
CHAPTER XXXV

THE SCOTTISH IMMIGRANT IN WESTERN CANADA

THE Scottish people are noted colonisers, and North America has been their favourite place in choosing a home. The Scottish woman is willing to face the greatest dangers and hardships, if she may, with her husband, have her "ain biggin'," her "ain hearth," and what she regards as a new-world picture of her "ain countree." She is a helpmeet to her husband rather than an object calling for pity, or a goddess set up for adoration to be served or waited upon. She is her husband's equal, her house is her kingdom, and with thrift and sedulous care she watches for the return of her "guid man at e'en." Tam o' Shanter's wife, Kate, was a travesty of a housewife as she waited for Tam,

Gatherin' her brows like gatherin' storm,
Nursin' her wrath to keep it warm.

The most famous household scene of humble life is that in the "Cotter's Saturday Night." It is reserved to Scotland to have a peasantry industrious, intelligent, and independent. In

The Scotsman in Canada

Canada especially has it come about that the type of Scottish home has taken root. It is among Scottish writers especially that such topics have been dealt with as "Annals of a Country Parish," "Essays by a Country Parson," the idealisation of a "Drumtochty," the domestic sketch of a "Window in Thrums," or the rural picture of the "Man from Glengarry." The Scottish immigrant is equally adaptable for the industry of the manufactory of the New World town, where he may make a new "Paisley" or a colonial "Glasgow"; or be the stock-breeder with his Clydesdales, the shepherd or drover with his collie dog, or the husbandman with his "pleugh" or hayfork. In Western Canada, as we have seen, in every province he has been the successful agriculturist, and in the pursuit of agriculture is there scope found for the sobriety, the independence, and the stability of character which make a nation great. The Canadian West welcomes the Scotsman, coming either from Bonnie Scotland or from the Scottish localities of Old Canada. To those acquainted with the filling up of the West during the last forty years, it brings a smile to the face to hear the man with a decidedly Highland accent tell you that he comes "from the tenth concension of Huron." A lady of Manitoba told the writer of an old Scottish woman visiting in Minnedosa from the county of Oxford in Ontario. She was from the township, settled up largely by the Mackays and other descendants of Highland soldiers, where the High-

