

**MEMORIES OF SCOTTISH SCENES AND  
SABBATHS MORE THAN EIGHTY YEARS  
AGO; OR, SKETCHES OF RELIGIOUS LIFE  
AMONG THE PEASANTRY OF AYRSHIRE  
EARLY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY**

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Memories of Scottish scenes and sabbaths more than eighty years ago; or, Sketches of religious life among the peasantry of ayrshire early in the nineteenth century by Alexander Kennedy

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**ALEXANDER KENNEDY**

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OR,

*SKETCHES OF RELIGIOUS LIFE AMONG THE  
PEASANTRY OF AYRSHIRE EARLY IN  
THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.*

BY THE LATE  
REV. ALEXANDER KENNEDY,  
DUNBARTON, ONTARIO.

WITH PREFACE BY THE  
REV. J. K. SCOTT, B.D.,  
FRASERBURGH.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE following pages are a reprint of some articles that appeared in the *Canadian United Presbyterian Magazine* in 1860 and 1861. The writer's name was not given, but they are known to be from the pen of the late Rev. Alexander Kennedy of Dunbarton, Pickering, Canada West, as the Province was at that time called. Mr Kennedy when young had seen and taken part in what he describes. He was born in the parish of New Cumnock, Ayrshire, and brought up on the farm of Dalricket Mill, of which his father was tenant. The eldest son of a family of thirteen, he attended with the others the Secession Church of Old Cumnock, in which congregation his father was an elder. Having studied for the ministry of the Secession Church, he was sent out in 1835 by Greyfriars Congregation, Glasgow, as a missionary to Trinidad, where he laboured for about fourteen years, preaching to both the Europeans and the Negroes. He took a very prominent part in protesting against and opposing the cruel wrongs which

the negroes at that time were suffering in the island. In 1849, his health having completely broken down, he left Trinidad and went to Canada, with little hope of ever being able to do more than preach the Gospel for a short time to a few of the straggling settlers in some remote locality where the regular means of grace did not exist.

But the change of scene and the more bracing climate of Canada soon restored him to health and vigour. Before long three different congregations called him to be their pastor. One of these calls he accepted, and for full forty years he was an active and highly esteemed minister of the Canadian Church. He died at Welland, Ontario, in 1892, in his eighty-ninth year, having demitted his charge some years previously.

A venerable elder, Mr David Scott of Boghead, Girvan, having a set of the Magazines containing the articles, thought that the vivid glimpses there given of how our fathers worshipped God in the sanctuary and in the home were worthy of preservation, and might with profit be read by some in our day. He proposed, therefore, to have them reprinted, and asked the present writer to prepare a few explanatory notes. So the articles are here reproduced, mainly for the sake of those, and they are many, who are related to Mr Kennedy, or have some knowledge of him, and of the congregation and district of which he wrote. If the articles should interest others into whose hands they may come, the gratification of the venerable