

THE LANARK SETTLEMENT

*Should fate command me to the farthest verge
Of the green earth, to distant barbarous climes,
Rivers unknown to song; where the first sun
Gilds Indian mountains, or his setting beam
Flames on the Atlantic isles, 'tis nought to me,
Since God is ever present, ever felt,
In the void waste, as in the city full;
And where He, vital, breathes, there must be joy.*

DURING the years from 1816 to 1820, there was, as pointed out in the last chapter, much depression in the motherland owing to commercial declension, and this caused a great deal of privation among certain classes of people in the south of Scotland whose means of living depended largely upon production and manufactures.

This class of people in the Scottish counties of Lanark and Renfrew had suffered a great deal from this depression, so that many of them, despairing of eking out an existence at home, began to look abroad with that hope eternal which inspires the human breast to dream of a new life in the more promising regions of the Western world.

Having this object in view, a considerable number of families in the two counties, during 1820,

The Scotsman in Canada

banded themselves together into societies for the purpose of petitioning the Government for the power and means of emigrating to Upper Canada and for grants of land in that province. The Colonial Secretary of the day was Lord Bathurst, and to him and his Majesty's other ministers the petitions of these societies were presented by several Members of Parliament, who were aware of the distress existing in Glasgow and the surrounding country, and of the difficulties affecting the petitioners. During the following winter much was done by philanthropists to relieve the suffering of the poor, and work was made by the magistrates of Glasgow to relieve the existing conditions.

Meanwhile the interests of the several emigrating societies were advanced by Lord Archibald Hamilton, Kirkman Findlay, Esq., and John Maxwell, Esq., Members of the Commons. The result was that grants of land were procured in Upper Canada for heads of families and individual petitioners, whose names were entered on lists sent into the Colonial Office. These grants were given on the understanding that the expense of their passage and sustenance as far as Quebec would be guaranteed by the societies.

Fully a thousand heads of families or individuals in the county of Lanark were, through local assistance, able to accept this offer; while a local subscription in Glasgow enabled those in that vicinity to do likewise. Each man received one pound, which was to be paid to the owners of the vessels as part payment of passage money. The ships

The Lanark Settlement

which carried out these people were the *Prompt* and the *Commerce*.

Immediately after this an additional sum of £500 was raised in London to enable the remaining families in the societies, who had no means to do so, to emigrate. These were decided on by ballot, as out of 149 persons, only one-tenth of the expense could be raised. One hundred of these families were sent out in the ship *Broke*. Some account of the details of this emigration will be of value in showing the great difficulties undergone, and the privations endured in early emigration to Canada from the Old Land by the sturdy Scottish settlers.

On October 24, 1820, a meeting was held at the Black Bull Inn, in Glasgow, at which Lord Archibald Hamilton, Colonel Mure, Kirkman Findlay, James Oswald, Robert Dalglish, William McGavin, and Robert Brown were the gentlemen present. The following list of societies, including altogether 6,281 individuals, was laid before the meeting :—

Cambuslang and Govan, 227 persons ; Kilbride, 40 ; Stonehouse, No. 1, 70 ; Stonehouse, No. 2, 89 ; Strathaven, 70 ; Wishawton, 81 ; Hamilton, 295 ; Lesmahagow, 112 ; Glasgow Highland and Lowland, 167 ; Brownfield and Anderston, 395 ; Glasgow Wrights, 200 ; Glasgow Junior Wrights, 205 ; North Albion, 127 ; Barrowfield Road, 269 ; Rutherglen Union, 175 ; Camlachie Transatlantic, 215 ; Rumford Streets, 115 ; Glasgow Loyal Agricultural Union, 118 ; Stockwell Street, 162 ; St. John's Parish, 202 ; Kirkman Finlay, 158 ;

The Scotsman in Canada

Lanarkshire, 158 ; Parkhead, 145 ; Glasgow Union, 119 ; Paisley Townhead, 603 ; Cathcart, 100 ; Emigrants from Renfrewshire, not of societies, claiming means to emigrate, 188 ; Glasgow Canadian, 284 ; Abercrombie, 160 ; Bridgetown, 284 ; Bridgetown Transatlantic, 225 ; Mile-end, 225 ; Spring Bank, 139.

The agent appointed was Mr. Robert Lamond, 43, Ingram Street, Glasgow.

The Government aid to these Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, and West of Scotland emigrants was on the following terms :—

One hundred acres were assigned to every family on arrival in Canada on condition of residence and partial cultivation within a limited period. The Government were to defray expense of surveying and charge of removal of emigrants from Quebec to the place of location. The emigrants were to arrange means and pay passage to Quebec at rate of four pounds a head ; that the settlers should receive at place of settlement not less than three pounds a head for every emigrant, and another advance of three pounds a head to be made six months after their arrival ; all to be advanced to enable them to establish themselves in the country.

The following ships sailed carrying the Canadian emigrants to their destination in the New World.

The ship *Broke* sailed from Greenock, July, 1820, with 176 passengers, the greater portion of whom belonged to the Abercrombie, Transatlantic, and Bridgetown societies. They were all poor, and unable to pay their passage. They left in good

The Lanark Settlement

spirits. A letter to the Secretary is dated on board at Greenock, July 8, 1820, thanking the Committee for the care and accommodation, and for being relieved from their miseries of years past. It is signed on behalf of the others by John McLachlan and Thomas Whitelaw.

The ship *George Canning*, registering 485 tons, sailed from Greenock, April 14, 1821, carrying 490 individuals, men, women, and children; and arrived in Quebec on June 1st, all well, there being only one death, that of a boy, who fell overboard. Three children were born on the voyage.

A letter dated Gourock Bay, April 14, 1821, from the representatives of the heads of families on board the *George Canning*, thanks the Committee who had embarked them, and also the owners of the vessel. The eleven representatives who signed in the name of the societies on board the *Canning* were: Wm. McEwen, John McPherson (probably father of Kenneth of Lanark), Duncan McInnis, James Braidwood, James Youll, jun., James Paul, James Borrowman, Walter Black, John Kilpatrick, Robt. McLaren, and James Aikenhead.

The ship *The Earl of Buckinghamshire*, Captain Johnson, sailed from Greenock on Sunday morning, April 29, 1821, with 607 passengers, old and young, of whom 287 were from Lanarkshire. She arrived at Quebec on June 15th, all well. There were seven births on the voyage, and one death from premature birth.

The *Greenock Advertiser* of May 2nd, describing the sailing of the vessel, said: "The emigrants, generally, have a most respectable appearance;

The Scotsman in Canada

and amongst them are various artificers, such as smiths, joiners, &c., whose labours in their respective occupations must prove peculiarly valuable to the other settlers in their agricultural operations, to which the whole purpose to devote themselves under the encouragements held out by the Government, whose bounty, we are well persuaded, has in few instances been more judiciously bestowed."

The ship *Commerce*, Captain Coverdale, sailed from Greenock, May 11, 1821, with 422 individuals. She arrived at Quebec, all well, on June 20th. Two children and one woman died on board. There were no births.

The ship *David*, Captain Gemmell, sailed from Greenock on May 19th, carrying out 364 individuals. She was sent off in a fair wind under favourable circumstances, all on board in good spirits. The passengers were chiefly from the counties of Lanark, Dunbarton, Stirling, Clackmannan, and Linlithgow. A letter to the Secretary of the Committee on Emigration, Mr. Robert Lamond, was dated on board the ship *David* at Greenock, May 19, 1821.

It was written on behalf of the several societies, and thanked the Government for the several grants and other advantages conferred upon the members going to Canada, and also thanked the Emigration Committee for their exertions on their behalf, among other things for the many copies of the Bible received from the British and Foreign Bible Society. The letter was signed by five representatives: Samuel Stevenson, John Blair, David Young, George Bremner, and Archibald Paterson.

The Lanark Settlement

The comfort of the passengers in these ships was well provided for by the Committee. The ships themselves were thoroughly inspected, and pronounced sound and staunch, and in every way fitted for conveyance of emigrants to Canada, and the ship's officers and men were also certified to be sober and expert seamen, and well acquainted with the navigation of the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, that most dreaded part of the voyage to Canada.

The emigrants were exhorted in the new land to "call to mind the days of old, the precept and example so beautifully exemplified in Scotia's cottages, where the daily worship of God might have been heard in every family; . . . see," the advice ran, "that you do likewise; and with the blessing of God on your exertions, the difficulties which may bear hard upon you for a little time, will gradually pass away like a cloud."

The principal settlement in Upper Canada, which was the destination of these emigrants, was the Lanark settlement. It was described in 1820 by Captain W. Marshall, the superintendent of the settlement, as consisting of three townships each ten miles square, situated immediately behind the Perth settlement, and named respectively Dalhousie, Lanark, and Ramsay. These three townships were named respectively after the Governor-General, Lord Dalhousie, his family name Ramsay, and Lanark, the county in Scotland from whence the settlers had come. The village of Lanark, fourteen miles from Perth, contained a Government store and dwelling-house, three stores, and about a dozen other houses. It was fifty miles from Brockville

The Scotsman in Canada

on the St. Lawrence, and sixty-five from Kingston. The land was described by a settler as hilly and well watered.

There were in all forty different Scottish societies, engaged in this settlement, which actually sent out settlers. According to the original receipt of instalments of loans authorised by Earl Bathurst, and paid by Colonel William Marshall, the agent, there were six hundred and five heads of families who as settlers received these loans in three instalments, which were paid during 1820, 1821, and 1822. Each Preses, who represented the members of a society, had to sign his name and to witness each member sign his. The names of the Representatives, or Preses, are as follows :—

Kirkman Finlay Society, James Donaldson.

Parkhead Emigration, William Wallace.

St. John's Parish, Robert Grant.

Rutherglen Union, Alexander Wark.

North Albion, John Miller.

Camlachie, William Bryce.

Spring Bank, Hugh and Robert Campbell and Robert Ruthven.

Balfron, John Blair.

Govan, Andrew Hill.

Milton, Dumbartonshire, Archibald Paterson.

Brownfield and Anderston, Thomas Craig.

Bridgetown Transatlantic, James Braidwood ; William Walker
and James Murray.

Wishawton, Walter Gordon.

Cambuslang, John McPherson.

Glasgow Union, James Paul.

Glasgow Trongate, John Gemmill.

Glasgow Wright, Robert McLaren.

Glasgow Wright, Junior, Duncan McInnis.

Glasgow Emigration, Duncan McPherson.

The Lanark Settlement

Glasgow Canadian, Walter Black.
Glasgow Loyal Agricultural, Wm. McEwen.
Bridgetown Canadian, John Cumming and William Stirling.
Cathcart, William McLellan.
Transatlantic, Daniel McFee.
Hopetown Bathgate, David Young.
Anderston and Ruglen, James Hood.
Hamilton, Robert Chalmers.
Abercrombie Friendly, Wm. Gordon.
Abercrombie, John Young.
Abercrombie Street, James Horn.
Abercrombie Society, James Youll, junior.
Alloa, Samuel Stevenson.
Strathaven and Kilbride, James Aikenhead.
Muslin Street, Peter McLaren.
Lesmahagow, Thos. Scott and James Brown.
Barrowfield Road, James Barrowman.
Deauston, George Bremner, senior.
Paisley Townhead, Daniel Richie.
Lanarkshire Society, James Gilmour.
Different Societies, David Freeland.

Lord Dalhousie, Governor-General, in a letter to the Duke of Hamilton, dated Quebec, January 23, 1821, says that he has received during the past summer nearly 1,200 emigrants from Lanarkshire, and has placed them in a special district named after their old home shire, Lanark. He says that they are likely to prosper as they are willing and have a good example of prosperity around them. He adds that one of the earliest wants, aid to build a church and schoolhouse, he cannot grant, but hopes that the Duke, or Lord Archibald Hamilton, may be able to raise £200 or £300 in Lanarkshire for the purpose. The money asked for was, as a result, raised and forwarded.