
CHAPTER VIII

THE SCOTSMAN IN NEW BRUNSWICK

*They were a simple rugged folk,
A lonely people by the sea :—
But round their coasts old ocean broke,
One vast shore-sounding harmony :—
And from the old unrest awoke
A spirit surging to be free.*

WHILE there are not as many people of Scottish descent in New Brunswick as in the sister province of Nova Scotia, there are a large number of the population who are proud of having in their veins the blood of the race of Albion.

In the year 1761, Fort Frederick in St. John Harbour was garrisoned by a Highland regiment, and during the same year the harbour was for the first time regularly surveyed by a Scotsman, Captain Bruce, of the Royal Engineers, and a map then made is still extant.

In the following year, an exploring party, consisting of about twenty persons, came to St. John from Newburyport in New England, and journeyed up the river as far as Fredericton and beyond. They found at the mouth of the Nashwack River

The Scotsman in Canada

the remains of a very old fortress. The single Frenchman whom they encountered told them that it was originally built by a party of settlers from Scotland, who were without doubt those sent out by Sir William Alexander, under Claude de la Tour.

In 1764, William Davidson, a native of the north of Scotland, most probably Caithness, came and settled at Miramichi, and received extensive grants of lands. With him was associated a Mr. Cort of Aberdeen. Four years before, in 1760, a prominent trader named Walker, who also hailed from Scotland, founded a trading post on Alston Point. These were a few of the very early, hardy pioneers who settled on those coasts and who were of Scottish birth.

As already shown, a large portion of the United Empire Loyalists and Treasury or Military Loyalists were of Scottish birth or extraction. They were for the most part soldiers. In McGregor's "British America" it is shown that of the thousands of Loyalists who poured into the province, many were of Scottish descent. They settled principally on the St. John and St. Croix rivers, and the list, which is still extant, shows their origin and place of settlement.

It would be impossible in a work of this limited nature to include the names of all the United Empire Loyalists of Scottish origin who settled in Canada or the Maritime Provinces.

A few of the leaders in New Brunswick will, however, be referred to. A prominent Scotsman was Captain Archibald McLean, who settled in St.

