

Scottish Associations in Prince Edward Island.

BY HON. SENATOR MACDONALD.

“E'en in Prince Edward's distant hame,
Her sons remember whence they came,
And zealous for their Mither's fame
From year to year ;
Kindle the Caledonian flame
Wi' muckle cheer.”
—*J. Lepage.*

BETWEEN the years 1770 and 1775 a number of Highlanders immigrated to this Province and settled here under very favourable auspices.

They were led by Glenaladale the chief of their clan and joined at a later period by his kinsman Keppoch, also chief of another branch. They brought with them their chaplain and physician, both men of high attainments. Many of them were related to these chiefs by ties of blood, or connected by marriage. They had among them representatives of the best blood of the Highlands of Scotland, and formed an ideal colony for the settlement of a new province.

At the opening of the nineteenth century they had increased in numbers, and spread over a wide section of the Province. The ties of blood and friendship helped to keep up that spirit of clan-ship which prevailed in the old land, and the customs and festivals which they had there were still followed in their new homes.

At Hogmanay or “Choolican,” they drummed out the old year by beating on a dry hide around the house, and had to

“Sing at the doors for Hogmanay,”

or repeat an impromptu rhyme before admission in the first hour of the New Year. On Handsel Monday the servants received a Handsel from their employers but at Halloween they

“Together did convene
To burn their nuts and pou their stocks
And haud their Halloween
Fu' blithe that night.”

It was however on the festival of Scotland's patron saint that