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## CHAPTER XVIII

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### THE HURON AND BRUCE SETTLEMENTS

*Domed with the azure of heaven,  
Floored with a pavement of pearl;  
Clothed all about with a brightness  
Soft as the eyes of a girl;*

*Girt with a magical girdle,  
Rimmed with a vapour of rest,  
These are the inland waters,  
These are the lakes of the west.*

*Miles and miles of lake and forest,  
Miles and miles of sky and mist,  
Marsh and shoreland, where the rushes  
Rustle, wind and water kissed;  
Where the lake's great face is driving,  
Driving, drifting into mist.*

**T**WO leading ideas are for ever closely associated in our minds with patriotism, and they are the land of our birth and upbringing and the race or stock from which we have sprung.

In these two respects the hardy sons and the fair daughters of Huron and Bruce are, without doubt, among the highly favoured of earth's peoples.

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Nowhere in the world is there to be found a more healthful and beautiful region than that bordering upon Lake Huron, where it forms the coast-line of those two picturesque and progressive counties.

With a splendid soil, productive of fine fruits and grains, and rich in pasturage for cattle, a climate at once invigorating and salubrious, it is a region of pleasant meadows and sloping hill-sides, delightful streams, and a bold and, in many places, sublime coast-line of cliffs and bays and jutting promontories, facing one of the most splendid sweeps of fresh water in either hemisphere. It is a region in all respects the fit cradle for a hardy, self-reliant, and happy race of men and women—fit home alone for the indomitable and nobly strong.

But dear as is the soil whereon we tread, and the waters and lands and hills and sky-line of the region of our birth and youth, even dearer to us all must ever be the thought and memory of the race or stock to which we belong, and from which we have sprung.

If of late we, as a people, have failed to realise this idea, it is not because it is not a sacred obligation thrust upon our higher nature, as the proper attribute of any great and heroic people, but rather because our life in a new country has so exaggerated the stern necessity and the ephemeral achievement of the present, that all natural and fine feelings and ideals have been forced into the background. If we only go back to the days of

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our grandparents we will enter a condition of society where it was quite common to have three, and even four, generations dwelling under one roof ; and we will witness a community where for generations all were knit in the same bonds of blood and kinship, where the joys and sorrows, the good and ill, the faith and speech and song were those of one people, when the rich and poor, the great and humble, were all, though remotely, of a common stock or origin.

On this Western continent of aliens from many lands, in this hurried day of constant change and mutual struggle, it is difficult for us to understand the conditions of society just described. But if we pause to remember and consider, we must realise that it was from just such a stock that we have sprung.

When, less than three-quarters of a century ago, the pioneers of Huron and Bruce began slowly at first an influx of settlement, which continued up to the latter end of the last century, into what was then a wild and lonely region of almost trackless forest, they came in for the most part in companies—sons, fathers, and grandfathers, new from the more strict, more narrow, but ideal society of the loved Old Land of mountain and misty glen.

Whatever of good, whatever of hope, whatever of ideal and character they brought out and established in the New World was the product and gift of the Old Land and the old days. The very manner of life, the quaint accent of speech, the

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wonderful old Gaelic tongue, the stern faith in God, the very manner of prayer and praise were, and have continued ever since as, the blessed gift of the old homeland away a whole ocean apart from the new, yet ever near and dear to the remembering heart and the Celtic imagination.

It is impossible for the observant traveller to visit this region of a sturdy, happy, industrious, and intellectual people and not see, down every roadside and village street, in the school, the church, the market, and home, strong evidence, even yet, that the bone and sinew, the brain and ideal, the faith and energy, that have made these counties what they are to-day, are the product of the great Scottish and Ulster-Scottish race, cradled for a thousand years in the storied land of Wallace and Burns and Bruce and Bannockburn.

While we are all Canadians in this promising young land, yet it is well that we should not forget how much of our blood is of the old Scottish and Ulster-Scottish stock—that people of the iron will and the dourest, sternest, most uncompromising Christianity in the whole world. While we lead in the mart or senate, or guide the ship or the plough, or weld the character or the iron at the anvil, it is for our good to remember that the faith in earth and heaven is still at root the old faith; that even though we may forget the Old Land and the old accent, the old slower, sterner, narrower ways, that we have to think of God as did our fathers, and that though in a stranger and far land He leads us still.

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In this connection it is but due to our ancestry if we, not in any spirit of boasting, but of reverence and thoughtfulness, remember what Scotland has meant to our sires and grandsires in this land of their adoption, and of what it may yet mean to us in the present and the future.

It is significant to recall that the first British connection with Canada was a purely Scottish one, and that the first name given to the Maritime Provinces and all of Quebec south of the St. Lawrence was New Scotland, or Nova Scotia. This vast territory was, by act of the Scottish Parliament, made an adjunct of the Scottish kingdom, and Sir William Alexander was constituted its Governor. Nearly three hundred years have passed since then ; and during all this time there has not been a portion of what is now under our vast Dominion that has not been conquered, reclaimed, and settled by members of our hardy race.

From Sir William Alexander, the first Governor of New Scotland, and Abraham Martin, the brave old Scottish pilot who guided Champlain's ship up the St. Lawrence, to Lord Strathcona, we have had a long list of mighty men in all walks of life, prominent in the upbuilding of Canada, bearing the clan and family names of our race—such as Macdonald, Mackenzie, Galt, Fraser, Mowat, Campbell, Drummond, Ross, Cameron, McLean, Logan, Fleming, Wilson, Grant, and Smith. Indeed, there is not a clan or family name of Highland or Lowland Scotland that has not been

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in some way associated with Canadian development from sea to sea.

The people of Huron and Bruce have been specially favoured in this respect. It is true they have a notable proportion of English, Irish, and German stock among their population who have borne witness to the fine qualities of their stock ; but it is not any the less a fact that the greater portion of the two counties is settled by direct Scottish or Ulster-Scottish stock. Everywhere in the towns and country places of this beautiful lakeside region are met the characteristics of the Scotsman, either direct from the old land of Burns and Scott or from that first great Scottish colony of sturdy Scotsmen, Ulster ; where Edward Bruce, the brother of the famous Robert, made the first Scottish invasion, and where, throughout the centuries since, the Scotsman has settled and made the land his own, and where to-day he is more Scottish, and his Presbyterianism is more of the old school, than anywhere else in the world.

The very name of the more northerly of these two counties is significant and fitting. The name of Bruce will ever be associated with Scotland and Scotsmen, and is synonymous with the cause of liberty and national freedom ; and as the great Scottish royal hero and patriot fought against oppression without and ills within, so may the sons of Bruce and Huron ever be found on the side of true liberty of thought and action, and enemies of all tyranny and ill in the community and State.

Goderich, the leading town of the county of

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Huron, was founded by a noted Scottish writer and coloniser, that remarkable man John Galt, who was second only to Sir Walter Scott as a novelist, and who had so much to do with the pioneer settlement of Western Ontario. The present city of Galt bears his name, and Guelph was founded by him and named in honour of the Royal Family. He called the beautiful capital of Huron County after Lord Goderich, the Colonial Minister for that day. Associated with Galt in his early settlements for the Canada Company was that eccentric and original character Dr. Dunlop, another Scotsman, who personally built the first building erected at Goderich.

In his autobiography Galt describes the first appearance of the Huron coast and the site of Goderich :—

We then bore away for Cabot's head . . . we saw only a woody stretch of land, not very lofty, lying calm in the sunshine of a still afternoon . . . and beheld only beauty and calm . . . in the afternoon of the following day we saw afar off, by our telescope, a small clearing in the forest, and on the brow of a rising ground a cottage delightfully situated. The appearance of such a sight in such a place was unexpected ; and we had some debate, if it could be the location of Dr. Dunlop, who had guided the land exploring party already alluded to ; nor were we left long in doubt, for on approaching the place, we met a canoe having on board a strange combination of Indians, velvetens and whiskers, and discovered within the roots of the red hair, the living features of the Doctor. About an hour after, having crossed the river's bar of eight feet, we came to a beautiful anchorage of fourteen feet of water, in an uncommonly pleasant small basin. The place had been selected by the Doctor, and is now the site of the flourishing town of Goderich.

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The chief agents in the early settlement of the county of Bruce were Scotsmen. The townships have nearly all Scottish names, the rest being mostly Indian. The Scottish ones are Lindsay, Arran, Carrick, Bruce, Culross, Elderslie, Greenock, Kincardine, and Kinloss.

The surrenders of the lands from the Indians were procured through Scotsmen. Lord Elgin, for whom Bruce was named, was the Governor of the day. His Secretary was Lawrence Oliphant, a noted Scottish writer who was the author of the account of Elgin's mission to China. The village of Oliphant, on the Huron shore opposite Wiarton, was named after him. Oliphant also held the position of Superintendent of Indian Affairs. He effected in 1854 the surrender to the Government of what is called the Saugeen Peninsula, comprising the greater part of Northern Bruce. He had as coadjutors three noted Scotsmen—James Ross of Belleville, a well-known lawyer; Charles Rankin, a noted land surveyor; and Alexander MacNab, the Crown Lands Agent, who resided at Southampton, and was father of Mr. John MacNab of that place.

In 1848 the Lake Huron shore in this region was surveyed by Alexander Murray, Assistant Geologist to Sir William Logan. One of the earliest pioneers of Bruce was Capt. Alexander McGregor of Goderich, who, in 1831, developed the fishing trade at the famous Fishing Islands above Saugeen. The old stone building—now a ruin—on Main Station Island, opposite Oliphant,

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was the first permanent building erected in the county of Bruce. Doctors Dunlop and Hamilton of Goderich formed a new company to exploit these fisheries. Another fishing company of Scotsmen of Southampton was that formed in 1848 by Captains Spence and Kennedy, who purchased the rights of the Goderich Company. Capt. Kennedy was a Scottish half-breed. He went in command of a party to discover Sir John Franklin. Spence was an Orkney man, probably of the Selkirk settlement. The present writer knew Spence. He died in 1904. He was a cousin of Mr. William Houston, the well-known journalist and compiler of the Constitutional Documents on Education.

One of the two pioneer settlers of Kincardine landed at that place in the spring of 1848. His name was Allan Cameron, or "Black" Cameron. The pioneer settler on the Durham Road was a young Scotsman named John Beatty. His sister, Miss Beatty, was the first white woman to undertake the hardships of bush life in Bruce County. The Beatties walked on foot from Owen Sound by way of the Indian trail to Southampton, and from there they followed the beach to Kincardine. This was in 1848.

This year more Scotsmen began to come into the Kincardine district. They were Alexander McCallay; William Dowall; three brothers, Donald, Alexander, and John McCaskill; George McLeod; two brothers, James and Alexander Munro; and Patrick Downie. The following year Capt. Duncan Rowan and his brother John arrived,

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and the land was gradually taken up. In 1849 the first free-grant lands in Huron township were settled by a Scottish group—Duncan and Alexander McRae and Findlay McLennan and their families.

Among the pioneers of Brant township were John Lundy ; Thomas Todd ; Jos. L. Lamont ; and three Stewarts—Archibald, Alexander, and Moses.

Up to 1852 the settlers were mixed, with a good average of Scotsmen ; but in that year 109 families, from the Island of Lewis, in Scotland, settled in the township of Huron. They were mostly fishermen, shepherds, and crofters, who only knew Gaelic, so that they had a hard time for many years. The Island of Lewis is in the Western Hebrides, is a part of the shire of Ross, and is a famous place.

From there have gone forth many adventurers into our West and North-West, and into all parts of the world. The people are a hardy crofter and fisher-folk, who have endured much from Nature in the past and have looked mostly to the sea for a living, and often a burial. The land of the Island of Lewis was, in the past, largely in the hands of certain families of the McLeods, Mackenzies, Rosses, and McIvors, with some McDonalds, all of whom were connected with the Hudson's Bay Company.

The people who came to Bruce were a simple, God-fearing, and steadfast folk, but who had all their troubles ahead of them by reason of their utter ignorance of farming as it is carried on

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upon this continent. A complete list of the Lewis emigrants is given in Robertson's "History of Bruce County." Of the 109 heads of families there were 29 Macdonalds, 16 McLeods, 10 Mac-kays, 11 McLennans, and 7 McIvors. These people were mostly fishermen, and had their passage provided by the proprietor of the Island of Lewis.

There were many other Scottish Highlanders settled in Bruce besides the Lewis emigrants, and so numerous were the "Macs" that all sorts of nicknames had to be given to distinguish individuals—such as Little, Big, Black, Red, Long, and Short; and Robertson says of one school section the John Macdonalds were so plentiful that they had to be separately designated by a letter of the alphabet, as John A, John B, until John U closed the list.

With such a stalwart and enduring stock, it is not to be wondered at that these counties became noted among the finest of the Canadian communities. They not only produced able local representatives in all walks of life, but they also sent their sons and daughters out to the settlements of the Far West, and had their part in the building up of that part of Canada. The youth of Bruce and Huron distinguished themselves in South Africa, as well as in our own North-West Rebellion.

From the first settlement the Bruce people were loyal and ready to defend their country. The earliest Militia rolls of 1859 show that the majority were of Scottish origin. A list of these veterans

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is interesting : Col. Alexander Sproat ; Richard McInnis ; Neil McLeod ; John MacNab ; Donald Campbell ; William Walker ; James Hogg ; George Hamilton ; Alex. Angus ; Peter Angus ; Donald McPherson ; James Calder ; Alex. McIntosh ; James McIntosh ; Edward Ferguson ; Andrew Laurie ; Thos. Smith ; Edward Kennedy ; Wm. Chisholm ; James Jack ; James George ; Thomas Sharp ; Thomas Montgomery ; John Murray ; Alex. Munro ; Peter McGregor ; James Fleming ; James Mason ; Duncan Ross ; Thomas Adair ; James Orr ; Alex. Robertson ; John Spence ; W. S. Scott, M.D. ; Neil Campbell. This comprises the Scottish members of No. 1 Company, 1st Battalion of Bruce in 1859.

When the Militia Act was amended in 1868, the following year three Bruce Scotsmen received commissions—Lieut.-Col. Andrew Lindsay ; Major John Gillies ; and Major James Rowand.

The Captains of Companies were also all Scotsmen : Robt. Scott ; M. McKinnon ; J. H. Coulthard ; John McIntyre ; James Stark ; Andrew Freeborn ; and James Allan.

In the Reil Rebellion of 1870 the Scotsmen from Bruce were Capt. Hunter ; Capt. Thos. Adair ; A. McIvor ; Jas. Glendenning ; Wm. McVicar ; Duncan Kerr ; James Gilmour ; J. Gilroy ; Donald Robertson ; George Smith ; Robt. McFarlane ; and John Kerr. In 1885 the second North-West Rebellion broke out, and the Bruce battalion distinguished itself under Capt. Douglas.

In South Africa, Bruce gave a hero to the

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Empire in Trooper Gordon Cummings, of Kitchener's Horse. He was born in Saugeen in December, 1875, and was killed at the Battle of Nooitge-dacht on December 13, 1900, while gallantly striving to procure ammunition for his column.

An account of some noted residents of the county of Bruce of Scottish extraction must close this brief essay.

Lieut.-Col. Alexander Sproat, who was one of the earliest settlers, was of Scottish descent, a graduate of Queen's College, a provincial land surveyor; then a bank manager; County Treasurer, 1864 to 1873; first Member for Bruce in the Dominion Parliament; and Colonel of the 32nd Battalion. He was made Registrar of Prince Albert, North-West Territory, in 1880, and died in 1890.

The Rev. John Eckford was born in Scotland, educated at Edinburgh University, and came to Canada in 1851. He was a noted preacher in Bruce County, Reeve of Brant in 1857, and Superintendent of Schools up to 1871.

Alexander Shaw, K.C., came to Bruce in 1858; was County Solicitor in 1867; was elected to Parliament in 1878 in the Conservative interest.

Donald Sinclair was born at Islay in Scotland in 1829, and came to Bruce in 1853. He taught school, became a merchant at Paisley, and was elected to the House of Assembly from 1867 to 1883, and was appointed Registrar that year; a Liberal.

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William Gunn was born in 1816 near Glasgow. In 1852 he came to Kincardine from Napanee. He was a merchant; then Superintendent of Schools from 1853 to 1858; and Deputy Clerk of the Crown to 1894. He was also a Commissioner to Scotland on the Herring Industry.

Henry Cargill, Esq., M.P., was of Ulster-Scottish stock. He was born in 1838, and educated at Queen's College, Kingston. He became a successful lumber merchant in the county of Bruce, and was elected to Parliament for East Bruce from 1887 to 1903. He was a Conservative.

Alexander McNeill, Esq., M.P., was a distinguished Member of the Canadian House of Commons, where he represented North Bruce for eighteen years in the Conservative interest, being noted as a leading Imperialist. He introduced the first motion in the Canadian House of Commons leading to closer commercial relations with the mother country. He was born in Larne, county of Antrim, Ireland, of Ulster-Scottish and Scottish stock. His father's family was a branch of the McNeills of Gigha, who went into Ulster with the Scottish settlements and had lands in Antrim. His mother, his father's cousin, was a sister of the famous Duncan McNeill, Lord Colonsay, Lord Justice of Scotland. Mr. McNeill's maternal grandfather was McNeill of Colonsay. He studied for the Bar at the Inner Temple, London, England, but came to Bruce County about 1870, and has been a

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successful farmer. His residence, "The Corran," near Wiarton on Colpoys Bay, is one of the most beautiful places in the county. He is an earnest and able student of all public questions concerning both Canada and the Empire.

Alexander MacNab was born in 1809. He was appointed Crown Lands Agent for Bruce, and was for thirty years connected with the Land Office in the county. His son, John M. MacNab, residing at Southampton, is an authority on the county history.

John Gillies, Esq., M.P., was born at Kilcalomnell, Argyllshire, Scotland. He came to Canada in 1852; was Warden of Bruce in 1863, 1869, 1870, 1871, and 1872; was elected to Parliament from 1872 to 1882, when he was defeated by Alexander McNeill. He was a strong Liberal.

John Tolmie, Esq., M.P., the present popular Member of the Dominion House for North Bruce, is a Scotsman by birth, having been born in the parish of Laggan in Scotland in 1845. His mother was Mary Fraser. Mr. Tolmie came to Canada in 1868, and has been a farmer and salt manufacturer. He has been returned to the House of Commons four times in the Liberal interest for West and North Bruce.

James Ernest Campbell, Esq., J.P., merchant and manufacturer, of Hepworth, is a prominent man in the county. He was nominated three times in the Liberal interest in North Bruce. Mr. Campbell is of Ulster-Scottish stock, being a son of the Rev. Thomas Swainston Campbell (Anglican),

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of Wiar-ton, whose father, the Rev. Thomas Campbell, M.A., of Glasgow University, and first Rector of Belleville, Upper Canada, was son of James Campbell, Esq., of Kilrea, of a cadet branch of the House of Argyll. Mr. Campbell was appointed by the Canadian Government as Commercial Agent for Canada at Leeds and Hull, England, but declined the position. His elder brother, Thomas Francis Campbell, M.D., of Hepworth, is a well-known local physician.