

OTHER SCOTSMEN OF THE CONFEDERATION PERIOD

*“ Then none were for the party,
And all were for the State ” ;
That was the larger national hour
When all were truly great ;—
All petty warfare vanished quite
In the weal of the people’s fate.*

THE public life of Sir John A. Macdonald was associated with the careers of many other noted men, some of them his lieutenants and others his opponents, in Canadian political life. It is not hard to understand, after all that has been shown so far in this volume, that many of these were Scotsmen or at least men of Scottish extraction. In the list of the Canadian Fathers of Confederation it will be found that the great majority were of Scottish extraction.

At the Charlottetown Conference of 1864, among the representatives from what was then Canada, aside from the two French-Canadians, Cartier and Langevin, all the delegates were of Scottish birth

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or extraction. They were Macdonald, Brown, Galt, Macdougall, Campbell, and McGee. These six men were among the most noted statesmen of their time in Canada. The Nova Scotia contingent sent to London to oppose the Union was composed of three delegates—Joseph Howe and two Scottish Canadians, the Hon. William Annand and Hugh Macdonald, both distinguished men. Nova Scotia, like Old Scotia in its union with England, stood out for better terms ; and she got them in a million dollars more toward the Provincial debt, with other advantages. While Howe and Tupper were the chief political leaders, the greater portion of the others were of Scottish origin. Among these were Annand, Macdonald, McLellan, Stewart, Campbell, Sir William Young, and his brilliant brothers, George and Charles Young.

The Quebec Conference of 1864 was composed of thirty-three members from the different provinces and Newfoundland. Canada sent twelve, and of these eight were of Scottish extraction. Nova Scotia sent five, and four were of Scottish extraction. New Brunswick sent seven, and five of these were of Scottish origin ; and Prince Edward Island out of her seven delegates sent three Scotsmen.

The names will be interesting in this connection : Canada—Hon. J. A. Macdonald, Attorney-General of Canada West ; Hon. George Brown, President of Executive Council for Canada ; Hon. Alexander T. Galt, Finance Minister ; Hon. Alex-

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ander Campbell, Commissioner of Crown Lands ; Hon. Thomas D. McGee, Minister of Agriculture ; Hon. William Macdougall, Provincial Secretary ; Hon. James Cockburn, Solicitor-General. Canada West—Hon. Oliver Mowat, Postmaster-General. Nova Scotia—Hon. William A. Henry, Attorney-General ; Hon. Robt. B. Dickie, Hon. Adams G. Archibald, Hon. Jonathan McCully. New Brunswick—Hon. Peter Mitchell, Provincial Secretary and Premier ; Hon. John M. Johnson, Attorney-General ; Hon. W. H. Steeves ; Chas. Fisher ; Hon. J. H. Gray. Prince Edward Island—Hon. John Hamilton Gray, Premier ; Hon. Andrew Archibald Macdonald, Hon. Thomas Heath Haviland.

As these men will be famous in our national history as the fathers, or representative makers, of Confederation, it is interesting and very significant to realise that the greater majority of these leaders were of Scottish origin. For this reason it will be well to give a short account of their careers and of their connection with Scotland. Associated with them were other noted men of this period who should also be added to this list, such as the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, Sir John Macdonald's noted opponent and leader of the Liberal Party, and the Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald, the leading political genius of Old Upper Canada of the Middle period.

The Hon. George Brown, like Sir John A. Macdonald, was a Scotsman born, and, like his great rival, brought the elements of Scottish life

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and tradition into Canadian politics. He also is so well known a personality in Canadian public life that, unless something new be added, it is superfluous to say anything.

Aside from all his other qualities as a public man and his great contribution to the cause of Confederation, George Brown will ever stand in Canadian history as the very heart and soul of the great old Liberal Party of Upper Canada. When there was such a party in the golden age of Canadian Liberalism, without doubt one man alone stood as its acknowledged leader, and his paper, the *Globe*, was its organ, and that man was George Brown. He had in himself all the true qualities, ideals, and prejudices of that strong and important element in our people. In his day, party did not mean merely the "ins" and the "outs." It was a day of no compromise with the "scarlet woman" of Opposition. There was a strong element of the "no compromise" of William Lyon Mackenzie abroad. And of the staid, pious, sturdy, *Globe*-reading, Presbyterian Scottish Reformer George Brown was the one accepted and ideal leader.

I am not saying that this was the only good element in the community—far from it—or that there was no good in the other party. But if there was a weakness in the Conservative element, which might have proved dangerous to the public, it was a tendency to opportunism, which met a stern foe in the old-time Upper Canadian Reformers. They were, no doubt, narrow, and what

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is termed "hide-bound," in some respects, lacking that suave spirit of easy toleration, or apparent toleration, which may often be spelled "indifference," which sits so gracefully on the shoulders of some present-day politicians of both parties. But it was a part of the Scottish angularity and steady maintenance of Protestantism in Religion and State that stood out for its principles: The old-time free school and free education (free from the Church influence), the stern keeping of the Sabbath, the equality of man, the purity of public life, the right of the people to rule themselves, already voiced in a more extreme manner and finely accentuated by that great forerunner of Reform principle, Lyon Mackenzie, became established and crystallised in the Upper Canadian Reform Party under the influence and ægis of George Brown and his great organ the *Globe*. It was said of Brown that he was too narrow an Upper Canadian to be a true representative of the whole Dominion. But the same might be said of Howe, who was all for Nova Scotia. It can be said for Brown that he was just as much the crystallisation of the thought, ideal, and conditions of the great Scottish element of Upper Canada as was Howe of the New England element in Nova Scotia. He was a true Upper Canadian leader when there was a great Scottish Reform Party to lead. Cartier was no broader than Brown in that he stood solely and alone for Quebec and her rights and ideals in the Dominion. It must also be remembered that all these men belonged

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to a day when British North America was only a bundle of provinces, and when the idea of the Dominion was no more than a confederation of compromise. It is true that as a whole the Confederation was a good thing for all Canada. But it must not be forgotten that in some respects, with the exception of Quebec, every Provincial community has suffered as the result of the Confederation. In the history of that period such men as Brown, who had strong sectional and local affiliations and prejudices, must necessarily suffer in contrast with others who only cared for the large general result. But Brown has never been done justice to, and this is largely due to the fact that he would not give up his strong principles for the sake of passing popularity.

He was born in Edinburgh in 1821. His father was Mr. Peter Brown, formerly a merchant and bailie of that city, but ended his days in Toronto. They were a family evidently of journalistic ambitions. Peter Brown founded the *British Chronicle* in New York City in 1842; but his criticism of American institutions was not well received. He was a strong champion of Britain, and his "The Fame and Glory of England," an answer to Lester's "Shame and Glory of England," shows his staunch loyalty to British institutions. George Brown removed to Toronto in 1843; and on March 5th of the following year the first number of the greatest Canadian weekly appeared. This organ of the Reform Party has ever since continued to be the leading mouthpiece of British

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Liberalism in Canada. His death at the hand of an assassin cast a gloom over the country, and the influence of a dominant spirit in Canadian public life was brought to a sudden termination on May 9, 1880. On the accession to power in 1873 of his friend the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, Brown had been called to the Senate. The next year he was sent to Washington in connection with the Reciprocity Treaty. For the rest of his life his chief energies, outside of the Senate, were exerted through his paper the *Globe*.

He had certain qualities, those of fixed devotion to stern principles that made him impossible as a leader of a party in a mixed community like that of Canada after Confederation. But without doubt he was the real successor of Lyon Mackenzie, just as Alexander Mackenzie succeeded him. It is a remarkable fact, and one well worth realising, that these three noted Scottish Canadians, all born in the Motherland, who were the natural leaders of the Scottish Reformers of Canada, had much in common. They were all, to a certain extent, hampered in their success as popular leaders by their stern idealism and hatred of compromise. This characteristic in many ways constituted the real power and virtue of the old Canadian Liberalism. But it also prevented the party from being widely accepted as the ruling force in the founding of the Confederation and its early development; and this in spite of the fact that Lyon Mackenzie and George Brown were the earliest and most enthusiastic Confederationists.

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A noted Scotsman, who has been since George Brown's day the real mainstay of the *Globe*, is Senator Jaffray. He is a man of the finest ideals and great ability and tenacity of character. Canada owes much to Senator Jaffray for his steady determination through many years to keep the *Globe* as a high-class Canadian journal and to maintain the best Reform principles in its columns.

The Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, who succeeded George Brown as actual leader of the Reform Party, was one of the most notable personalities in Canadian political history. He was the only real rival to Sir John A. Macdonald, whom as leader of the Opposition he succeeded in power from 1873 to 1878. He was born on January 28, 1822, at Logierait, in Perthshire, Scotland; so that he was a true Highlander. He was educated as a builder and contractor, and studied at Perth and Dunkeld. Being the third of seven sons, all of whom came to Canada, he had to shift for himself. In 1842 he and his elder brother, Hope Mackenzie, afterwards Member for Lambton, came to this country. He worked for some time as a journeyman builder at Kingston, before finally settling in Sarnia. In 1852 he started the *Lambton Shield*, which he edited; and in 1861 succeeded his brother, entering public life as Member for Lambton. A Whig in Scotland, he supported Sandfield Macdonald, and strongly favoured Confederation, but was opposed to any coalition of party for that purpose. On the defeat

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of Brown in 1867, Mackenzie succeeded to the leadership. In Ontario, 1871-72, he was Treasurer in Blake's Administration of the Local Government; and in 1873 he became Premier of the Dominion, which position he held for five years.

Mackenzie's name stands forth in our political annals for sterling honesty and a desire to serve the people faithfully. He has been ever since spoken of as the watch-dog of the Treasury; and by some his ultimate defeat has been ascribed to his too faithful guardianship of the public trust.

A noted Father of the Canadian Confederation, who was of Scottish extraction, was the Hon. William Macdougall. He and his father were both born in Canada. His grandfather was a Scottish soldier, who served in the Commissioned Department of the British Army, and settled at Shelburne, Nova Scotia, after the Revolution, and subsequently removed to Upper Canada on the founding of the province. William Macdougall was born on January 25, 1822, and lived to an extreme old age. Educated at Victoria College, he studied law, becoming an attorney in 1847. But he also entered journalism, and edited the *Canadian Farmer*, subsequently the *Canadian Agriculturist*. In 1850 he founded the *North American*, in opposition to the *Globe*, and proposed many radical changes in elective and municipal bodies, with other bold reforms. In 1857 his paper was merged in the *Globe*, and in 1858 he entered Parliament. In 1862 he entered the Macdonald-

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Sicotte Government. He took part in the Union Conferences in 1866-67. He early evinced an interest in the North-West, and had somewhat to do with the bringing of that part of Canada into the Dominion, and, as was fitting, became its first Lieutenant-Governor. His unfortunate experiences with the half-breeds is a part of our history. Of a cool temperament and logical mind, he was a noted debater, but was too much of a free-lance by nature to ever stay long in party trammels, and paid the penalty as a public man.

Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt was a distinguished Scotsman in our politics. He and his able brother, the Hon. Justice Galt, were noted sons of a noted father, the famous Scottish novelist and coloniser of Upper Canada, John Galt, founder of Goderich and Guelph, and for whom the city of Galt was named. Alexander Tilloch Galt was born at Chelsea, in England, in 1817, and showed at an early age literary proclivities, at the age of fourteen contributing to *Fraser's Magazine*. At the age of sixteen he entered the British and American Land Company, operating in the Eastern Townships of Lower Canada, and by his energy improved its condition.

In 1839 he was elected Member for Sherbrook as a Liberal, but opposed the Rebellion Losses Bill, and was one of the signers of the notorious annexation manifesto of the same year. From that time he showed a strongly loyal spirit toward the Empire and British connection. He later became a Liberal-Conservative. He early showed his ability

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in finance. In 1858 Sir Edmund Head called on him to form a Government, but he refused. In the same year he became Inspector-General in the Cartier-Macdonald Government. In 1864 he was again made Finance Minister. From this on he was an active worker for Confederation, being a member of all the Conferences. In 1865 he went to Washington in connection with a reciprocity treaty. In 1867 he was made Finance Minister, but the same autumn retired through differences with the Government over financial conditions. In 1878 he was knighted by the Queen. He was on many international commissions, and was one of the suggesters of the national policy of Protection. He was afterwards High Commissioner for Canada in England. He was one of Canada's ablest financiers and debaters. With a consummate tact he always commanded the respect and attention of Parliament and the public.

Two noted Scottish Canadians among the Fathers of Confederation, who were closely connected with Sir John A. Macdonald, were Sir Oliver Mowat and Sir Alexander Campbell. Their names are also coupled here with his, because, like Macdonald, they were educated and started their legal careers in what I have dared to designate as the Aberdeen of Canada, quaint and historical old Kingston. It is more than interesting that there in that classic old lakeside military and University town, called the Limestone city, three great Scottish Canadians made their first essay

toward public and professional success ; and that they were associated with a fourth noted Canadian, the Right Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright, the present Minister of Trade and Commerce for the Dominion, who, through his mother, is of Ulster-Scottish extraction.

Sir Oliver Mowat, who was for years one of the chief public leaders of Canada, being Premier of Ontario and afterwards Minister of Justice in the first Laurier Cabinet, was born in Kingston, Upper Canada, in 1820, his father, a native of Canisbay, Caithness-shire, Scotland, being a prominent citizen of that place. Sir Oliver was proud of the fact that he was a descendant of the Mowats of Bucholie Castle, in the extreme north of the northern shire of Caithness, in Scotland. Caithness is, with Orkney, the famed Norse country of Scotland, the land of the Sinclairs, Gunns, Swansons, and other peoples of almost pure Norse descent. This young Norse Scotsman was, from the first, a student, and had ambitions for a public career. Like Macdonald and Campbell, he chose the legal profession. He was also a Presbyterian, his father being one of the founders of Queen's University and a prominent member of St. Andrew's Church. Young Mowat studied for a time in John Alexander Macdonald's law office. The two men had much in common, and possessed many similar qualities of mind which made them both such astute politicians. Here the similarity ended. Macdonald was tall, and had a striking personal appearance.

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Mowat was small and of no great oratorical or other powers to attract the superficial observer. But, in spite of this, there was something about this little, shrewd, kindly Scotsman that made men accept him as a leader of his fellows. He was "canny" and a man of few words, but had great political insight; and as a leader of Ontario Liberals soon made his great fellow-townsmen respect him. While a Liberal in politics, Mowat was by instinct and ideals a good deal of a Conservative; and there was a great sympathy of ideas between him and Sir John. Mowat served his province and the Dominion well, and was always a staunch upholder of the Union of the Empire. In recognition of this, and for his long political service, he received from the late Queen the honour of knighthood, an honour but lately granted to his able lieutenant and successor, that eloquent and fervid Scotsman and astute statesman, Sir George William Ross, who is, without doubt, one of Canada's strongest and most gifted public men now living.

Sir Alexander Campbell, the third in the noted political Scottish trio, was also a Kingstonian, though he happened to be born in England, in the year 1821. His father was Dr. James Campbell, of the great Argyll clan, who had removed into Yorkshire, whence he emigrated to Canada when his son was only two years old. Sir Alexander's early education was at the hands of a Presbyterian minister at Lachine, Quebec, where his father first settled and practised medicine. On the latter's removal

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to Kingston the future Minister and Lieutenant-Governor attended the Royal Grammar School at that place, which was taught by Mr. George Baxter, a fine classical scholar and the father-in-law of William Lyon Mackenzie. Campbell studied law, and in 1839 became a pupil of his great leader, with whom he remained as a student until 1842, when he became his partner. A distinguished and successful lawyer, he entered politics as a Conservative, becoming Member in the Legislative Council for the Cataraqui Division. In 1863 he became Speaker of the Council. In 1864 the Governor-General asked him to form a Government, Sir John A. Macdonald resigning in his favour. But he declined the honour, though accepting office in the new Government. This position he held in all the Coalition Governments until Confederation, in which he took an active part. He was the leading advocate of the movement in the Upper House. He was one of the first of those called to the Dominion Senate by her Majesty's Proclamation in May, 1867, and became the Conservative leader in that Chamber. He was the first Dominion Postmaster-General, and, six years later, the first Minister of the Interior. He was sent to England in 1870 on diplomatic business, which resulted in the Washington Treaty. In 1878 he was Receiver-General in Sir John's second Government; but soon after became once more Postmaster-General, and on May 24, 1879, was created by Her Majesty Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George.

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He later became Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Sir Alexander Campbell, during his whole life, possessed the confidence of his great leader and friend, to whom he proved a valued and safe lieutenant in the Upper House. He was noted for a courteous urbanity to political opponents, and was very careful not to speak unless he had something special to say. He used his power with moderation and never was offensive to the minority.

It may be that had he entered the Commons, he might have made a greater name as a strong personality. But, on the other hand, he was a power in the Upper House, and aided, by his refinement, practical sense, and wide parliamentary knowledge, in justifying the existence of that Chamber. He was a successful financier and also prominent in law, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in Queen's University.

A unique personality among the Fathers of Confederation was that of the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee. It may be a great surprise to many that I have dared to include this noted Celtic orator, politician, and poet among my Canadian Scotsmen. This volume is, however, written with but one purpose in view—namely, to chronicle, in so far as I can, the history of the Scottish settlements and the lives of men of Scottish birth or extraction who have been connected with Canada; in short, to celebrate Scotland's connection with the history of Canada. It has already been shown that the number of Scottish names connected in some way with our young country is almost count-

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less ; so that there is no reason to go out of the way or to strive by straining at all sorts of arguments to include men as being of Scottish origin who are not so. But while this is so, there is another side to this matter. This is a history of plain fact ; and it would not be right, or doing justice to this subject, if any one of importance connected with Canada of Scottish extraction were ignored or left out. It is true that thousands of Canadians have been led to consider McGee an Irishman pure and simple ; and it is equally true that McGee himself always prided himself in being Irish.

It is a fact that McGee was born in Ireland, and so were his parents and grandparents. But the fact that Lord Roberts was born in India did not make him an East Indian. In this whole matter we have to face the strict fact of a man's stock or race. It is this fact that so many overlook. McGee was an Irish patriot, but Lord Byron was a Greek patriot, and the Marquess of La Fayette fought for the American cause. In spite of all I may say, the Irish will still claim McGee, and perhaps with some reason ; but the fact remains that all of his stock which is known was Scottish and Welsh. His mother's name was Morgan, which is certainly Welsh ; and the story of the McGee family is soon told. There were certain septs of the great Macdonald clan in the Western Isles, and among these were the descendants of Aodh or Hugh Macdonald, now bearing the names of Macgee, Mackay, MacHugh,

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and Mackie. There is abundant proof of these peoples having a common ancestry.

Many Scottish histories and State documents could be quoted to prove this, but the following facts are authentic. In the island of Isla the great Macdonald chief had a council of lesser chieftains under him. Among these was McGee of the Rhinns of Isla, whose family and small clan occupied the lands in the south-western part of that island. Hill, in his famous "History of the Macdonnells of Antrim," relates the manner of their coming into Ulster. He says: "The McGees came originally from the Rhinns of Isla, settled first in Island Magee, which has their name, and at the time of Coll Macdonnell's marriage their principal family was in possession of the lands of Ballyuchan, adjoining Murloch Bay." Hill further states that the first McGee was Alexander, and that he married Jane Stewart, whose father and mother were both Stewarts of Ballintog. Now, Thomas D'Arcy, McGee's father, though of Wexford, was from Island McGee and of that stock; so that this is conclusive proof that this great Celtic scholar, poet, orator, and patriot, who was one of the Fathers of the Canadian Confederation, was largely a Scottish Macdonald and Stewart in his origin. No one will deny that he was a great Irish patriot. It would be folly to do so. He was a son of Ireland by birth and by education, and by religious and other affiliations. He was a poet of her griefs and her wrongs. He wrote, perhaps, the best modern History of

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Ireland ever written. But it would be equally false and foolish to deny the Scottish origin of this great man. He was in truth but another of the famous Ulster Scots who have done so much for the Empire and humanity at large. This bit of biography may startle some of my readers and surprise others; but it is the duty of a chronicle of this sort to tell the truth and correct any history which has been misleading.

While we are upon the subject it might be no harm to point out certain matters in connection with another noted Canadian family who have been generally acknowledged as being a pride to Ireland in Canada, that of the Blakes. The Hon. Hume Blake, the first Chancellor of Upper Canada, and his noted sons, Hon. Edward Hume Blake and the Hon. Samuel Hume Blake, have made the name noted in our history. Of this family the Hon. Dominick Edward Hume Blake stands in the forefront of Canadian statesmen, jurists, and orators, and was for a period of our history leader of the Liberal Party in the Dominion. It is not intended here to claim for this branch of the noted Western Irish family of the Blakes of Galway that they are anything else than Irish since the centuries ago when their ancestor Ap-Lake went from Wales to that country. But it is only right to point out that they have a connection with Scotland through their ancestors, the Humes or Homes, one of the great Scottish families. The Blakes themselves, while justly proud of their Irish origin, are equally proud of their descent

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from this noted Scottish stock. I am sure that my readers in Canada and outside will not accuse me of striving to make the most of my subject, but only doing strict justice to it in pointing out these interesting facts with regard to the real origin of some of our Canadian families.

One of the very ablest of Scotsmen in Upper Canada at the Confederation period was the Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald, who has been considered by many to have been the best Premier Ontario has ever had. He was of the Macdonald settlement in Glengarry, and was brought up in that famous community of Western Highlanders. He had from his early youth to struggle and provide for himself, and he set his hand to several employments when a mere lad until he determined to study law. At the age of twenty he entered the Cornwall Grammar School, and in 1835 he passed his first law examinations. He then entered the office of Mr. McLean, afterwards Chief Justice. As a young student and practitioner he soon attracted attention, and in a few years was a leading authority in the province. He was born at St. Raphael, Glengarry County, on September 12, 1812, the memorable year when his fellow-clansmen of that county were doing so much to withstand the invader from the south. His grandfather had come to the county in 1786 among the earliest settlers. In 1840 Sandfield Macdonald was called to the Bar, and was immediately elected to represent his native county in Parliament. Like his great fellow-clansman, Sir John A. Macdonald,

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Sandfield Macdonald's career is well known to all Canadians. At first a Conservative, he afterwards became a Reformer through conviction, and carried his county with him. He appealed to his Highland people in their beloved Gaelic and also in English, and they followed him into the ranks of Reform. In 1849 he became Solicitor-General-West in the Baldwin-Lafontaine Government. In 1852 he was elected Speaker. But for a time he was alienated from his party, of which George Brown had become the head. In 1862 Lord Monck called upon him to form a Government, which was succeeded by a coalition Ministry in 1864. In 1867 he became the first Premier of the Province of Ontario at the head of a coalition Government. In 1871 he resigned, and died the next year at Cornwall. He was for years in poor health, yet through it all persevered in his career. He was one of Canada's ablest administrators, but was blunt and outspoken as became his Highland blood. His brother, the Hon. Donald Alexander Macdonald, entered Parliament in 1857 and sat for the Dominion in 1867 and 1872, and became Postmaster-General in the Mackenzie Government and afterwards was Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

Another group of noted legal politicians in Upper Canada during and since the Confederation period included two members of another noted Scottish clan in Sir Mathew Crooks Cameron and the Hon. John Hilliard Cameron, both noted lawyers, and the former a distinguished jurist as

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well as a financial critic in the Legislative Assembly.

Sir Mathew Crooks Cameron, who was always a strong Conservative, was the son of Mr. John M. A. Cameron, of the Canada Company, of which John Galt was the leading spirit. He was born in 1823 at Dundas, Upper Canada, and received his education at Upper Canada College. Called to the Bar in 1849, he achieved a high reputation as a criminal lawyer. He entered Parliament in 1861 as a supporter of the Cartier-Macdonald Government. He was Provincial Secretary in the first Ontario Government. In 1878 he was made a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench and was knighted by the Queen. He possessed a logical and large mind, and was one of the ablest of our Canadian Judges. This brief mention of his career must close this rough sketch of the leading spirits of this most important period of Canadian history, that of the Confederation.