
CHAPTER XXIX

THE SCOTSMAN IN LITERATURE, JOURNALISM, AND ART

*The mountains, glens, the sea and air,
Have lent a spirit, high and rare,
Unto a singing people.*

WHAT is called Canadian literature contains many names of persons of Scottish or Ulster-Scottish origin. Among those which represent our verse-writing are such Scottish names as John Reade, W. H. Drummond, George Frederick Cameron, Wilfred Campbell, Isabella J. Crawford, Miss Machar, Charles Mair, Alexander McLachlan, William McLellan, George Martin, F. G. Scott, D. C. Scott, Philips Stewart, and T. C. Marquis.

Certainly these sound Scottish enough. Others of our Canadian poets and writers, like W. D. Lighthall, are also maternally of Scottish descent. Among our most gifted women writers Miss Dougal, Miss Duncan, Miss Jean Graham, Miss McMurchy, Miss McMannus, and Mrs. Brown bear names that are suggestive of the land of the heather. As has been shown elsewhere in this volume, D'Arcy McGee was also of Scottish ex-

traction, and, like Reade, Drummond, and other Canadian poets, of Ulster-Scottish blood. Other poets of Scottish blood who have written of Canada in Canada and out of it are the Duke of Argyll, Evan McColl, and Alexander McLachlan. Two other brilliant Scottish and Ulster writers have settled in the Canadian North-West. One of these, Robert Service, a clever young bank clerk from Glasgow, in Scotland, has gone out to the Canadian Yukon and made it popular in his "Songs of a Sourdough"; and Moira O'Neill, of the "Songs of the Glens of Antrim," is now living, or was lately living, in Manitoba.

Some of our very early verse-writers were Scottish. James Mackay, a young man from Sutherland, son of Mackay of Kirtomy, a cadet of the noble House of Reay, came out to Canada early in the nineteenth century, and wrote a poem on Quebec. A copy of this poem is now in the Canadian Archives. Among others who essayed the Muse was Bishop Strachan. The late Chief Justice Haggarty's "Death of Napoleon" is a splendid piece of work. The Rev. Dr. McGeorge was a leading literary divine who held a charge at Newmarket, and wrote much in verse and prose. Evan McColl, like Heavysege, the English poet, can hardly be called Canadian. These two men came to Canada in the full maturity of their powers, but their names are associated with Canada because of their residence here. The Duke of Argyll, who has written the finest poem upon the subject of Quebec, might even more than these be regarded as a Canadian poet. Hunter Duvar,

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of Prince Edward Island, and A. J. Lockhart, Arthur Weir, and George Murray were all writers of Canadian verse bearing Scottish names.

Among our prose writers Haliburton was one of our greatest and most famous. He was the founder of American humour. Sir Daniel Wilson, a noted Scottish archaeologist, was long connected with Canada as President of Toronto University.

Of our novelists, Norman Duncan, Miss Dougall, Dr. Gordon ("Ralph Connor"), W. A. Fraser, William McLellan, Miss McIlwraith, Mrs. Brown, and Robert Barr are among many whose names are sufficient to indicate their Scottish stock.

The Royal Society of Canada, founded by the Duke of Argyll, has included from its inception a host of noted Canadian writers of Scottish origin, many of whom are mentioned elsewhere. Among others such names as those of Professor Clark and Principal Loudon are significant. The Scottish names of Patterson, Bayne, Brymner, Honeyman, Murray, and Williamson are those of deceased members of the society. Prominent members to-day are: Sir Sandford Fleming, Sir George Ross, Sir James Grant, Professor Bryce, Professors McCallum, Watson, McLellan, Ramsay, Wright, Dr. J. H. Coyne, editor of the Talbot Papers and translator and editor of Galinee's narrative, W. D. Lighthall, K.C., Col. Cruikshank, and Professor Wrong.

Other writers of prominence are: William Houston, whose "Constitutional Documents," dealing with education in Canada, are of great value; the late James Bayne, Librarian of Toronto, a

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great book-lover and a fine scholar ; and Mr. Justice McLean, of the Railway Commission.

Among Canadian historians are James Hannay, of New Brunswick ; Duncan Campbell, of Nova Scotia ; George Stewart, David Thompson, Judge Haliburton, McPherson, LeMoine, McGregor, Alexander, Patterson, Munro, Stuart, Rattray, Lindsay, Christie, Principal Grant, Dr. Bryce, and Col. Cruikshank—all of Scottish origin. For many years the Archivist of the Dominion was Dr. Douglas Brymner, an able Scottish writer, collector, and journalist.

In journalism the Scotsman from the first has been prominent. Lyon Mackenzie was a leading Upper Canadian journalist. Another very noted founder of Upper Canadian journalism was Hugh Scobie, founder and publisher of the first Reform newspaper and of Scobie's Almanack. He was a son of Capt. Kenneth Scobie, of Ardvar, in Assynt, Sutherland. Capt. Scobie, a Scottish officer, was about to emigrate to Canada, where his rank in the Army entitled him to a large grant of land, when he was accidentally drowned. But his children came out and received his allowance of land in their own names, and Hugh Scobie was one of them.

George Brown was another noted journalist and founder of the *Globe*. Since then Sir Hugh Graham, of the *Star* ; Senator Jaffray, publisher, and Dr. J. A. Macdonald, editor, of the *Globe* ; Dr. J. S. Willison, F.R.S.C., of the *News* ; Ross-Robertson, of the *Telegram* ; John Dougall, of the *Witness* ; Hugh Sellar, of the *Huntington*

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Gleaner; P. D. Ross, of the *Ottawa Journal*; Col. Morrison, of the *Citizen*; David Creighton, late of the *Mail Empire*; W. F. McLean, of the *World*; Newton McTavish, of the *Canadian Magazine*; Wm. Houston, of the *Globe*; McPhail, of the *University Magazine*, are but a few representatives of a very long roll of names of Scotsmen, publishers and editors of prominent Canadian journals and periodicals.

In the world of art in Canada Scotsmen have their place. Some very early artists connected with Canada were Scotsmen. Heriot, the first Deputy Postmaster-General of Old Canada, was a fine artist; and his water-colour sketches of the Canadian scenery are very exquisite. Sproule, another artist who was an Ulster Scotsman, has left some very fine sketches of Montreal and the Upper St. Lawrence. There is a fine original oil painting of Niagara Falls in the Archives at Ottawa, the work of Sir James Erskine. Among Canada's most noted recent artists are many Scotsmen. We have Forbes, Bell-Smith, Forster, Wiley, Grier, Reid, Smith, McGillvray, all leading painters. Tait McKenzie has a wide fame as a sculptor; and in music Dr. Harriss is a genius who, by his beautiful compositions as a composer and his tremendous energy as a director, is becoming famous throughout the Empire. Through his mother, Dr. Harriss is a Duff of the old clan of the Thanes of Fife.

Much more might be said of the intellectual side of Canadian life, but sufficient has been pointed out to show the great Scottish influence in our Literature, Art, History, and Journalism.