
CHAPTER XXX

SCOTTISH SOCIETIES IN CANADA

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind!*

ONE of the most important and interesting sides of Scottish life in Canada is that of the many societies and associations which have their origin and object in the fostering and commemorating of Scottish patriotism and the memory of the Old Land.

There are many of these associations scattered throughout Canada, such as St. Andrew's Society, the Sons of Scotland, Caledonian Societies, Clans of Scotland, and numerous clan associations, such as the Fraser Clan Society and the Caithness Association of Toronto. There is also the oldest and most solid Scottish association in Canada, the North British Society, in Halifax, which has had a long and honourable existence, and contains on its roll of members nearly all of the most noted Scotsmen in Nova Scotia.

Of all the Scottish societies in Canada the oldest, with the one exception noted, and the most important are the many St. Andrew's Societies, which, though

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not federated as one organisation, are prominent in the life of all our leading cities and towns. Nearly every Scottish community has one, though they are not a development of the rural districts, being rather the organisation of leading Scotsmen in the chief cities and larger towns. The stronger St. Andrew's Societies of Eastern Canada are those of Quebec, Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, Hamilton, London, Brantford, Guelph, Galt, Brockville, Cornwall, St. John, New Brunswick, and Montreal. Those in Quebec and Montreal were the pioneer societies and were founded in 1835.

An old society is that of Kingston, which was founded on November 16, 1840. Article I. of the constitution then formed read, in part, as follows: "The name of the Society shall be the St. Andrew's Society of the town of Kingston and Midland District of Canada." Article II. says, in part: "Scotchmen and the children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren of natives of Scotland shall be admitted as resident members." The list of officers published in 1841 included some leading Canadians. They were: President, the Hon. John Hamilton; First Vice-President, J. A. Macdonald, Esq. (afterwards the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald); Second Vice-President, F. A. Harper, Esq.; Treasurer, R. McRose, Esq.; Secretary, Wm. Gunn, Esq.; Assistant Secretary, Mr. Donald Urquhart; Physicians, John McIntosh, R.A., Thomas Stratton, R.N.; Committee of Management, Jas. MacFarlane, Esq.; Francis

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Henderson, Hugh Fraser, Roderick Ross, Wm. McIntosh, Henry Sharp, Jas. Graham, Robt. Mathews, Hugh Calder, John Roy, Thos. Drummond, D. Christie, R. H. Rae.

The Glengarry Society was also an old one, being older than that of Kingston. The following document gives a list of some of the members in 1844 :—

LANCASTER, 7th Oct., 1844.—We the undersigned hereby agree and promise to pay to Colonel Alex. Fraser, President of the Glengarry St. Andrew's Society, or order, the sums set opposite our respective names, being a voluntary contribution for the purpose of paying a tribute of respect to our late President, the late Colonel Lewis Carmichael, who died at Forres in Scotland on the 8th day of August, last past.

The subscribers are : Alex. Fraser, Hugh McGillis, John McV—, John S. Macdonald (Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald), A. Cattanach, Murdoch McPherson, K. McPherson, Murdoch Ross, Wm. McEdward, Jas. McDonald Glen, John Urquhart, Arch. Stewart, David Summers, John McLellan; Esq., R. S. Macdonald, Ronald McDonell, John Pettigall, J. E. McIntyre, Wm. McDonald, Donald McPherson, J.P., Jas. Dingwall, Benjamin Stewart, Duncan McIntyre. The amount subscribed was £25 17s.

The St. Andrew's Society of Ottawa is also an old institution. Early in the thirties of the nineteenth century the Scotsmen of Bytown used to meet annually on St. Andrew's Day and celebrate the occasion. On June 18, 1846, a meeting was

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called at the British Hotel and presided over by Sheriff Simon Fraser. Its object was to organise a St. Andrew's Society. The first President elected was Wm. Stewart, Esq., and the Vice-President Sheriff Simon Fraser. The Secretary was Robert Harvey, jun., and the Chaplain the Rev. John Duff. The list of officers is not given. In 1848 the officers elected were: President, Hon. Thos. Mackay; First Vice-President, Wm. Stewart, Esq. Second, Robt. Harvey, jun.; Secretary, Peter Robertson; Treasurer, Andrew Drummond, Esq.; Standing Committee, Messrs. Wm. Morris, S. C. Kerr, J. L. Campbell, John McKinnon, and others. In 1859 the society was reorganised, with Sheriff Fraser as President. The sermon that year was preached by Rev. Mr. Spence, of St. Andrew's Church.

This society has had the honour of welcoming many noted Governors of Scottish extraction. Its roll of presidents, chaplains, &c., include the names of some prominent Canadians. Among its first members in 1846 were, with the officers, Edward Mallock, Hon. Thomas Mackay, Dr. Christie, Jas. McIntosh, Danl. McLachlan, Jas. Fraser, Jas. Peacock, Wm. Sutherland, Edward McGillivray, Geo. R. Blyth, John Leslie, Robt. Lees, Andrew Drummond, S. C. Kerr, Jas. Robertson, John Fotheringham, Robt. Kenley, Donald McArthur, Peter Robertson, J. L. Campbell, Wm. Morris, Andrew Cuddie, Alex. Gray, John Porter, Alex. McIntosh, Alex. Calder, Jas. Robertson, Alex. Scott, Francis Thompson, Donald Grant. The

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Reception Committee at the grand ball given under the auspices of the society in honour of the arrival of the Marquess of Lorne and the Princess Louise in 1878 comprised Mr. McLeod Stewart (President), Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Alexander Campbell, Hon. Jas. Mc.Donald, Messrs. Thos. Reynolds, Dr. Grant, Sandford Fleming, Allan Gilmour, John Thoburn, Judge Ross, Wm. Smith, Robt. Cassels, jun., and Col. Thos. Ross.

Other noted persons connected with the society were: Rev. D. M. Gordon (now President of Queen's University), Douglas Brymner, R. Cassels, Col. Allan Gilmour, Lieut.-Col. John McPherson, McLeod Stewart, Sir Sandford Fleming, W. D. Hogg, K.C., J. J. McCracken, P. D. Ross, Dr. Baptye, David McLaren, Esq., Rev. Wm. McIntosh, Rev. Norman McLeod, Rev. Dr. Wm. Moore, Dr. Rutherford, C.M.G., J. W. Turniff, M.P., Alex. Fraser, Esq. Some distinguished honorary members were the late Duke of Sutherland and Lord Dundonald.

For years this society has had a faithful Corresponding Secretary in Mr. H. H. Rowatt, the late President. The present Secretary is Mr. J. W. McKenzie.

The first Burns banquet was held in January, 1910, by the society, and able addresses were given by Sir George Ross, Dr. J. G. Rutherford, C.M.G., the Premier, and others.

Few of the societies have compiled histories of their work. The few are those of Halifax, Ottawa, and St. John, New Brunswick.

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These histories are not only a valuable account of the life of the individual society, but, as in the case of the Halifax North British Society and the St. John St. Andrew's Society, they are a splendid chronicle of the chief Scotsmen of the special community for fully a century.

The St. Andrew's Society of St. John, New Brunswick, was founded at a meeting held in that city on March 8, 1798, 113 years ago. The officers elected were: President, William Pagan; Vice-President, William Campbell; Treasurer, Francis Gilbert; Secretary, John Black. The President was a native of Glasgow. He and his two brothers, Robert and Thomas, were Scottish Loyalists, and all settled in New Brunswick. William was a member of the first Legislative Assembly for St. John's County. He was a prosperous merchant and one of the founders of St. Andrew's Kirk at St. John. His brother Robert was active in the settlement of St. Andrews and Charlotte Counties, and also represented the latter for years in the Assembly. John Paul, one of the original members, was a native of Lanark, Scotland. He held a commission in the Royal Artillery, and fired the first gun on the Royalist side in the war of the Revolution. He was one of the first Elders of St. Andrew's Kirk. William Campbell was born in Argyllshire in 1742. He also fought as a Loyalist in the Revolutionary War. He was Mayor of St. John from 1795 to 1816, and one of the founders of St. Andrew's Kirk. He was also Postmaster of the city and a

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Commissioner in the Supreme Court. He died in 1823. Francis Gilbert was born at Corstorphine, near Edinburgh. He fought in the British Navy, and was Naval Officer for New Brunswick. John Black was born in Aberdeen. He was one of three brothers. The eldest, Andrew, was of Forest Hill, in Aberdeenshire ; the other, William, joined his brother John in business in St. John. Dr. Robert Boyd was another early member. He, according to a tradition, was connected with the old noble family of that name. The Rev. George Burns, D.D., first minister of the old Kirk of St. Andrew's, was a member of the society. The second President was a Colin Campbell, but which, of several persons of that name, is doubtful. There were four Colin Campbells resident in New Brunswick. One of these came from Scotland in November, 1784, with his wife and two sons, Alexander and Colin. He returned to Scotland in 1808. He owned property at St. Stephen. His first wife was a sister of Sir Howard Douglas, Governor of New Brunswick. His sons all had high positions in the Army and Navy. Another Colin came to St. John in 1783 with the Loyalists. He was Registrar of the Court of Admiralty. A third Colin Campbell was lieutenant of the 74th Regiment. A fourth was collector of Customs at St. Andrews in 1824.

In 1804 Andrew Crookshank was President of the society. He was one of the first of a noted family of Loyalists who have filled many important positions in the city.

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Hugh Johnston, from Morayshire, was President in 1813. He was a merchant and bank director, and became Port Warden and a member of the Legislature. The Hon. Wm. Black was President from 1816 to 1823, with the exception of the year 1820. He was President of the Legislative Council of New Brunswick. He was a native of Aberdeen and a graduate of Marishal College. He was for a short time Administrator of the Government of New Brunswick. He had several sons, all noted in the province. Andrew S. Ritchie, who was President in 1820, was of a noted Canadian family. He represented St. John in the Assembly. His brother was a Nova Scotia Judge, and had three sons, who were all Supreme Court Judges. One of these, Sir William J. Ritchie, was Chief Justice of Canada, and for fifty-five years was a member of St. Andrews Society. He died in 1892 at Ottawa. In 1828 Dr. John Boyd was Vice-President. Major-Gen. Sir Howard Douglas was then Governor of the province. In 1830 Dr. John Boyd was again President. His father was Dr. John Boyd, of the Royal Medical Staff. Dr. John, the younger, was the oldest practitioner in St. John and was surgeon to the Duke of Kent.

The Hon. John Robertson, President from 1837 to 1841, was born in Perthshire. He was a successful lumber merchant and a member of the Legislative Council. He removed to England, where he died in 1876.

The President in 1844 was John Wilmot, of

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Montrose, Scotland. He came to St. John in 1818 with a good character from his minister. Here he became a shipbuilder and an Elder of the St. Andrew's Kirk. He was a member of the society for sixty years, 1821-81.

In 1847 the President was John Duncan, who hailed from Meldrum, Aberdeenshire, where he was born in 1797. He was a well-known shipbuilder and President of the Commercial Bank as well as of a lot of companies. Adam Jack was made President in 1848, 1849. He was a native of Inverkip, near Greenock, Scotland. He was a leading business man. One of his daughters was the wife of Mr. John McMillan, the St. John publisher. Robert Jardine, Esq., was President in 1850-51. He was born at Girvan, Ayrshire, Scotland, in 1812. He was a prominent grocer and a cattle farmer. In 1853 John M. Walker was President. He was a son of Dr. Thomas Walker, of Perth, Scotland, an Army surgeon. He was a prominent druggist.

In 1856 the President was Alexander Jardine. He was born at Girvan in Ayrshire, and was grandson of Sir Wm. Jardine, fifth Baronet of Applegirth. Mr. Jardine was a prominent merchant. In 1858 James McFarlane was President. They entertained that year Viscount Bury. In 1859 Vice-Admiral Sir Houston Stewart came to St. John, and the society presented him with an address. Mr. McFarlane also presided this year. He was a native of Kilmarnock. He also was President in 1860, when they received the Prince

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of Wales. Laughlan Donaldson was President in 1862. He claimed to be a grandson of one of the survivors of Glencoe, who changed his name to Donaldson and settled in Morayshire. He was a successful merchant. Robert Keltie, Esq., a wealthy retired merchant at Sussex, entertained the society and its friends that year at his place, "Hillside," when about 2,500 persons went from St. John. Mr. Keltie was born in Scotland. In 1867 Henry Jack was President. His father, David W. Jack, came from Cupar in Fifeshire. This year the society entertained David Kennedy, the Scottish singer, and Sir William Fairfax was present. George Stewart was President in 1869. He was a native of Wick in Caithness-shire, and was father of Dr. George Stewart, F.R.S.C. The President for 1870-71-72 was William Thompson, a native of Dumfries. His father, John Thompson, was a shipowner in St. John. William was for several years Vice-Consul for Norway and Sweden. His place was Nithbank, out of the city. The chaplain during this period was the Rev. Dr. Neil Mackay. He was born at Earltown in Nova Scotia, and was educated at Pictou Academy. He was Moderator of the Maritime Province Synod in 1889. In 1871 the society celebrated the marriage of the Marquess of Lorne. Flags were flown in many parts of the city, and the society sent a wire to the Marquess wishing him and his bride happiness, and a ball was also held. This year Mr. Laughlan Donaldson bequeathed one-eighth of his estate, \$5,032, to the society. The Vice-

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Presidents were Messrs. Stewart and Lindsay. In 1872 Luke Stewart was President, and the Rev. George J. Carr Chaplain. In 1873, on May 10th, the steamer *Castalia*, of the Anchor Line, arrived at St. John with 565 emigrants from the east of Scotland. They were to be settled on the upper waters of the river St. John, and were known as the Kincardineshire Colony. The society gave these immigrants a warm welcome and a good send-off up the river to Fredericton.

Luke Stewart was born in Rothsay, Isle of Bute, and was a leading West India merchant in St. John, where his elder brother, David Stewart, was also established. In 1875 the Hon. John Robertson was made an honorary member. James Milligan was President this year. He was born at Thornhill in Dumfriesshire and was the son of Robert Milligan. In 1877 occurred the terrible fire; and Hugh H. McLean, the Secretary, saved the minute-books of the society. The President was John White, a native of Largo in Fifeshire. In 1878 the Hon. Robert Marshall was presiding. He was born in Pictou County, Nova Scotia. His great-grandfather, Robert Marshall, came from Dumfries to Pictou in 1773. Dr. Patrick Robertson Tucker was President in 1880. His father was James Tucker, of Dunkeld, Scotland, who came to St. John in 1832. Alexander Campbell Jardine was President in 1881, and was the eldest son of Alexander Jardine, who was President in 1856.

In 1883 James Knox was President. He was a native of Rothsay, Isle of Bute. He was a ship

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chandler in St. John. James Stratton was presiding in 1885. He was born in Edinburgh. His father, Charles Stratton, was a solicitor in Glasgow. He is a barrister. In 1888 Alexander Rankine was presiding. He was son of Thomas Rankine, biscuit manufacturer, of St. John. In 1890 Robert Jardine, another of that family of Presidents, was presiding. He was succeeded by Robert Milligan, brother of James, who was President in 1875. In 1892 Dr. Murray McLaren was President, and was succeeded in 1894 by Dr. James Christie. The succeeding Presidents were : George Robertson, 1897, and the Hon. J. Gordon Forbes, 1898. In 1899 a committee was formed to preserve in a work the records of the association, which resulted in the admirable history by T. Allan Jack, K.C.

In the year 1842 the New Brunswick branch of the Highland Society was founded in St. John by Lieut.-Col. Roderick Charles Macdonald, of the Castle Tioram Regiment, and Paymaster of the 30th Regiment, then in garrison at St. John. The society was, however, short-lived.

The North British Society of Halifax was founded in 1768 ; and its annals contain the names of all the prominent Scotsmen identified with the old city since that period. James S. Macdonald, the careful historian, gives a long list of biographies of many Scottish worthies connected with this institution. Its first Moderator was John Gillespie ; and other prominent founders were : John Taylor, John Geddes, Wm. Scott, Wm.

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McLellan, Robt. Killo, James Clark, John Fraser, Walter Harkness, Donald Morrison, James Thompson, John McCrea, Wm. Luke, and Thos. McLellan.

The articles of the association were very strict. The members were fined for using profane language, for absence from meetings, and for any other breach of the rules of the association, which was charitable as well as social and convivial.

The history of this society, published in 1903, contains 110 portraits and biographical notes of Scotsmen connected with it since its foundation. These included Lord Dalhousie, Sir Colin Campbell, Sir Brenton Haliburton, Gen. Sir Patrick McDougall, and many other noted North Britons.

A very numerous and strong organisation in Canada is the Sons of Scotland Society. Its ramifications extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The association is especially strong in Ontario, where there are many "Camps," as the different lodges are called. Each Camp has a distinctive name. Those in Ottawa are Camps Argyll and Strathcona. The Sons of Scotland Society has three special purposes—those of race, patriotism, and fraternity. Like all the other national societies, it is a mutual benefit insurance company. The admission is limited to Scotsmen or descendants of Scotsmen who desire to become members. Such an association might be of great benefit in many ways were its original ideals never lost sight of; but the great danger is that generally these associations fail to do their duty

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in the inculcation of race-patriotism, and degenerate into ordinary, cheap insurance benefit associations. If such an organisation has any reason for existence at all, it is as a Scottish institution and a Scottish influence in the community. It should, first of all, educate its members never to forget their Scottish origin ; and should make the greatness of Scottish ideals and Scottish history the continual object of its education in the Camps. It should never lose sight of religion, and should not fail to inculcate loyalty to, and reverence for, the form of Christianity developed in Scotland. It should go further. It should champion that religion, and not only in its public celebrations give that religion a prominent part, but it should stand as an association in the country for the maintenance of Scottish Protestantism in the same way that the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus stand for what is commonly called the national religion of Ireland. It should do more than this, and should make itself the champion of all Scottish ideals in the Old Country and the New, and should show a strong example of loyalty and patriotism for the Empire and the Motherland. It should interest itself in Scottish immigration to Canada, and should see that incomers have a welcome which would be worthy alike of the land they have left and the land they are coming to. The Sons of Scotland have made themselves, by the name and character of their organisation, trustees as regards all these objects ; and it is to be hoped that they

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will awake, ere it be too late, to a proper sense of their duty and the high destiny that awaits the organisation if this duty be carried out. Many have thought that there should be a federation of some sort of all Scottish societies in the interests of Scottish matters in Canada. If this were feasible, the Sons of Scotland would furnish the framework of an organisation to cement the whole.

An attempt was made a few years ago to form a central committee to organise the Scottish bodies, and bring them into closer touch with the Old Land, and also to endeavour to preserve in some form the history of the Scottish immigration into Canada. Among the ideas then mooted, the thought of producing such a book as this became a fixed idea in the mind of the author, and, sad to say, it is the only idea then suggested that has been in any manner carried into effect.

In connection with the institution of a central committee it was also suggested that a great central building, devoted to Scottish ideals, should be erected at Ottawa, to be a sort of headquarters for Scotsmen in Canada and those hailing from the Old Land. There was also a scheme to collect a library and found a museum of relics connected with Scotland and the early history of Scotsmen in this country. It is a pity that this scheme was not carried out, as it would have been a valuable influence in preserving the finest ideals of a large and important portion of the Canadian community. The scheme failed for the time being, as such attempts often do, for several reasons ;

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perchance, among them, that the time was not altogether ripe for such a movement. Many prominent Scotch Canadians, among them Lord Strathcona and Sir Sandford Fleming, were interested in the idea; and Lord Dundonald had it deeply at heart, while his Excellency Lord Minto gave it his approval. Among others who favoured the movement was Alexander Fraser, the founder, and for many years the leading spirit, of the Sons of Scotland in Canada, who is now Archivist for the Province of Ontario.

Lord Dundonald, one of the Empire's greatest soldiers and an earnest patriot, did much for the reawakening of the Scottish spirit in Canada. His receptions at Alexandria and Renfrew, where the whole Scottish population turned out to do him honour, are red-letter days in the history of Scotland in those parts of Canada. It is to be hoped that the schemes of Confederation and of a central building devoted to the Scottish-Canadian interests may yet be accomplished.

With all of their active life, for the greater part of a century, the Scottish societies in Canada have not realised the possibilities of the Scottish community as the other national associations have.

Even St. George's Society and the Sons of England have become a stronger influence as a great unit than have the Scottish societies, notwithstanding all their philanthropic efforts. The great weakness of the Scottish people in Canada, and the world over, has been in this direction. They seem ever afraid to act as a community, and as

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a community uphold their most sacred ideals, for fear of offending some other national influence ; a lamentable weakness in an otherwise great people.

Let us never forget the old heredity, the old traditions, and the beautiful old land of our forefathers :—

We are your children, Mother,
We at your breasts have fed ;
We will not leave you, life of our life !
Dead of our olden dead !

END OF VOL. I.