

ing to Mrs. MacDonald, further than merely remark, that notwithstanding all the good things one can find to say of her estimable husband, she is "his better half" in the true meaning of the term.

Ere this sketch reaches the eyes of your readers, Mr. Editor, Mr. MacDonald, accompanied by Mrs. MacDonald and family, will be crossing the "mighty main" to revisit "those scenes so dearly prized before," the land o' cakes, and they will join the writer in not only wishing them a safe passage but all the pleasures which the trip and season can afford.

LEODHASACH.

### The Scots Were Never Cannibals.

By M. MACRAE, OTTAWA.

The following paragraph has recently been published, and republished, in the columns of the *Free Press*:

"St Jerome states that he saw Scotchmen in the Roman armies in Gaul who ate human flesh regularly, esteeming it a great delicacy." The paragraph is a libel on St. Jerome, who does not make such a statement, and on the ancient Scots and Caledonians, who were never guilty of cannibalism, and who during St. Jerome's time never fought in the Roman armies. St. Jerome, who flourished in the fourth century, refers to a tribe, apparently extinct, anciently known as the "Attacotti," whom he saw eating human flesh. That this tribe of, evidently, foreign nomads, who, for a time, probably existed on the Roman side of the Severus wall, were not Scots was clearly established by Marcellinus, a historian who wrote during the reign of Gratian (375 to 383 A.D.) Marcellinus says "that the Picts and Saxons, Scots and Attacotti harrassed the Britons with constant miseries," etc., showing plainly that the Scots and Attacotti were as distinct as the Scots and Saxons. This view was also established by the learned George Buchanan in his history of Scotland, and was since confirmed by Gibbon in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Cohorts of Britons and Attacotti were on camp service among the Roman auxiliaries in Gaul in St. Jerome's time, but there is no record of any Scots fighting for the Romans, indeed they always fought against them. The name "Attacotti" is so foreign to any Scottish

dialect, that any person at all familiar with the language of Caledonia, would see the absurdity of supposing, let alone asserting, that St. Jerome's human flesh eaters were Scots."

The foregoing I communicated to and it was published by the *Ottawa Free Press*. Since then I have received the following communication on the subject from my friend, Mr. Chamberlain, of the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, all of which, I am sure, will be interesting to the readers of the *FIERY CROSS*: "Dear Mr. MacRae, the Attacotti represented by St. Jerome are as the Attici of Achaia—a people of adventure, who inhabited the mountainous country celebrated for the gold of Peloponesus, a name applied by the Greeks to the whole of Greece.

In the 116th Olympiad the Attici owned 174 villages, containing a population of only 31,000 souls, who possessed no less than 400,000 slaves, or about seventeen slaves to one Attici. These slaves were from all parts, and the word atticotti would appear to mean bond slave, or fighting hireling.

When the British left New York, in 1783, my grandfather was placed in command (by Sir Guy Carleton) of a number of military loyalists, and their slaves from Virginia, who settled in Nova Scotia. Several officers brought with them to Halifax "Buck Negroes" or "prize fighters" for their amusement, who, when drunk with the good military rum of the period, they, in company with Ojibwa Maroons, who were removed from Jamaica to Halifax, and subsequently sent to Sierra Leone, Africa, had no objection (when opportunity offered) against a judicial, aldermanic, or missionary beef-steak; and this same class of patriots, who made up the side-shows of the American Revolution, in all probability make up the back-ground of the miserable age of St. Jerome. When, on account of the incessant wars, agriculture ceased, and the hungry became ravenous, and anthropophagous, especially the pagan brutes who followed the cohorts of the Roman, and whom St. Jerome termed "Attacotti," and the Anti Scoti, called Scotsmen.

Greece was famed for female slaves of beauty, and their slave-hunters sought afar, even among the Scythians, for their charms. The route to Britain via Marseilles was by far the more peaceful for their traffic among the Aborigines of that