

THE HONOURABLE AND RIGHT REVEREND
ALEXANDER MACDONELL,

CHAPLAIN OF THE GLENGARRY FENCIBLE OR BRITISH
HIGHLAND REGIMENT, FIRST CATHOLIC BISHOP
OF UPPER CANADA, AND A MEMBER OF
THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF THE PROVINCE.

My friend, the Chevalier Macdonell, recently Vice-Consul of France at Toronto, states that this distinguished man was born in Glen Urquhart, on the borders of Loch Ness, Inverness-shire, Scotland, on the 17th July, 1762. As to the place of his birth, however, as not infrequently happens, some doubt exists.* Few men were in a better position to speak authoritatively on the subject than the Bishop's grand-nephew, Mr. John Allan Macdonell, J.P., of St. Raphael's, and in a memorandum given to me by him some years since, it is stated that the Bishop was born at Inchlaggan in Glengarry, Scotland, in 1760. I am now unable, owing to Mr. Macdonell's state of health, to obtain from him the source of his information. It may or may not be traditionary, but I am free to state that it accords with the views of most of the people in Glengarry to whom I have spoken on the subject.

Unfortunately, the greater portion of the Bishop's papers are lost, I fear irretrievably, and excepting what found its way into print from his own pen during his lifetime, facts con-

*A striking instance in point is that of the Duke of Wellington; although the son of an Irish Peer, the Earl of Mornington, it is uncertain whether he was born in Dublin or at Dungan Castle, Meath, nor is the date of his birth certain. It was in the spring of 1769, in the latter end of April or beginning of May.