

### SCOTSMEN IN OTHER CHURCHES

**I**T would have been natural that the Scottish colony of Lord Selkirk should have had a minister of its own faith and nation. But circumstances, as we have noted, led in another direction. Accordingly John West and David Jones, both English or Welshmen, ministered to the colonists and acted as chaplains to the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1825 Rev. William, afterwards Archdeacon, Cochrane and his wife arrived on the banks of Red River. He was a Yorkshireman, a man of gigantic frame, who had a great love of humanity and a deep sense of humour, and made a remarkable impression on the Red River Settlement, and even went outside of the limits of Assiniboia to follow some of his parishioners to Portage la Prairie and found a Mission there. Being a north-country Englishman, he came into close touch with the Scottish people, used their Scottish Psalms, and otherwise adapted the services to their liking. To him is given the credit of laying the foundation of the Church of England in Red River Settlement. Through the liberal legacy of £12,000, left by a Scottish trader of

## *The Scotsman in Canada*

---

the Hudson's Bay Company, the Bishopric of Rupert's Land was founded, and the first Bishop, Rev. David Anderson, an Englishman, arrived in 1849, and after his arrival religious matters were never quite the same to the Scottish colonists. After the return to Britain of Bishop Anderson the second Bishop came in 1865. A Scotsman by birth and education, being born and educated in the city of Aberdeen, Bishop Machray accomplished a great work for his Church and the country at large in Red River Settlement and afterwards in Manitoba. Nearly six feet four in height and a natural leader of men, though he was the youngest man who had been made a Bishop up to his time, Robert Machray had already distinguished himself at Aberdeen, and after graduating there became a student of Cambridge, where he passed as a Wrangler. Coming out after his consecration as Bishop in 1865, he found the diocese barely organised. Bishop Anderson had been more of a missionary than an educationalist, but Bishop Machray, after the manner of his nation, became a noted leader in education. He was Chairman of the Board of Education of Manitoba and the first Chancellor of the University of Manitoba. In the year after his arrival he revived the Church school, then almost defunct, under the name of St. John's College. Four years after Bishop Machray's arrival, when Manitoba was formed, substantial stone churches and school-houses had been erected in most of the parishes of the Church of England along the

---

## *Scotsmen in Other Churches*

---

Red and Assiniboine Rivers. His diocese of Rupert's Land was enormous, but before his death it was divided into many new ones. The Bishop, after the fuller organisation of the Church of England in Canada, became Archbishop as well as Primate of all Canada, and was made a Prelate of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. He was a man worthy of the admiration of every Scotsman. During the Riel troubles he showed remarkable courage and decision of character. His ripe scholarship, elevated character, devotion to his religious trust, equanimity and unvarying courtesy made him a splendid example of the highest Scottish ideal of Christian manhood.

Largely to John Pritchard, on the death of Lord Selkirk, is the Church of England indebted for its first ministers being sent to Red River Settlement. But John Pritchard, who was an Englishman from Shropshire, married a Scottish woman of Kildonan. Their descendants, some of them Presbyterians, but chiefly of the Church of England, included several ministers of the Church of England.

Bishop John McLean, a fellow-student of Bishop Machray at Aberdeen University, had, like so many of his countrymen, come to Canada, and becoming an Episcopalian, was a well-known preacher in London, Ontario. In seeking teaching strength for St. John's College, Bishop Machray invited his old friend to come to Winnipeg. His offer was accepted, and in 1868 John McLean became

---

## *The Scotsman in Canada*

---

a Westerner and Archdeacon of Rupert's Land. He taught in St. John's College, but being possessed of marked oratorical gifts, began services and conducted them in Holy Trinity Church, Winnipeg. On the division of the diocese of Rupert's Land John McLean became Bishop of Saskatchewan, with residence at Prince Albert. He was a man of indefatigable energy, went over to England and raised an endowment for his diocese of £10,000 by personal efforts. His diocese is now divided into three.

Among the most active founders of the Church of England in the Canadian West was Rev. James Dallas O'Meara. As his middle name indicates, he was of Scottish descent, his grandfather, Mr. Dallas, being a Presbyterian Elder. Young O'Meara was educated at Toronto University, was Gold Medallist in Philosophy, and coming West to Winnipeg in 1872 became Canon of the Cathedral and a Professor in Theology in St. John's College. He was a favourite preacher and platform speaker, a most industrious missionary, a very ardent member of St. Andrew's Society, and a true founder of the Church to which he belonged.

Archbishop Matheson is a grandson of John Pritchard, of whom mention has been made. His father was John Matheson, of Kildonan, one of the original Selkirk settlers, who arrived as a boy in the year 1815. Marrying a Miss Pritchard, he had a large family. Though the family is Presbyterian, the Archbishop was brought up by a maiden aunt, Miss Pritchard, who belonged to

---

## *Scotsmen in Other Churches*

---

the Church of England. Educated at St. John's College, young Matheson became a favourite of Bishop Machray. He was made a Professor in St. John's College and a Canon of the Cathedral. A good preacher and a popular man, he became Bishop in succession to Bishop Machray. He is now Archbishop of Rupert's Land and Primate of all Canada. Like his predecessor, he has become Chairman of the Board of Education of Manitoba and Chancellor of Manitoba University. He values greatly his connection with the Selkirk settlers, and is proud of his Scottish origin. Though the clergy of the Church of England are largely non-Scottish, yet other examples of Scottish descent are found among them. Rev. Mr. McMorine, who was pastor of Portage la Prairie, and became a well-known Manitoban, was the nephew of Dr. Cook, a former great leader of Presbyterianism in Quebec City. Canon McMorine studied and graduated in Queen's College, Kingston.

Rev. Robert C. Johnston, Assistant Librarian of Carnegie Library, Winnipeg, is of Scottish birth and education. He is a Scottish Episcopalian, educated in Edinburgh, is a ripe and varied scholar and a popular preacher and lecturer. He has a wide acquaintance with Scottish Song and History and is a very enthusiastic Scotsman.

But it is not only in the Presbyterian and Episcopalian Churches that Scotsmen have made their mark. A number of clergymen in the Methodist Church in Western Canada have added honour to their Church and nationality.

---

## *The Scotsman in Canada*

---

Among these who, in the old days of Rupert's Land, volunteered to go out and work in the Methodist Mission to the Indians was Rev. George McDougall, of Scottish origin, but belonging to the county of Grey in Western Ontario. In 1860 he took the long and wearisome journey over the prairie from St. Paul to Fort Garry. He pushed on and selected Edmonton, one thousand miles west of Winnipeg, as a centre for doing Mission work among the Cree Indians. He was well known among the Indians, and Christianised a number of bands in Alberta. On a journey over the prairie Mr. McDougall was caught in a severe storm, and, having lost his way, was found frozen to death. He was an active Scottish pioneer.

Rev. John McDougall, a son of Rev. George McDougall, was educated for two years at Victoria College, Cobourg. Young McDougall went to the West and engaged in Indian Mission work at Norway House and Edmonton. He is versed in the Indian tongues and folklore of the various tribes. He has had charge of Indian work for the Methodist Church, and has been employed on behalf of the Dominion Government in both immigration and inspectorial work among the Indians. He has had a hand in establishing a considerable number of Missions among the Indians. His knowledge of the country made him especially useful in the guiding of troops in the Riel Rebellion of 1885.

Rev. John McLean was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland, in 1857, and educated in Dum-

---

## Scotsmen in Other Churches

---

barton Burgh Academy. Young McLean emigrated to Canada and graduated in Victoria College, Cobourg. He entered the Methodist Church and was ordained as a minister in 1880. He was for several years in charge of an Indian Mission among the Blood Indians of Southern Alberta. Dr. McLean has followed the regular pastorate in his Church in a number of prominent places in the Province of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. His scientific pursuits and works will be noticed in the chapter dealing with Literary Men among the Scotsmen of Western Canada. Writing under the nom-de-plume of "Robin Rustler," he has followed the old practice of the Blackstonians in anonymous production. He is an honour to the Scottish name and fame in the Church to which he belongs.

Rev. Ebenezer Robson was born of Scottish parents in Lanark County, Ontario. Mr. Robson, whose name is well known in British Columbia, went out in the year 1859. Of Presbyterian parentage, he was ordained into the ministry of the Methodist Church immediately before leaving for the Pacific Coast. The first Methodist Church building in Victoria was opened with much *éclat*, and the Rev. Mr. Robson as a pioneer was chosen as First President. In 1894 an Industrial Institute on a large scale for the education of young Indians, both men and women, was begun at Chilliwack, on the Fraser River, and Rev. E. Robson was released from other ministerial duties to become the head of this institution. Mr. Robson

---

## *The Scotsman in Canada*

---

has been for half a century an example of the sturdy pioneer, and of what a Scottish origin, home, and upbringing can do for a man.

The pioneer of the Baptist Church in the prairie provinces of the Dominion was Rev. Alexander Macdonald, of Winnipeg, who as sole representative of his Church in the newer Canada in the seventies built the first Baptist Church of Winnipeg. A man of Scottish origin and Canadian birth, he has the perseverance and quiet energy of his race, and in the days of small things in Winnipeg stood firmly at his post. Since that day he has been moving further west than Winnipeg, carrying on the work of a pioneer, and, indeed, resembles the old fur-trading pioneer, who always followed the moving frontier to the West. He has performed good service in Edmonton and other places.

The cosmopolitan spirit of the Scotsman has shown itself in all the great Protestant Churches of the West ; and in regard to the higher offices of the Church of England in the West the shrewd remark in regard to the high offices of Primates, Archbishops, and Bishops in England has been fully justified in Western Canada, that if there is any high office in the Church or in education calling for an occupant a Scotsman is usually selected for the position.