state I was in During the first six or seven years I spent in this country, and yet I am not alone, for I have the most satisfying assurance that God will be with me even unto the End. In view of my Son and his family leaving me I have made myself Clean (?) of Farming and resigned my Place in the Session which I had held for 40 years and also my office of superintendent of Prince Street S. School, which I had held for 13 years with a mind to devote my attention Exclusively to the Business of Bookseller. I am proud of this Business, and I think that while this is the Case it will afford me many opportunities of doing good to my fellow men, and the means of performing many benevolent objects which lie near my heart. My Son is now Provided for and I have no wish to hand up what God bestows on me for the Purpose of Exemplifying Benevolence. The Silver and Gold is his, and while he allows me to use as much as will make me comfortable in the world, he is requiring of me with the remainder to satisfy the past Demands of all my fellow men to feed the Hungry, to clothe the naked, to instruct the ignorant, to aid the Bible, Missionary and Tract Societies and to forward Every measure which has a Tendency to Promote the Best Interests of men and the Glory of God. These objects I hope will always be dear to my heart, and I pray that God may bestow Grace upon me and Enable me to perform these aright.

p.15.  
1-28

On Thursday 20th November 1855 A Most Melancholy Accident occurred in my Brother's Family, himself being at the Time (in) St. Johns N.B., One Daughter (Mrs. Crane) in England, and two Daughters (Mrs. Scott and Catherine) in Halifax, Mrs Dawson having with her only the two boys (J. Adam and Robert S.) and Mrs. Harris (Barbara Widow of the Late Isaac Harris, and her Infant Daughter). The Latter, namely Mrs. H. having occasion to go to the Kitchen about Something about 7 o'clock in the morning while the Servant maid was out, was heard to utter a Loud Scream, which made all the Family Run to her assistance. They found her lying beside the Cooking Stove Speechless, with a Large Boiler lying on her Breast, Bottom up, having Emptied its whole Contents of Boiling Water on her Person from her neck down to her knees, Medical aid was immediately procured, but notwithstanding Every Effort which affection could Suggest, She Died at 6 o'clock P.M. the Same Day, and left a Weeping Mother and poor little Mary an orphan. Mrs. H. was a most affectionate Wife and mother during the Brief Period that God in his Providence required her to discharge these Dutys. She now rests from her labours, and has left a most impressive admonition to her Surviving Relatives to mind the Scripture Injunction "Be ye also ready for in Such an hour as ye Think not the Son of man cometh".

p.16.  
1-29

Pictou, 14 December, 1856

My Son has frequently Pressed me very Hard to Close up my Business and Go and Spend the remainder of my Days with him. Poor fellow -I know the Strength of his affection for me, and if I were to obey my own inclination in the matter -I would gladly gratify his wishes in this, but two things prevent me, namely my habits of Life have always been to keep my mind and hands Busy about Something and this has long been a necessary thing for my Existence, and I know that if I were to give my self up to Indolence, Disease and Death would soon be the result -again my Ideas of Duty to God and my fellow men impells me to remain at my post of Usefulness as long as I can. Many opportunities of doing Good occur in Connection with my Business, which would not be known to me, were I to Retire. The Scripture Injunction is to be "Diligent in Business, fervent in Spirit, Serving the Lord".

p.17.  
1-30

William further Exemplifies the Strength of his affection for me in his frequent admonitions to Personal Comfort and Carefulness, for which I feel very Thankful. It is Quite True that this is absolutely necessary, for were anything coming across me that would lay me up, my Business would Come to Stand Still, having no one in the Spot but mySelf Equal to its management. It is also Quite true that God has Seen meet to render my Position in my old age Quite a Lonely one, which I hope and pray he may notwithstanding render a highly Profitable one, in reference to my Eternal Interests. Stroke after Stroke with which he has Seen meet to beset me, has left me alone in the World, and yet I am not alone, for my Niece Agnes Rankine is left with me, and More than fulfills the Duty of a Daughter, her kindness Exceeds all praise and she has rendered herself more Dear to me by Uniting herself to the People of God by the Bonds of Church membership.

Besides I am not alone in reference to God himself, for since he removed my near and Dear Relatives far from me, he has been in a higher Sense than Ever before a Present God, Blessing me and Encouraging me to Pray to him, and to rest my all upon his Strong arm and his Gracious Promises Such as "I will never leave you, nor forsake you, cast thy Burthen upon the Lord and he Shall Sustain thee" etc., have never been before so Sweet and Precious to my Soul.

J. Dawson

p.18.  
1-31

1857

Early in the Month of March, while Employed alone with my young man Stearns in Turning out Some Empty Boxes from the Shed on the Wharf with the intention of offering them for Sale that day by auction, A heavy one fetched way Suddenly from the Top of the Pile, and the edge of it Struck the Shin Bone of one of my Legs, a little above the Ankle and laid the Bone Bare about an inch Square. The morning was very Cold, and to prevent further injury from that Cause, I made all the haste I Could to the House and Covered the Wound with a piece of Gold beaters Skin and a peice of Flannel over that, and I went about all day as usual, but Suffering much Pain. It gradually got worse, I suppose owing to my not Treating it right, not giving it that Ease which it required. I Employed Dr. Kirkwood who Poulitised and Dressed it, and told me that notwithstanding the Closest application of his Skill, it would likely be some months before I could use it freely, like the other Leg, and that if I did not Confine myself to the House, and avoid fatiguing it, It might Lame for Life. I at once made up my Mind to adhere Closely to his Instructions and the Event has Shewn that he told me the truth. He continued to visit me once or twice a Day for nearly 4 months, and I believe he treated me in the Most judicious Manner possible and he Shewed me Much Kindness, by taking me out frequently in fine days in his Carriage to Give me an airing, and when I was coming away he Drove me over to Truro to see how I was likely to Stand the journey, and yet his Bill was only L15 for both attendance and Medicine. I feel Grateful for his Kindness and I hope I shall not forget it. During all the Time I have been Confined with my Leg, I have never been able to Stand or Walk more than 15 to 20 minutes at a time without great Pain from Weakness and a Burning heat in the Nerves of the adjoining Parts, and towards night it was always worst. I feel very Thankfull however that my General health was Good nearly all the time, and also that the Nervous affection always Soothed down when I went to Bed, so that I always Enjoyed Sound Sleep.

p.19.  
1-32

Doubtless, God intended by this affliction, among other things, to turn my attention to the Earnest Solicitation of my Son and Mrs. D. to Retire from Business, and take up my abode with them, at least this was the Result. Were anything necessary to Shew that God in his Providence intended this much by it, it may be found in the fact that at the very time when I was turning over in my mind, how I should Dispose of my Business and Property to Most advantage, and before I had Mentioned my intention to any Human being M. McPherson, Esq. of Norway House Called one day and told me how he was situated with his Son James and the one at Hudsons Bay, and that his thoughts had Conducted him to the Conclusion that I would likely be parting with my Business Soon and of his desire to make me a Private offer, so that no one would know anything about it till the Bargain was Concluded. I at once Saw in this the hand of Providence, in bringing this Chance my way, and I determined to follow it, if possible to a Successfull issue. Offers were accordingly Exchanged and finally a Price agreed on, Subject to the Confirmation of my Son. This was Easily obtained when the Bargain was finally concluded.

p.20.  
1-33

Much about the Same time, James Crerar Esq. of Merigomish Made me an offer for my Farm which was also accepted. My Farm was of all others the thing which was Most Likely to Give me trouble after the Business was disposed of, so that here again the Leading of Providence pointed to my way of duty. How thankful, therefore, ought I to feel that God not only opened a way for me to retire Quietly and comfortably into Private Life, but has also opened the Eyes of my Mind to See the Leadings of his Providence in all these Matters. In return for his Goodness in these things, I pray that he may Guide me to more devotion to his cause on Earth both of my Person and the Substance he has Given me, or rather, made me Steward of.

Memo of my journey from Pictou, N.S. to Montreal. Left Pictou in Company with Dr. Kirkwood and McPherson Esq. on Thursday 4th August 1857. The Latter conveyed me 3 miles and Returned, the Former went to Truro where we Put up that Night at McKays Hotel. On Friday left Truro by Stage in Company with Miss Agnes Rankine, and reached Halifax by Coach and Rail at half past 7 o'clock P.M. Remained in Halifax till Wednesday 12th Settling Business, Seeing friends and receiving visits from them. On Sabbath went to Mr. McGregors Church and on Wednesday at 12 noon Sailed for Yarmouth and Boston in the Eastern State Steamer. Reached Yarmouth on Thursday at 2 o'clock P.M. , vessel Put out one Cargo and Shipped Another. Had a Call from Rev<sup>d</sup> Geo. Christie and Alex<sup>r</sup> Lawson and left for Boston about Sundown. Arrived at Boston at 10 o'clock P.M. on Friday 14th, Remained on Board all night and at 8 o'clock on Saturday morning drove to the Adams Hotel to Breakfast, Settled Some Business that day, and on Sunday went to hear a Baptist Preacher, can Scarcely Say I heard the Gospel, the Sermon was Read in a Dry and formal Manner, Praise was performed by Execrable Organ, with which one Solitary Female endeavoured to Join, but She deserved a better Leader or rather She deserved to Lead herself as She had a Splendid voice.

p.21.  
1-34

On Saturday afternoon took a Turn through Boston Common and the Horticultural Garden and were highly Gratified with what we Saw there. The Taste displayed in them is most magnificent. On Monday forenoon Settled Some more Business, and in the Evening went on Board the Steamer Thomastown for Portland. Had a very Stormy night, vessel, tho new, Worked badly and Strained very much, arrived at Portland at 6 A.M. on Tuesday, and went thence to the Rail Road Station, taking a Cup of Tea on the way. Cars started at half past 7 A.M.. Stopped at Island Pond Hotel at 2 o'clock P.M. for Dinner which was Served up in a most Handsome Manner and for a very reasonable fare. Arrived at Longueil at 7 P.M., where met Mrs. Dawson and Son George. Took Steamer to the City and reached my Son's House at 8 P.M.

Here I may Pause and offer thanks to God for the Great Comfort and Safety I Enjoyed on the journey. The Weather all the way was most delightful, Except the night I was on Board the Steamer from Boston and my Sore Leg rather improved than otherwise; Every day since then it has improved, so that Now, at the date I write (9th October) it is Nearly as well as the other one, with the Exception of being Something Weaker and Easier fatigued.

p.22.  
1-35

About 26th August had a 3 Days visit from Miss Dickson En Route for Toronto. She was accompanied by Mr. D. McKay, her cousin. A few days after had a Call from a Mr. Fraser, E. River, Pictou, on his way to the Free Church College, Toronto. Early in September had a Call from Revd M. Sutherland, Pictou En Route for Toronto on Church Business, he promised to Call on his return and Spend a day with us but did not do So. Near the End of Spetember M. McPherson Esq. Called and Spent a very pleasant Evening with us, he left again for Pictou, Early in October. On the 1st of October Mrs. Dr. Anderson in Co. with M. Bell arrived to Spend a week or 10 Days, being in Bad health, and on Monday 12th October, the Dr. himself came down to fetch her Home, both left on Wednesday 14th October. Mathewson Bell took his passage to Scotland in Ship [blank] and Sailed on 13th November. Since the 1st October, the Weather has been Generally very fine permitting me to Enjoy Much out Door Exercise. Montreal, 14 November 1857.

25 March 1859

This is my Seventieth Birthday, having now by God's Goodness arrived at the age of Manhood so Grafically described by the Psalmist in the 90th Psalm.

Three Score and ten years do Sum up  
our days and years we See;  
Or if, by reason of more Strength  
in Some four Score they be.

p.23.  
1-36

It becomes me to be humble myself before the most high God and Examine the way he has led me hitherto in his Gracious Providence, and here, at the very outset his more Common and Daily and hourly Mercies call for my Grateful acknowledgement and when I think of the Almost Numberless Instances in which he has Interposed his almighty arm to Save me from Bodily harm and Moral Delinquency to both of which I have Exposed myself by my disregard of his Laws of Nature and Providence, with what feelings of Self-abasement and deep thankfulness ought I to appear in his Presence that I have not been but down as a cumberer of the Ground.

My time here now, must be Short, oh! that I might be Enabled to Exemplify Watchfulness and Resignation to his Divine Will, and to look Constantly to God through his Dear Son for preparation for that inevitable Change which he alone can give fitness (?) and which I must Soon undergo.

Nov. 20 1859

This year has been remarkable for Producing Some Important Events which are likely to result in much Good or Evil to the Destinies of Mankind -in the first place, the Short but Bloody War between Austria and France has given a most unlooked for Impulse to Constitutional Government in Italy, and, to all appearance te Temporal Power of the Pope is about to be Shattered to Pieces, and his Spiritual Power is already held in Utter Contempt in nearly all the Papal Countries of Europe.

The cry of the Powerful or destroying angel is about to be heard  
"Babylon the Great if Fallen -is fallen".

2nd, This year claims the inauguration of the Great SteamShip - Great Eastern.

3rd, also the finishing of the Most Stupendous Bridge in the World  
Victoria Bridge.

p.24.  
1-37

4th, also of Christ Church Cathedral, the latter are Montreal achievements and, altho they are nearly finished, and will probably be wholly so by the Close of the Year, yet their Public Inauguration will not take place till Early in 1860 when it is expected that Some conspicuous Member of the Royal Family will be present. On Thursday 24th November the first Locomotive passed through the Victoria Tubular Bridge with 2 Cars Containing 36 Gentlemen and on Sunday 27th November, the first Service was held in Christ Church Cathedral.

## 1860

Great Preparations were made in the Early Part of this year for the Reception of his R.H. the Prince of Wales, in the Shape of Street Cleaning, Erecting Triumphal arches, Erecting an exhibition Building for the Society of Arts and Manufactures. A Ball Room for the Prince etc. In August, H.R.H. made his appearance accompanied by a Staff of English Noblemen and Stayed nearly a Week visiting all the places of Note in and about the City, Inaugurating the Victoria Bridge, the Exhibition Building and Christ Church Cathedral. He then proceeded on a Tour of Western Canada and thence to the U. States and finally Embarked at Portland in October for Great Britain. His reception Every where was most Cordial and enthusiastic.

On the 29th of November, I received a Letter from My Nephew W<sup>m</sup> Morrison Junior of Leanhead (?) in Scotland, announcing the Death of my Sister Mary in November last. She was 2 years older than me. Her demise Says to me "Be ye also reay, for in Such hour as you think not, the Son of Man Cometh".

## 1861

p:25.  
1-38

Rec<sup>d</sup> a Leeter on 10th March, from Miss Jane Morrison, My Niece, informing me of the Sudden and Unexpected Death of her Brother William of Inflammation of the Brain. She does not tell his age, but Says he was in the Prime of Life. I believe he was the only Son his Parents had and Coming so Soon after the Death of his Wife it will be a Sore trial indeed for the old Man. This is truly Mysterious Providence and I hope and Pray it may be abundantly Sanctified to the Survivors.

25th March 1861. I am reminded that this is my 72nd Birthday - how Great has been the Loving Kindness of the Lord to me, to permit me to See Such old age in vigorous health. The Close of my Life must now be near at hand, however, and it becomes my imperative duty to be ready to obey the Call of my redeemer "for in Such hour as you think not, the Son of Man Cometh". I am also reminded that on the 8th day of this month 50 years ago, I left Reith on my way to America. What an almost Countless Multitude of Mercies my heavenly Father has bestowed on me during the eventful period "Surely Goodness and Mercy will follow me all the days

of my life and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever".

Friday, 19th April 1861

This month has produced at least two most Distressing Events; on Saturday 13th the River Ice having "Shored" as it is termed, that is having broke all up in Cakes and Moved down Stream, the force of the Water Causing it to push Cake above Cake and in below, as it could find way till the Lowermost Tier Grounds in Some Shallow Part of the River below the City, when all at once the front portion Stops, the body behind still Moving on Causes it to Pack so Close and high that the Water is Damed back when it immediately Commences to Rise and Cover all the Low Grounds in the upper part of the City. Unfortunately there is a Dense but Poor population located there about the Lachine Canal in Griffintown who are Subjected to the yearly Danger of being driven out of their Houses, probably in the Dead Hour of the Night, and having all their Cloths, Provisions and other effects Submerged in the Water nearly at the Freezing point. Now altho they are liable to have a floodless or more, from this Cause almost every year, yet it is 35 years Since a flood of Such magnitude occurred, at that time it was so much higher then the present one that the Ice and Water together demolished a large part of the Buildings along Com<sup>re</sup> and Common sts. as well as a large portion of the Frail Buildings in Griffintown where Craig Street and the Haymarket now are, the Water was many feet Deep, and the River Discharged for Some days its Surpufluous Waters as already mentioned. The Sudden Rise of the Water gave Indication that a flood was at hand. On Sabbath it overflowed Common and Com<sup>re</sup> Streets -Wellington St. and a large part of Griffintown and on Monday Morning it attained to its maximum height, at which time Canoes and Small Boats Could Come about half way up McGill, St. Peter and St. F. Xavier St. and it was a few Inches high about the East End of St. Antoine st. the foot of the Haymarket and in the Hollow along Craig Street and it was level with the Lower Floor of Bonsecours Market. On Tuesday morning the water had fallen about a foot, but it was not till Wednesday 17th that it retired from the lower streets of the City and even yet many of the Cellars are full or half full of Water. The Loss of Life has not yet been fully ascertained, the Loss of Property will be Immense as the Basement and Cellar Stories of the Business part of the City Front were all full of goods ready for Shipping on the arival of the Spring Fleet, and the Greater Portion of the Spring Supplies of British and W. India Goods were also there having been Imported by way of Portland. These two descriptions of Loos will no doubt be Stated in Nespapers in a few days when I shall file some of them gi-ving Particulars for Further Reference.

p.26.  
1-39

The other Distressing event I have referred to occurred on the Same days as the Flood in Montreal (13th) on that day Civil War broke out between the American Union and 7 or 8 Seceding States in the South. The Slave Trade is at the Bottom of this dispute but I hope and Trust that God will overrate it so that the end may be the entire abolition of that odious Monopoly in Human Flesh. It is well that the Event is in his hands.

p.27.  
1-40

4 Deaths by Drowning are thus far reported by the Innundation.

B. 2. 4. 5. 6

Foreword

McGill University Archives

James Dawson (1790-1863)  
was the father  
of John Willison  
Dawson, the  
Principal of  
McGill  
University  
from  
1855 to  
1893.

This is a transcription of James Dawson's "narrative diary" which is described in Sarah Helgerson's Guide to Accession 14214 (items 1-14 to 1-40; pp. 2-6). The narrative is composed of three parts: Dawson's account of his forbears and of his own life till his wife's death in 1854; a description of the events leading to his leaving Pictou and resettling in Montreal; and several entries relating those current events which impressed him as of particular importance, in the years 1857 to 1861.

The most striking aspect of the diary is of course its religious nature. Entitled a "Memorial of God's Mercies" it follows the twists and turns of Providence, and observes the direct involvement of the divinity in all matters, seeing a moral in every occurrence, and duly unravelling and pondering it. The deity may be called merciful and kindly and loving, yet is also a present, ever-watchful, and disciplinary God who makes his will known both through bounties and catastrophies (which Dawson feels a certain relish in recounting).

Written, of course, in old age, the diary may provide an unbalanced view of simpering piety, <sup>but</sup> and there are hints that, especially during the "commercial" period, this was not always ~~so~~ <sup>the whole truth of</sup> <sup>life</sup> <sup>account of unwavering</sup> <sup>pondering</sup>.  
<sup>Although</sup> ~~Being~~ a devout man, Dawson's evangelicalism did not make this a joyful or restful experience. One feels the burden of self-criticism and an ever-readiness to submit to whatever unpleasantness is bound to be in store. The record is not of joie de vivre but of Providence's ever-present righteous guidance.

I began the transcription as an aid in <sup>indexing other Dawson material,</sup> ~~coding~~, finding, at first, Dawson's handwriting so difficult to decipher that I felt that only in writing it out would I be able to make sense of it. I soon became used to the handwriting but found the account so interesting that I thought it might warrant <sup>ed</sup> full transcription. In reproducing Dawson's narrative I have tried to keep both the original spelling and the idiosyncratic capitalization.

Liana Vardi  
History of McGill Project

p.l.  
item  
1-14

Pictou, 25 March, 1849

This being my 60th Birthday calls for the most heartfelt gratitude to God, on my Part, for the numerous mercies he has conferred on me, who does not deserve to be numbered among his honoured servants. My Life has been nearly one continued series of healthful years - during which long Period numberless Temptations have been presented to my mind of gratifying some Evil Propensity of my corrupt nature, yet out of them all the Lord has graciously delivered me.

In many instances too, I have been exposed to the most Eminent Dangers to my Person from Time, Shipwreck, Drowning and other Impending accidents, from all these too the Providence of God has preserved me. I have been Blessed too with Great happiness in my family, and respectable success in my Business. It is true that at times I have been exposed to Severe Losses, almost amounting to Bankrupcy, but these I have chiefly brought on myself by Rash Speculation, but the Lord has encouraged me not to despair but to persevere in honest industry to reclaim my losses, and he has spared me time and health and given me Prudence to do so. He has further vouchsafed<sup>s</sup> me ample access all my life to the means of Grace opportunities of doing Good, Personal Liberty, etc. When I look at all my mercies, Family, and Personal, Civil and Religious, which have been bestowed on me through the loving kindness of the Lord, and the blessed intercession of his son Jesus Christ, what Great Reason have I to cast myself devoutly, and unreservedly at his feet and say with the Royal Psalmist "surely Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever".

J. Dawson

p.2  
1-15

Memorial of God's Mercies

I was born at the farm of Overtown in the Parish of Ordiquhill, Banffshire, Scotland, on the 25th of March 1789. My father John Dawson was a Roman Catholic, as were all his kindred and Ancestors back to the Period when they emigrated from Ireland, said to be about [blank] years ago, and there is a tradition extant that the Scotch Progenitor of the Family was Thomas Dawson who, accompanied by one John Gordon had to leave their native country in Disguise being implicated as 2 principals in one of the many unsuccessful struggles Ireland has made to regain her Liberty from the Anglo-Saxon Rule. And these two men formed the subject of the well-known Scotch Rhyme or Ballad "Pock and Fawn are a'comin'". The head of the Family has been for a long time the Dawsons of Crombie in the parish of Mannocho(?), Banffshire. My father was much superior to the Ordinary Class of Roman Catholics, in Education, Intelligence, and Liberality. While he claimed the Liberty to think for himself in Matters of Religion, he extended, freely, the same Right to all others. He made a point, therefore, never to enter into any Religious Disputes. He was a strict observer of the Lord's day - seldom failed in attending the Chappell, altho distant from 3 to 4 miles. He had Protestant Religious Books as well as Roman Catholic Sermons, for which offenses he was subjected to Discipline and Pennance by his Priest. He was attentive to his Private Donations, as I remember that when a mere Child I have often surprised him on his knees engaged in his morning and evening exercises. He was a man of Peace, both in and out of his family, and neversuffered zeal for propagating his own peculiar views in religion either to disturb his good understanding with his neighbours or mar the Peace in his own Family. I have been told that he asked my oldest Brother when at the age of 15 or 16 if he would go with him to the Chappel, which he declined, and besides this I am not aware that he ever asked a Question at any other of his children, 10 in number. This liberality constituted in the eyes of his Priest and his fellow worshippers another serious offence for which he was threatened with the anathema of his church.

p.3  
1-16

In the Parish he was highly esteemed, as a man of Great Probity and uprightness of Character. This was so much the Case that in almost every instance of Disturbance among the Neighbours, recourse was had to his Mediation and he seldom failed in Reconciling their Differences. He Died in the year 1822, 18th October, at the age of 80.

(Insert) My grandfather was James Dawson of Oldtown - Parish of Cairney who was married to a Miss Gordon of Tulickalm in the neighbourhood parish of Rothmen (?). He had two sons, John (my father) and James who rented a Farm in the parish of Rothmen and was the father of a large Family. Grandfather died before his Wife and was Buried in our Burying place in Cairney. His Wife married again some Person in Aberdeen, and at her Death was interred in her own burrying place in Ruthmen, by her two sons aforesaid. I have good reason for believing that they were all Roman Catholics.

My Mother was a Pious Good Woman and a Member of the Established Religion. She gave all her children a Careful training in the Scriptures and the shorter Catechism. The afternoon of the Sabbath was always spent in Catechising or Reading the Bible, etc...in which Exercises my Father never took a part or interfered. She Died 7 March 1805 when I was only 16 years of age. Her Father was George Mitchell Esq. Proprietor of the Small Estate of Frenleight in the Parish of Farque. He had only one son (James) who Learned the Medical Profession and Practiced it in that Parish At his Death (James') he having no Male Sons and the Estate being under Pecuniary Embarrassment, soon after his Death it was Sold and the Reversion(?) funded for the Benefit of his Daughters, amounting to about £1800 Sterling.

p.4.  
1-17

In my Childhood I was Extremely feeble, so much so that it was thought for many years that I could (not) survive long. This feebleness was produced by frequent attacks of Measles, Small Pox, Hooping Cough; Contrary to Expectation, however, as I grew in years, I grew in Strength. When I was about 7 years of age an occurrence took place in the Parish of no Ordinary kind in these times. This was the Establishment of a Sabbath Evening School by Some members of the Anti-Burghers Congregation at Whitehill under the Care of the 'Rev' Mr. Primrose, Father of the James Primrose Esq. of this place (Pictou) and Some Independents who, much to their Credit joined in this Good Work. The Minister and Session of the Parish Church opposed this movement with all their might, yet in the face of their threats, which I believe were never Enforced, my Mother Sent myself and Some Elder Sisters to the School and I continued to attend it first as a Scholar, and afterwards as a Teacher till I was 17 years of age. During a good Portion of this Period I was Sent to the Parish School, where under various masters I received the Elements of a Good English Education. For Some months I was put in a Latin class as my Mother was very anxious to give me a College Education, but my Oldest Brother who had himself gone through a Regular Course at College, and other friends Advised her to Relinquish this plan, owing to the Extreme weakness of my Eyes, which they thought would unfit me for Study.

p.5.  
1-18

From the age of 14 to 17, I was Principally Employed on the Farm with my Father, but at the latter Period I intimated to him my wish to be put to a Trade. He told me to choose one, I chose that of a Saddler when he Engaged me to a Mr Robert Milne of Huntly for four years. Here a fresh instance occurred of my Father's freedom from Bigotry, for altho he might Easily have Selected a Roman Catholic family for my Boarding House, of which there were plenty in Huntly, among which were some of his own nearest Kindred yet he Selected a Respectable Pious Protestant family for my Residence, and I remember Quite well that when he Sent me away he cautioned me against forming any companionship with young men of doubtfull character, but rather to associate with those who were noted for their Piety and Good Moral Conduct, without Even hinting that it was Roman Catholic Piety and Morals he meant.

In Mr. Milne's Shop there were generally 12 or 14 young men about my own age besides a Foreman who was at this time one John Wright, a man advanced in Life, and who had been in Business for himself but had been unsuccessful. Some of these young men were very Profligate and Immoral in their behaviour and presented to me Such Examples of Human depravity as I had never Witnessed before, but fortunately for me, a few others of them were of Quite an opposite Character. They were decidedly Pious and belonged to different Communions. Three of them were Church members, and besides taking a part in S. School

Instruction, they met once a week in the Evening for Mutual Prayers to which they invited me, and having at their command Considerable Quantity of Religious Books, they freely offered me the use of them, of which I availed myself. They also invited me to attend their Places of Worship on the Sabbath Evening (one Burghers, the other Independents). I attended the Parish Church in the Daytime. At the age of 19, after much Serious Reflection, I resolved to Give myself to the Lord and accordingly I applied to the Parish minister, the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Morris, Brother of the Late James Morris, Cabinet Maker, of this Place (Pictou) and was admitted to the Communion for the first time, in the Parish Church of Trinity in the Summer of 1808.

p.6.  
1-19

At this distance of time, I have no distinct recollection what it was which influenced me to take so Serious a Step at so Early a Period in my Life, but think that the Bait Given to my mind in S. School, and the fortunate circumstances of my being afterwards brought into the Society of Religious People, was instrumental in producing the Effects and I have no doubt that I was influenced in choosing the Established Church, rather than any other Communion by the Circumstances of my Mother being a Kirk Member. I Sincerely loved my Mother, and at that Early Period of my Life, would have deemed it a kind of Sacrelege and a Dishonour to her memory to have joined any other Communion. In the year 1811, being then 22 years of age, and my indenturing Expired, I Emigrated to Pictou in the Employ of the Late Edward Mortimor Esq. I had my passage in the Brig Camphitrite Captain David Bart from Grunoch, the owner, Mr Mortimor, and the Late John Dawson Esq. of Pictou, being also Passengers. We Sailed on the 11th of April and arrived on the 19th of May 1811. In 1812 I applied to the Rev<sup>d</sup> Thomas McCulloch for admission to membership in his Congregation, and was admitted to Communion, Partly on the Certificate I brought with me from Mr. Morris and Partly as the Result of Personal Examination. To Some, who act very differently, it may appear rash and Presumptious to associate this Early with the Company of Believers, but I am of a very different opinion, and I am persuaded that no greater Evil can befall a Christian Church than to prevent her young people, to Postpone from year to year, this making of a Public profession of their Faith, till they become so immersed in the Poluting realities of Life till they lose all Relish (?) Either for Religion or the Society of Religious People. Such people, when they get Married very generally apply to the Church Session not for Priviledges to themselves, for they are very ready to admit that they are unfit for that, but for Baptism to

p.7.  
1-20

their Children, and Sorry that they but too readily obtain this, and that Such a Practice has been introduced into the Church. I believe it to be unscriptural, and a most Ensnaring Practice for unreflecting men. In my own Case I can conscientiously say that Early Communicating has been blessed to me in a variety of ways, for, in the first place I feel assured that it has been instrumental in keeping me aloof from many temptations to Sin, into which, but for the Check of my being a Christian professor, I would inevitably have been Carried headlong in the vortex of folly and Dissipation to Destruction. In the Second place I have found that when beset with commercial difficulties, Exposed to Sudden and Extreme personal Danger, or visited with Personal of family affliction, in Humbling myself before God, Praying to him for Direction, and firmly relying on his Promises

he has not forsaken me, but afforded me that Protection and Direction which Enabled me to say "whom the Lord Loveth he Chastenth, and Scourgeth Every Sin (Son?) whom he receiveth". I would therefore recommend all young people to Give Themselves Early, Even Earlier than I did, to the Lord.

In 1813, a Prayer meeting was for the first time Established in Pictou Congregation, I have no recollection who led the way in this honourable movement, but think Mr McCulloch had a principal hand in it as it was he who first asked me to attend it. It was held for a few years at first in a Biggs Stone House. There are few now living who attended it, besides Jas. Rutter, J. Biggs and myself. There may also be some Ladies living, as I do not remember who of them attended. In 1813 my Brother came out, and in the following year, he and I were instrumental in Commencing Pictou Sabbath School which the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. McCulloch gave a Sort of Passive approbation of but never Patronized it with his Personal attendance, as he did the Prayer meeting.

p.8.  
1-21

This year (1815) an Election of Elders took place in the Congregation and the Choice fell on D. Patterson, Town G<sup>v</sup>l (?), J. Patterson, Donald Cameron Chance H<sup>n</sup> and myself. It may easily be believed that this Event proved a Subject of deep and Serious Reflection, as well as Ardent and Earnest Prayer to me, for the Divine Direction. I felt an Entire Want of Confidence in my Qualification for so important and Solemn an offer arising principally from my want of Christian Experience, and from my youth, particularly as compared with those fathers in the Church who were Elected at the same time, all of them being more than double my age, but when almost overwhelmed with Perplexity as to what was my Duty in the matter, the Lord himself seemed to call me by a way which I know not to stand forth for the honour of his name, Saying to me -"Fear not", "I will make my Strength perfect in your weakness". Having devoted myself anew in Prayer to my heavenly father, and Supplicated him to lead me in the way he would have me to go, to Cast my Lot more unreservedly in with the People of God than I had Ever yet done, and to keep me from Desiring the Riches and Honours of the World, I consented to be Ordained and Elder. Here let me Bless God for this further token of his Loving Kindness, in permitting me to Exercise the office of Steward in his vinyard here below, and in making that office instrumental in keeping me aloof from many of the fashionable Sins and Follies of the time and place. Two of the gentlemen who were ordained with me are now (1850) numbered with the dead.

From 1815 to 1825 I was deeply Embarked in Merchandise, Exporting Timber and New Ships to Great Britain, and Fish and Lumber to the West Indies, and during that period I was Exposed to Great Temptation to indulge in Speculation and even Dissipation the Common Vice of nearly all Traders of that period. I was often so involved in the affairs of the World as to occasion frequent interruption in the Religious Duties of my Family, but for this the Lord in Great Kindness and Mercy laid on me about the Close of the above period, some heavy afflictions, and Sanctified them to my Good.

p.9.  
1-22

[~~(crossed off)~~] At the close of the year 1816 my Business required my Presence in Britain and I took passage in the Brig Seaton of Workington (Worthington, Washington?) Captain Turnbull, for Liverpool. We had a very Stormy Passage, and the Master being a Notorious Reprobate, and there being no other Gentleman on Board, I felt the Passage to be a very unpleasant one. The night before we got into Liverpool it Blew a Hurricane from the North with a heavy Snow Storm and being then in the Channel, the

vessel was almost miraculously saved from Shipwreck on the Chester Sands. When all hope for Safety Seemed to be gone even from the hardy Seamen, I observed Captain Turnbull on his knees in the main top, Supplicating mercy from that Being -perhaps for the first time in his Life - whom he had been denying or insulting all the Passage. Yet the very first place he visited after getting into Liverpool was one of his old haunts, a House of Bad Fame. After Settling my Business in the most Satisfactory manner I could, and visiting a Great part of Scotland and a part of England, I returned to Nova Scotia the following Spring in the Brig Good Intent, Captain Eliphas Hibberd, Mr. J.Geddie and family, Alexander Shearer and family and others being also Passengers in the Vessel, which was consigned to me for a cargo.]

p.10.  
1-23 From that Period till the close of 1826 I was deeply Engaged in a variety of Business, Such as General Merchandise, Shipping Timber to Britain, Fish, oil and lumber to the West Indies and Ship Building, the result of which was, like most wordly pursuits, that, after a variety of Good and Bad fortune, I was left Poorer in 1827 than I was in 1816 when I began, and I fear it was no less detrimental to my Spiritual Interests.

For although I continued Generally attentive to the duties of Public, Family, and personal Religion, and abstained from Everything which would bring a Reproach on Religion in the Ey of the Public, yet I had not that inward Satisfaction that I have Since Enjoyed, when less deeply Embarked in Wordly Business, and I bless God that I have good reason for Believing that he has in his adorable (?) Providence, led me at times through the deep waters of affliction and Sanctified to me for the Good of my Soul many painful Bereavements.

On the 8th of December 1818 I was united in marriage to Mary Rankine, only Daughter of the Late John Rankine Esq. of Lonerig, Parish Slamannan. She having followed the fortunes of her only Brother to Nova Scotia, the Late William Rankine merchant Pictou. This connection has been Blessed to me in a variety of ways by my heavenly Father. She has been my Counsiler in Difficulty as well as in prosperity, and my Solace in affliction, and, while God has seen meet to withdraw wordly Substance and Dear Children from me, he has Spared her to be my Companion in old age, and I trust also to Enjoy with me the Loving Kindness of God, when the Concerns of time have disappeared from our views.

p.11.  
1-24 4th November 1855. Nearly seven years have now Elapsed Since the Previous Part of this Narative was written, which has been to me a most Eventful Period of my Life. The General Commercial Embarrassments and Bankrupcy of 1825-6, left me unable to meet my Liabilities by the Large Sum of about L4000. In the Latter year after Settling all my accounts here I went to Britain where all my Principal Creditors were and finding that they were all willing to wait till I should try some new and more safe line of Business. I assumed the sull Liability of the whole of their claims on me together with Interest, and gave them mortgages of all my real Estate.

my Liability at this time for interest alone exceeded L200 per annum. In the Spring of 1827, I returned to Nova Scotia with a Small Stock of Books and Stationary and Commenced Business in that Line -and I Earnestly and frequently implored the Divine Blessing so as to Enable me in this new Line of Business to meet my yearly Liabilities, and Gradually to reduce them, so that I might be Enabled to leave the World in Peace, and without inflicting any Pecuniary loss upon any with whom I had dealings in Life, and I have good reason now to say that he has not only heard and answered my Prayers, but has far Exceeded them. He has since that time Enabled me to wade through a sea of Difficulties, kept me from those Depraving Vices to which the Unfortunate are so liable to fall, and has so blessed my Substance that I have been Enabled to pay off all my past Debts and relieve all my Property from Encumbrances, for all which Undeserved Mercies I now bless and praise his name.

But these years of Uninterrupted Prosperity have not passed without meeting Severe Chastisement at the hand of my Heavenly Father. On the 14 July, 1837, my youngest Son James, a fine, lively, active, and kindhearted Boy just Entered on his academical Studies was seized with Scarlatina, a Disease then fatally prevailant in the Place, and on the third day, 17 July, he Died and his affectionate Parents were plunged into deep affliction.

This dispensation was peculiarly Severe upon his Mother whose affection for him knew no bounds, and the Sadness of the Blow rendered it doubly distressing. Her Suffering(more)for his Loss were so disturbing and protracted that for many months She got no Sleep and for a long time I had no hopes that She would Survive it. I thought that her Reason or her Life must give way under it. It pleased God, however, to recover her so far to Enable her to attend to her ordinary duties in the family. Yet her general health was so far impaired by this Event that She always complained of Pain and uneasiness about the region of the heart. During this Month of Woe and Weeping I was but a poor Comforter of the afflicted, for, on her account I had to Suppress my own feelings on her account as well as from a Sense of due resignation to the Divine Will. Yet my heart was often like to Break from the intensity of my Grief -even altho Sanctified. Altho 18 years have now passed Since this Event, yet I have frequent times a Solemn thought about this dispensation not unaccompanied with Tears. Perhaps in this I have deeply Sinned and grieved the Holy Spirit of God, and therefore he made it the precursor of a Still deeper affliction with which he visited me in the Death of her whom he had given me as my only Comforter gere below.

This Sad Event took place on the 21 January 1854. Early in the Previous month of December She was attacked with a Severe Cold called Influenza, our Family Dr. (Dr. Anderson) attended her, and always gave it as his opinion that there was no Danger to be apprehended and a few days before her Sudden Death, I thought too that if Danger had existed it was now past. The Dr. was so far of this opinion that the had for some days discontinued his professional visits, and I observed, with great Thankfulness and Satisfaction that her respiration had become quite easy.

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The cough had almost left her and her Spirits had nearly resumed their usual Tone. On the Evening of the 20th, I had a meeting of the Bible Society, meeting in the House, Dr. Anderson being one of them. I asked her if She would not wish to go to bed before the Gentlemen met. She Said -no! and She set up in the Bed Room till 9 o'clock When the meeting broke up and She walked in and Spoke to the Gentlemen before they departed, and Dr. A. conversed with her. On his return in passing through the Parlour he remarked to me that he was Glad to see Mrs. D. so well. After family worship we both went to bed, which might be about 10 o'clock. She fell asleep, but almost immediately wakened up and a Severe fit of coughing. She wanted to get up but the night was Exceedingly Cold and I persuaded her to ly in bed getting up myself to hand her some cough mixture which the Dr. had given her, after a little time She got over this fit of coughing and was enjoying a Somewhat Disturbed Slumber, when about between 12 and 1 o'clock (21st January) She was again assailed with cough more violently than before and without paying any attention to my remonstrance she got out of Bed and went into the Parlour and set down on a chair with nothing but her nightclothes on, the cough continuing incessant and Severe. I got out of Bed and Covered her with a Shawl and held her head, when all at once she began to put unusual weight on me, her Cough became weaker and She faintly Said to me: "I think James I am Dying". I became alarmed but had no one to help me as there was no Bell String in the Room that Communicated with the Girls' bedroom. I asked her if she would not allow me to help her into bed, that I might get assistance, She immediately made an Effort to Rise, but was unable, with my assistance She Succeeded to get on her feet with arduous (?) Effort but when She got to the bedside, She became weaker and Sunk down on an armchair at the bedside. I Said it would not do to let her sit there as She was getting quite cold and the fire was nearly out. I then put forth all my Strength and Succeeded in getting her into Bed, by which time her eyes had become almost fixed and her breathing almost imperceptible. I called the Girls and ran out half Dressed and called William first and then Ran to Dr. A's House and called long -probably half an hour's time without being answered (when I was) the answer was, he is in the next neighbour's House (A.P. Ross) attending a Sick Child. I then Ran home and met the Doctor at my own Door going in. He had heard the Bustle about her Bed Side (through) the Wall and was coming in to See what was the matter. When we came to her bedside, She was Still held up by William and those Present, but Life was Gone -so that I had not the melancholy Satisfaction of Seeing her Die. This Sad Event has been Greatly Sanctified to me in various ways -on looking at it. God has Showed me the Sin and folly of Repining, and under the influence of Deep Resignation to his Will to Say with Job "the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord ". During her whole married life She was truly a helpmate to me, always anticipated my wants, my affectionate comforter in affliction, my counselor in Difficulties, and my Encourager in well doing. If she had a fault, it was in indulging in too much affection for Near-Relations, which made her Suffering so acute when the hand of God took any of them from her, On looking back on this Sad Event -Sad to me, but Greatly Blessed to her, I feel Great

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Thankfulness that God saw meet in Great Mercy to remove her without any apparent Suffering. This Thankfulness that while he had taken her to himself he had in Great Kindness left me an affectionate Son and Stepdaughter and their Children, with whom I immediately took up my Residence. But little did I then think that in less than two years thereafter I should be Separated from them also -not by Death, Thank God, but to Such a Distance that it became exceedingly doubtful whether I should ever see them again in the Flesh. And now I am left alone, pretty much in the same state I was in During the first six or seven years I spent in this country, and yet I am not alone, for I have the most satisfying assurance that God will be with me even unto the End. In view of my Son and his family leaving me I have made myself Clean (?) of Farming and resigned my Place in the Session which I had held for 40 years and also my office of superintendent of Prince Street S. School, which I had held for 13 years with a mind to devote my attention Exclusively to the Business of Bookseller. I am proud of this Business, and I think that while this is the Case it will afford me many opportunities of doing good to my fellow men, and the means of performing many benevolent objects which lie near my heart. My Son is now Provided for and I have no wish to hand up what God bestows on me for the Purpose of Exemplifying Benevolence. The Silver and Gold is his, and while he allows me to use as much as will make me comfortable in the world, he is requiring of me with the remainder to satisfy the past Demands of all my fellow men to feed the Hungry, to clothe the naked, to instruct the ignorant, to aid the Bible, Missionary and Tract Societies and to forward Every measure which has a Tendency to Promote the Best Interests of men and the Glory of God. These objects I hope will always be dear to my heart, and I pray that God may bestow Grace upon me and Enable me to perform these aright.

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On Thursday 20th November 1855 A Most Melancholy Accident occurred in my Brother's Family, himself being at the Time (in) St. Johns N.B., One Daughter (Mrs, Crane) in England, and two Daughters (Mrs. Scott and Catherine) in Halifax, Mrs Dawson having with her only the two boys (J. Adam and Robert S.) and Mrs. Harris (Barbara Widow of the Late Isaac Harris, and her Infant Daughter). The Latter, namely Mrs. H. having occasion to go to the Kitchen about Something about 7 o'clock in the morning while the Servant maid was out, was heard to utter a Loud Scream, which made all the Family Run to her assistance. They found her lying beside the Cooking Stove Speechless, with a Large Boiler lying on her Breast, Bottom up, having Emptied its whole Contents of Boiling Water on her Person from her neck down to her knees, Medical aid was immediately procured, but notwithstanding Every Effort which affection could Suggest, She Died at 6 o'clock P.M. the Same Day, and left a Weeping Mother and poor little Mary an orphan. Mrs. H. was a most affectionate Wife and mother during the Brief Period that God in his Providence required her to discharge these Dutys. She now rests from her labours, and has left a most impressive admonition to her Surviving Relatives to mind the Scripture Injunction "Be ye also ready for in Such an hour as ye Think not the Son of man cometh".

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Pictou, 14 December, 1856

My Son has frequently Pressed me very Hard to Close up my Business and Go and Spend the remainder of my Days with him. Poor fellow -I know the Strength of his affection for me, and if I were to obey my own inclination in the matter -I would gladly gratify his wishes in this, but two things prevent me, namely my habits of Life have always been to keep my mind and hands Busy about Something and this has long been a necessary thing for my Existence, and I know that if I were to give my self up to Indolence, Disease and Death would soon be the result -again my Ideas of Duty to God and my fellow men impells me to remain at my post of Usefulness as long as I can. Many opportunities of doing Good occur in Connection with my Business, which would not be known to me, were I to Retire. The Scripture Injunction is to be "Diligent in Business, fervent in Spirit, Serving the Lord".

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William further Exemplifies the Strength of his affection for me in his frequent admonitions to Personal Comfort and Carefulness, for which I feel very Thankful. It is Quite True that this is absolutely necessary, for were anything coming across me that would lay me up, my Business would Come to Stand Still, having no one in the Spot but mySelf Equal to its management. It is also Quite true that God has Seen meet to render my Position in my old age Quite a Lonely one, which I hope and pray he may notwithstanding render a highly Profitable one, in reference to my Eternal Interests. Stroke after Stroke with which he has Seen meet to beset me, has left me alone in the World, and yet I am not alone, for my Niece Agnes Rankine is left with me, and More than fulfills the Duty of a Daughter, her kindness Exceeds all praise and she has rendered herself more Dear to me by Uniting herself to the People of God by the Bonds of Church membership.

Besides I am not alone in reference to God himself, for since he removed my near and Dear Relatives far from me, he has been in a higher Sense than Ever before a Present God, Blessing me and Encouraging me to Pray to him, and to rest my all upon his Strong arm and his Gracious Promises Such as "I will never leave you, nor forsake you, cast thy Burthen upon the Lord and he Shall Sustain thee" etc., have never been before so Sweet and Precious to my Soul.

J. Dawson

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1857

Early in the Month of March, while Employed alone with my young man Stearns in Turning out Some Empty Boxes from the Shed on the Wharf with the intention of offering them for Sale that day by auction, A heavy one fetched way Suddenly from the Top of the Pile, and the edge of it Struck the Shin Bone of one of my Legs, a little above the Ankle and laid the Bone Bare about an inch Square. The morning was very Cold, and to prevent further injury from that Cause, I made all the haste I Could to the House and Covered the Wound with a piece of Gold beaters Skin and a peice of Flannel over that, and I went about all day as usual, but Suffering much Pain. It gradually got worse, I suppose owing to my not Treating it right, not giving it that Ease which it required. I Employed Dr. Kirkwood who Poulitised and Dressed it, and told me that notwithstanding the Closest application of his Skill, it would likely be some months before I could use it freely, like the other Leg, and that if I did not Confine myself to the House, and avoid fatiguing it, It might Lame for Life. I at once made up my Mind to adhere Closely to his Instructions and the Event has Shewn that he told me the truth. He continued to visit me once or twice a Day for nearly 4 months, and I believe he treated me in the Most judicious Manner possible and he Shewed me Much Kindness, by taking me out frequently in fine days in his Carriage to Give me an airing, and when I was coming away he Drove me over to Truro to see how I was likely to Stand the journey, and yet his Bill was only L15 for both attendance and Medicine. I feel Grateful for his Kindness and I hope I shall not forget it. During all the Time I have been Confined with my Leg, I have never been able to Stand or Walk more than 15 to 20 minutes at a time without great Pain from Weakness and a Burning heat in the Nerves of the adjoining Parts, and towards night it was always worst. I feel very Thankfull however that my General health was Good nearly all the time, and also that the Nervous affection always Soothed down when I went to Bed, so that I always Enjoyed Sound Sleep.

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Doubtless, God intended by this affliction, among other things, to turn my attention to the Earnest Solicitation of my Son and Mrs. D. to Retire from Business, and take up my abode with them, at least this was the Result. Were anything necessary to Shew that God in his Providence intended this much by it, it may be found in the fact that at the very time when I was turning over in my mind, how I should Dispose of my Business and Property to Most advantage, and before I had Mentioned my intention to any Human being M. McPherson, Esq. of Norway House Called one day and told me how he was situated with his Son James and the one at Hudsons Bay, and that his thoughts had Conducted him to the Conclusion that I would likely be parting with my Business Soon and of his desire to make me a Private offer, so that no one would know anything about it till the Bargain was Concluded. I at once Saw in this the hand of Providence, in bringing this Chance my way, and I determined to follow it, if possible to a Successfull issue. Offers were accordingly Exchanged and finally a Price agreed on, Subject to the Confirmation of my Son. This was Easily obtained when the Bargain was finally concluded.

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Much about the Same time, James Crerar Esq. of Merigomish Made me an offer for my Farm which was also accepted. My Farm was of all others the thing which was Most Likely to Give me trouble after the Business was disposed of, so that here again the Leading of Providence pointed to my way of duty. How thankful, therefore, ought I to feel that God not only opened a way for me to retire Quietly and comfortably into Private Life, but has also opened the Eyes of my Mind to See the Leadings of his Providence in all these Matters. In return for his Goodness in these things, I pray that he may Guide me to more devotion to his cause on Earth both of my Person and the Substance he has Given me, or rather, made me Steward of.

Memo of my journey from Pictou, N.S. to Montreal. Left Pictou in Company with Dr. Kirkwood and McPherson Esq. on Thursday 4th August 1857. The Latter conveyed me 3 miles and Returned, the Former went to Truro where we Put up that Night at McKays Hotel. On Friday left Truro by Stage in Company with Miss Agnes Rankine, and reached Halifax by Coach and Rail at half past 7 o'clock P.M. Remained in Halifax till Wednesday 12th Settling Business, Seeing friends and receiving visits from them. On Sabbath went to Mr. McGregors Church and on Wednesday at 12 noon Sailed for Yarmouth and Boston in the Eastern State Steamer. Reached Yarmouth on Thursday at 2 o'clock P.M., vessel Put out one Cargo and Shipped Another. Had a Call from Rev<sup>d</sup> Geo. Christie and Alex<sup>r</sup> Lawson and left for Boston about Sundown. Arrived at Boston at 10 o'clock P.M. on Friday 14th, Remained on Board all night and at 8 o'clock on Saturday morning drove to the Adams Hotel to Breakfast, Settled Some Business that day, and on Sunday went to hear a Baptist Preacher, can Scarcely Say I heard the Gospel, the Sermon was Read in a Dry and formal Manner, Praise was performed by Execrable Organ, with which one Solitary Female endeavoured to Join, but She deserved a better Leader or rather She deserved to Lead herself as She had a Splendid voice.

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On Saturday afternoon took a Turn through Boston Common and the Horticultural Garden and were highly Gratified with what we Saw there. The Taste displayed in them is most magnificent. On Monday forenoon Settled Some more Business, and in the Evening went on Board the Steamer Thomastown for Portland. Had a very Stormy night, vessel, tho new, Worked badly and Strained very much, arrived at Portland at 6 A.M. on Tuesday, and went thence to the Rail Road Station, taking a Cup of Tea on the way. Cars started at half past 7 A.M.. Stopped at Island Pond Hotel at 2 o'clock P.M. for Dinner which was Served up in a most Handsome Manner and for a very reasonable fare. Arrived at Longueil at 7 P.M., where met Mrs. Dawson and Son George. Took Steamer to the City and reached my Son's House at 8 P.M.

Here I may Pause and offer thanks to God for the Great Comfort and Safety I Enjoyed on the journey. The Weather all the way was most delightful, Except the night I was on Board the Steamer from Boston and my Sore Leg rather improved than otherwise; Every day since then it has improved, so that Now, at the date I write (9th October) it is Nearly as well as the other one, with the Exception of being Something Weaker and Easier fatigued.

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About 26th August had a 3 Days visit from Miss Dickson En Route for Toronto. She was accompanied by Mr. D. McKay, her cousin. A few days after had a Call from a Mr. Fraser, E. River, Pictou, on his way to the Free Church College, Toronto. Early in September had a Call from Revd M. Sutherland, Pictou En Route for Toronto on Church Business, he promised to Call on his return and Spend a day with us but did not do So. Near the End of Spetember M. McPherson Esq. Called and Spent a very pleasant Evening with us, he left again for Pictou, Early in October. On the 1st of October Mrs. Dr. Anderson in Co. with M. Bell arrived to Spend a week or 10 Days, being in Bad health, and on Monday 12th October, the Dr. himself came down to fetch her Home, both left on Wednesday 14th October. Mathewson Bell took his passage to Scotland in Ship [blank] and Sailed on 13th November. Since the 1st October, the Weather has been Generally very fine permitting me to Enjoy Much out Door Exercise. Montreal, 14 November 1857.

25 March 1859

This is my Seventieth Birthday, having now by God's Goodness arrived at the age of Manhood so Grafically described by the Psalmist in the 90th Psalm.

Three Score and ten years do Sum up  
our days and years we See;  
Or if, by reason of more Strength  
in Some four Score they be.

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It becomes me to be humble myself before the most high God and Examine the way he has led me hitherto in his Gracious Providence, and here, at the very outset his more Common and Daily and hourly Mercies call for my Grateful acknowledgement and when I think of the Almost Numberless Instances in which he has Interposed his almighty arm to Save me from Bodily harm and Moral Delinquency to both of which I have Exposed myself by my disregard of his Laws of Nature and Providence, with what feelings of Self-abasement and deep thankfulness ought I to appear in his Presence that I have not been but down as a cumberer of the Ground.

My time here now, must be Short, oh! that I might be Enabled to Exemplify Watchfulness and Resignation to his Divine Will, and to look Constantly to God through his Dear Son for preparation for that inevitable Change which he alone can give fitness (?) and which I must Soon undergo.

Nov. 20 1859

This year has been remarkable for Producing Some Important Events which are likely to result in much Good or Evil to the Destinies of Mankind -in the first place, the Short but Bloody War between Austria and France has given a most unlooked for Impulse to Constitutional Government in Italy, and, to all appearance te Temporal Power of the Pope is about to be Shattered to Pieces, and his Spiritual Power is already held in Utter Contempt in nearly all the Papal Countries of Europe.

The cry of the Powerful or destroying angel is about to be heard  
"Babylon the Great if Fallen -is fallen".

2nd, This year claims the inauguration of the Great SteamShip - Great Eastern.

3rd, also the finishing of the Most Stupendous Bridge in the World  
Victoria Bridge.

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4th, also of Christ Church Cathedral, the latter are Montreal achievements and, altho they are nearly finished, and will probably be wholly so by the Close of the Year, yet their Public Inauguration will not take place till Early in 1860 when it is expected that Some conspicuous Member of the Royal Family will be present. On Thursday 24th November the first Locomotive passed through the Victoria Tubular Bridge with 2 Cars Containing 36 Gentlemen and on Sunday 27th November, the first Service was held in Christ Church Cathedral.

## 1860

Great Preparations were made in the Early Part of this year for the Reception of his R.H. the Prince of Wales, in the Shape of Street Cleaning, Erecting Triumphal arches, Erecting an exhibition Building for the Society of Arts and Manufactures. A Ball Room for the Prince etc. In August, H.R.H. made his appearance accompanied by a Staff of English Noblemen and Stayed nearly a Week visiting all the places of Note in and about the City, Inaugurating the Victoria Bridge, the Exhibition Building and Christ Church Cathedral. He then proceeded on a Tour of Western Canada and thence to the U. States and finally Embarked at Portland in October for Great Britain. His reception Every where was most Cordial and enthusiastic.

On the 29th of November, I received a Letter from My Nephew W<sup>m</sup> Morrison Junior of Leanhead (?) in Scotland, announcing the Death of my Sister Mary in November last. She was 2 years older than me. Her demise Says to me "Be ye also reay, for in Such hour as you think not, the Son of Man Cometh".

## 1861

Rec<sup>d</sup> a Leeter on 10th March, from Miss Jane Morrison, My Niece, informing me of the Sudden and Unexpected Death of her Brother William of Inflammation of the Brain. She does not tell his age, but Says he was in the Prime of Life. I believe he was the only Son his Parents had and Coming so Soon after the Death of his Wife it will be a Sore trial indeed for the old Man. This is truly Mysterious Providence and I hope and Pray it may be abundantly Sanctified to the Survivors.

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25th March 1861. I am reminded that this is my 72nd Birthday - how Great has been the Loving Kindness of the Lord to me, to permit me to See Such old age in vigorous health. The Close of my Life must now be near at hand, however, and it becomes my imperative duty to be ready to obey the Call of my redeemer "for in Such hour as you think not, the Son of Man Cometh". I am also reminded that on the 8th day of this month 50 years ago, I left Reith on my way to America. What an almost Countless Multitude of Mercies my heavenly Father has bestowed on me during the eventful period "Surely Goodness and Mercy will follow me all the days

of my life and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever".

Friday, 19th April 1861

This month has produced at least two most Distressing Events; on Saturday 13th the River Ice having "Shored" as it is termed, that is having broke all up in Cakes and Moved down Stream, the force of the Water Causing it to push Cake above Cake and in below, as it could find way till the Lowermost Tier Grounds in Some Shallow Part of the River below the City, when all at once the front portion Stops, the body behind still Moving on Causes it to Pack so Close and high that the Water is Damed back when it immediately Commences to Rise and Cover all the Low Grounds in the upper part of the City. Unfortunately there is a Dense but Poor population located there about the Lachine Canal in Griffintown who are Subjected to the yearly Danger of being driven out of their Houses, probably in the Dead Hour of the Night, and having all their Cloths, Provisions and other effects Submerged in the Water nearly at the Freezing point. Now altho they are liable to have a flood less or more, from this Cause almost every year, yet it is 35 years Since a flood of Such magnitude occurred, at that time it was so much higher then the present one that the Ice and Water together demolished a large part of the Buildings along Com<sup>re</sup> and Common sts. as well as a large portion of the Frail Buildings in Griffintown where Craig Street and the Haymarket now are, the Water was many feet Deep, and the River Discharged for Some days its Surpufluous Waters as already mentioned. The Sudden Rise of the Water gave Indication that a flood was at hand. On Sabbath it overflowed Common and Com<sup>re</sup> Streets -Wellington St. and a large part of Griffintown and on Monday Morning it attained to its maximum height, at which time Canoes and Small Boats Could Come about half way up McGill, St. Peter and St. F. Xavier St. and it was a few Inches high about the East End of St. Antoine st. the foot of the Haymarket and in the Hollow along Craig Street and it was level with the Lower Floor of Bonsecours Market. On Tuesday morning the water had fallen about a foot, but it was not till Wednesday 17th that it retired from the lower streets of the City and even yet many of the Cellars are full or half full of Water. The Loss of Life has not yet been fully ascertained, the Loss of Property will be Immense as the Basement and Cellar Stories of the Business part of the City Front were all full of goods ready for Shipping on the arival of the Spring Fleet, and the Greater Portion of the Spring Supplies of British and W. India Goods were also there having been Imported by way of Portland. These two descriptions of Loos will no doubt be Stated in Nespapers in a few days when I shall file some of them<sup>g</sup>-ving Particulars for Further Reference.

The other Distressing event I have referred to occurred on the Same days as the Flood in Montreal (13th) on that day Civil War broke out between the American Union and 7 or 8 Seceding States in the South. The Slave Trade is at the Bottom of this dispute but I hope and Trust that God will overrate it so that the end may be the entire abolition of that odious Monoply in Human Flesh. It is well that the Event is in his hands.

4 Deaths by Drowning are thus far reported by the Innundation.

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