
CHAPTER III

THE ULSTER SCOTSMAN IN ULSTER AND IN CANADA

*While far and wide their brethren swept,
To build up Empire fair and free ;
Or safe at home old Scotland slept,
Forgetful of old feuds and thralls ;—
These faithful warders trod the walls,
Sounding their grim old battle calls,
For freedom, truth and unity.*

IT must always be pleasant to an historian to write of a strong race or stock, just as it is a pleasure to be able to describe a rugged mountain or a great cliff of sea-wall, such as that which girds the historic coasts of Antrim, Derry, and Donegal.

Among the men of Scottish blood who have done so much to build up Canada, none is more important than those who came to the country by way of the North of Ireland.

It might be said that they are the only true Scotsmen, if one was a stickler for exact history ; as in all the old maps of British antiquity, as far back as maps such as we have them go, the Scot-

The Scotsman in Canada

land of to-day is called Caledonia, and the original Scotia is that portion of Ireland, along its northern end, represented to-day by the countries above mentioned—Antrim, Derry, Donegal, and Down.

It was from this region that the Scotsmen came and spread over the southern portion of what is now modern Scotland. So that, if history is to be carried out literally, the title Ulster Scot is a redundancy, and Scot and Caledonian Scot would be more nearly correct when speaking of the great race dealt with in this work.

Be this as it may—and if we go back far enough in history it is strictly true—it might also be said with equal truth that the first great Scottish settlement from modern Scotland was that of Ulster in the North of Ireland. Ever since the days of Queen Elizabeth there has been a movement of emigration from Western and Southern Scotland into Ulster ; and so strong has been the movement and so persistent the development as a pure stock of northern Scottish people, in what is called the Scottish Pale, that it might be said that for the last four hundred years the province of Ulster has been held by Scotland.

It is not to be denied that there is some of the Irish stock as well as much English blood in the north. But in every way—in blood, religion, speech, character, and prejudice—the Scotsman has dominated, and still dominates, the country.

For many centuries the Scotsman had ventured forth over the Continent of Europe in search of adventure equal to the desire of his spirit for

The Ulster Scotsman in Canada

conquest. In most cases he went as a soldier and became a professional fighter in other men's quarrels, for there was little to do or to be had at home.

But this, the first great colony of adventurers who went forth from the land of the heather, was of a nature more peaceful and positive in its results, though, as the sequel showed, even here the Scotsman's share of fighting had to be performed.

This migration was largely a question of over-population in the homeland, so that Scotland became too small to hold her children. Then in the beginning of the seventeenth century, the struggle with England having been settled by the union of the Crowns, the Scotsmen, Celts, Normans, Saxons, and Danes in their origin, like the earlier hordes, men, women, and children, began to go forth, and crossing the narrow seas, from the Campbelltown, Ayrshire, and Galloway ports, swarmed into the North of Ireland, and by right of population possessed themselves of the land, which they have held, more or less, ever since. As one writer puts it: "The numbers which went were large. They took with them their Scottish character and their Scottish Calvinism." Or, as another writer says: "The foundation of Ulster society is Scottish. It is the solid granite on which it rests." The story of this the first great Scottish colony should evoke a deep interest. All Scotsmen should have a pride in its history, the tales of its sufferings and struggles. The men it has produced are well worthy of the parent

The Scotsman in Canada

stock. Perhaps more than those who stayed across the Channel have the Ulster men been true to the faith and ideals of the Scottish people at their strongest period. But the great lesson that they have shown to the world is that Ireland where inhabited by the Scotsman is a land of the prosperous and the contented.

It was really King James the Sixth who planted his people, brave and true, in this, then new, colony, and it was the success of this one which suggested the possibility of the second, or New Scotland, colony in North America.

But all colonies must have their leaders or founders, and the first Scotsmen interested in lands in Ulster were Hugh Montgomery of Braidstone and James Hamilton, the first Earl of Clanclyffe, ancestor of Lord Dufferin. Montgomery also became an Irish lord, as Lord Montgomery of the Ards of Down, and both obtained extensive land grants in the north. This was only the beginning, and the great houses of Ranfurly, Castlereagh, and many others in Ulster are but branches of the Knoxes, Stuarts, Hamiltons, Campbells, Boyds, and other famous families and clans of Scotland.

The following quotation will give a slight conception of the Scottish element in the North of Ireland. Harrison, in his "Scot in Ulster," says: "The Scots of the Ards of Down have scarcely intermarried with the Irish during the three hundred years they have been in the Island." He further describes the people of Down and Antrim: "It is strange for any man who is accustomed to

The Ulster Scotsman in Canada

walk through the southern districts of Scotland to cross into Ireland and wander through the country roads of Down or Antrim. He cannot feel as if he was away from his own kith and kin. The men who are driving the carts are like the men at home ; the women at the cottage doors are, in build and carriage, like the mothers of our southern highlands ; the signs of the little shops in the villages bear well-known names—Patterson, perhaps, or Johnstone, or Sloan ; the boy sitting on the 'dyke,' with nothing to do, is whistling 'A man's a man for a' that.' He goes into the village inn and is served by a six-foot, loosely hung Scottish Borderer, worthy to have served drams to the Shepherd and Christopher North ; and when he leaves the little inn he sees by the sign that his host bears the name of James Hay, and his wonder ceases. He gets within sight of the South Derry hills, and the actors in the scene partly change. Some are familiar ; the smart maid at the inn is very like the housemaid at home, and the principal grocer of the little village is the very image of the elder who taught him at the Sunday School."

One of the strongest evidences of Scotland in the North of Ireland is the great strength of the Presbyterian Church. It is a proverb that the really strong, old-time or "Black" Presbyterian is only to be found in Ulster. Nowhere, as Orangeism has shown, has Protestantism such a stronghold ; and nowhere has it had to fight so long and persistently for its rights and very existence.

The Scotsman in Canada

The very men of Derry were, most of them, Scotsmen. The historian of the siege was a Graham, whose ancestor was among the defenders of Enniskillen. The names of the Scottish clergy in Derry during the siege were : John Rowan ; Thos. Temple ; John Campbell ; Barth. Black ; John Knox ; — Johnston ; Wm. Carnighan ; Thos. Boyd ; John Rowat ; John McKenzie ; John Hamilton ; Robt. Wilson ; David Brown ; and Wm. Gilchrist. The commanders of sallying parties were mostly Scottish, as : Colonel Murray ; Captains Noble ; Dunbar ; Wilson ; Adams ; Hamilton ; Beatty ; Sanderson ; Shaw ; Wright ; Cunningham ; and Majors Stewart and Dunlop. Among the names of the leading signers of the address to William and Mary by the inhabitants of Derry, dated July 29, 1689, were the following of Scottish origin : Col. John Mitchelburn ; Col. Wm. Campbell ; John McLelland ; Jos. Graham ; Wm. Thompson ; Jas. Young ; Alex. Knox ; Patk. Moore ; — Humes ; Robt. Denisstoun ; Marm. Stewart ; Jas. Flemming ; Andrew Grigson ; Christopher Jenny ; Thos. Smith ; Barth. Black ; Col. John Campbell ; John Cunningham ; H. Love ; Geo. Hamilton ; Andrew Baily ; John Hamilton ; Robt. Boyd ; Ralph Fulerton ; Michael Cunningham ; Jos. Johnson ; Robt. Bailey ; Danl. McCustin ; John Bailly ; Robt. Lindsay ; Francis Boyd ; Wm. Hamilton ; Arthur Hamilton ; Jos. Cunningham ; And. McCulloch ; Alex. Sanderson ; Arch. Sanderson ; Arthur Noble ; Phil. Dunbar ; Geo. White ;

The Ulster Scotsman in Canada

Thos. White ; Jos. Gledstones ; Adam Murray ; Henry Murray ; Henry Campbell ; Alex. Stuart ; Thos. Johnston ; Jos. Gordon ; James Hains ; And. Hamilton ; Jas. Moore ; Nich. White ; Jas. Hunter ; Abr. Hillhouse ; Robt. Wallace ; Richd. Flemming ; Thos. Lowe ; Jas. Blair ; John Buchannan ; Wm. Stewart ; Mathew McLelland ; Robt. King ; John Logan ; Alex. Rankin ; Jas. McCormick ; John Cochrane ; Thos. Adair ; John Hamilton ; Jas. Case ; and Wm. Montgomery. These comprise seventy out of the hundred and thirteen names on the address.

It has wrongly been said that Scottish Ulster has produced no men of genius. This statement is decidedly misleading. No people in the world has produced more noted men than have this breed of Ulster Scotsmen. In the Anglican Church in Britain and Ireland, some of the most distinguished bishops, preachers, and scholars have been of Ulster blood. Archbishop Magee, and Boyd-Carpenter, the present distinguished Bishop of Ripon, are two examples of many noted divines of this race. Among soldiers, Sir Henry Torrens and Lord Roberts have been men of Ulster descent. In literature alone, such names as Browning, Poe, Kipling, and the Canadian Drummond are sufficient to redeem Ulster from the long silence as to her men of genius. She has been exceedingly prolific in great scholars, divines, poets, soldiers, scientists, jurists, business men, and statesmen.

A great many of the Ulster Scotsmen, during the eighteenth century, removed to the United

The Scotsman in Canada

States ; and such prominent men as McKinley, Roosevelt, Hanna, and James Stewart, the late merchant prince, are a few among the thousands of prominent Americans who have been proud of having the Ulster Scottish blood in their veins.

Canada is one of the countries which owes much to the Ulster Scotsman, who has been a prominent factor in her progress and development. There is scarcely a part of the country where Ulster Scotsmen have not settled. There are many in the Maritime Provinces, in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, whose ancestors came out in solid settlements, or are mingled with the other Scottish elements in the cities, towns, and country places.

The county of Truro, Nova Scotia, was first settled by Ulster Scotsmen. In 1761, fifty-three families, comprising in all one hundred and twenty souls, who had emigrated from Ulster to New Hampshire, then a colony of Britain, became dissatisfied and removed to Truro. They came under the guidance of Colonel McNutt, himself an Ulster Scotsman, who for years had been an active agent in the settlement of the Maritime Provinces.

These emigrants were no poor crofters or out-driven fisher-folk. But they were a good independent stock of the Scottish race. They brought with them from New Hampshire household utensils, farming implements, seed-corn, and potatoes, besides over one hundred head of cattle. It was in the pleasant month of May when they arrived at their destination and got their first view

The Ulster Scotsman in Canada

of the land that was to be theirs and their children's for generations to come. They were, for the most part, of the stern Presbyterian stock, and the names of many of these first settlers and grantees of lands are strong evidence of their Scottish blood and general character for meeting the obstacles and privations of pioneer life in the New World.

The list of Scottish names on the original grants are in this order: James Yuill; James Yuill, jun.; Alex. Nelson; James Faulkner; Andrew Gamble; John Gamble; Jemet Long; Wm. Corbitt; W. Corbitt, jun.; Mathew Fowler; Wm. Gillmour; Wm. Nesbitt; Charles Proctor; Thos. Gourlie; Jas. Gourlie; John Gourlie; Samson Moore; James Moore; James Johnson; Jas. Johnson, jun.; Adam Johnson; James Dunlop; Thos. Dunlop; Ely Bell; John Crawford; Adam Boyd; John Morrison; James Whidden; Alex. Miller; Thos. Archibald; John Rains; Robt. Hunter; Wm. Kennedy; John McKeen; John McKeen, jun.; Wm. McKeen; John Fulton; Wm. Logan; Samuel Archibald; Mathew Archibald; John Archibald, jun.; David Archibald; Charles McKay; Alex. McNutt.

From these settlers have descended some of the most noted men and families in the province, including the Dickies and Archibalds; and they have been represented especially by Senator Dickie, one of the Fathers of Confederation; his noted son, the late Honourable Arthur Rupert Dickie, Minister of Justice for Canada; the Honourable

The Scotsman in Canada

Adams Archibald, Lieut.-Governor of the Province ; and Senator McKeen.

Quebec has also many Ulster Scotsmen among her most progressive inhabitants in the cities and towns and among her farming population.

Ontario has a large admixture of this element, as is evinced in her strong Orange population. Many of the rural classes are of Ulster Scottish descent. There is hardly a county in the province that has not a large number among its well-to-do farmers and townsmen. The counties of Grey and Bruce have whole townships of Ulster men, who have made loyal and respected citizens and subjects of the Empire. They are to be found in all walks of life. The Anglican, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches have contained many able clergy of this noted stock. Many of Canada's leading divines, legislators, jurists, financiers, scholars, and writers have been of the Ulster Scottish stock, whose families, through a period of residence in the North of Ireland, trace their blood and heredity back through a thousand years of Scottish history. It is therefore plain that no proper chronicle of the Scotsman in Canada can be complete without an account of this great and important portion of the Scottish race.

All through the pages of this work mention will be made of the Ulster Scotsmen as they appear on the stage of the country's development.