

THE LATE REV. DONALD McDONALD.

The late Rev. Donald McDonald who died nearly 17 years ago was in many respects a remarkable man.

Sixty years ago he left Scotland and landed on the island of Cape Breton where he laboured for two years when he removed to P. E. Island. Though somewhat eccentric yet he wrought diligently in the Master's service. His name never appeared on the roll of any Synod or Presbytery yet he was distinguished for his unswerving loyalty to the Church of Scotland. Nine years ago a short sketch appeared in the Montreal Presbyterian concerning his life and labours. We reproduce it in our columns as we know it will prove interesting to many of our readers some of whom have heard and seen Mr. McDonald. It will also serve to show some of the hardships which the pioneers of Presbyterianism underwent in the Maritime Provinces. The more we know of their labours the more highly we should prize our privileges. We now enjoy some of the results of their labours.

Mr. McDonald was born on the 1st January 1784, in the parish of Logierach Perthshire. Licensed by the Presbytery of St. Andrew's and ordained by the Presbytery of Abertaffin 1816. Mr. McDonald left Scotland in the year 1824 and landed in Cape Breton. Without a commission of any kind from any church, he devoted himself to the task of supplying the spiritual destitution he found there. The people, without ministers, had sunk into a state of religious indifference. None but the bravest heart could have faced the privations and sufferings he endured. With the zeal and heroism of a Xavier he braved the wild beasts of the forest, the indifference and degradation of the people. His feet were covered with untanned moccasins. He walked on snow shoes and blazed his way through the pathless forest with his hatchet. He had no home to shelter him, but was contented with the chance shelter of the rudest hut or shanty and with the coarsest fare. He carried no scrip and he had no money in his purse nor would he take any reward for his labours except the primitive hospitality of the people who learned to love and know him.

In 1826 Mr. McDonald transferred his field of labour to P. E. Island and commenced itinerating from one new settlement to another enduring all manner of hardness. In 1829-30 a great revival began among the people. Many were a-

wakened under his preaching and he soon gained an absolute sway over them. He parcelled them out into congregations and before his death he had erected thirteen churches of which he was the sole minister, and had the spiritual oversight of more than five thousand adherents. He ordained elders in every district to conduct the services in the several churches, while he made his circuit among them from Sabbath to Sabbath. Distinguished for the sternness of his Calvinism he was yet of a kindly disposition, with a keen appreciation of the humorous.

After a long life of heroic fortitude and endurance, in the course of which he rose from being an object of derision and persecution to a position of high consideration and influence in public estimation, one of the most remarkable men of his time, he died at Southport near Charlottetown in the end of February 1867, aged 85 years, and was buried at Orwell where is one of his churches.

After his death the western section of his congregations with De Sable as their centre gave a call in 1868 to Rev. James McColl who remained with them four years and then removed to Earlton.

In July 1875 Rev. John Goodwell, missionary on the Island of Santo New Hebrides received a call from them in Australia on his way to Nova Scotia, which he accepted. He is still their minister.

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