

Highlanders, chiefly Macdonells of Glengarry, Scotland. The Premier, Mr. Addington, considered that the hold Britain had on Upper Canada was so slender and precarious that he could not be justified in aiding emigration there. This objection the Chaplain answered by proposing a plan for the organization of a Military Emigration, to be composed of the disbanded Scotch Fencible soldiers. This would serve to settle the country with men of sound British traditions and defend it in case of war against the United States. The scheme was on the verge of being put into effect, when Addington had to resign. His successor, Pitt, did not take it up. Years later Bishop Macdonell considered this one of the great lost opportunities of his life. During the war of 1812 the value of these soldier-emigrants would have been inestimable. Had the Government adopted this policy, not only would millions of money have been saved, but Upper Canada would have been enormously strengthened. In 1803 war with France was renewed, and the most vexatious regulations were laid on emigration. Though Chaplain Macdonell had received an order from Premier Addington for a grant of 200 acres for each Highlander that he should bring into Upper Canada, the Chaplain had almost to smuggle his men away, so many were the obstacles, legal and other, which Scottish landlords put in his way. An incident which shows the uncompromising nature of his patriotism occurred when the Colonial Secretary of State, to avoid the charge of aiding emigration urged by the landlords, advised him to conduct his emigrants to Canada via the United States. The British Government in that case would not have to give any land grants, as Upper Canada gave 200 acres of land to any settler coming from the United States. To this Chaplain Macdonell replied that he would not bring his men through the United States, lest in their journey they might become contaminated with the anti-monarchical principles of that country. In 1804, having sent ahead to Canada all the men he could, he himself embarked. He reached York, now Toronto, November 1, of that year.

For the next thirty-five years he was a tower of strength to his God and to his King in Upper Canada. From the Parish of St. Raphael's in the County of Glengarry, which he made his home for the first twenty-five years, he looked after not only the religious interests of the Catholics of Upper Canada, but also the national, educational and even political and economic interests of his fellow-citizens irrespective of race or creed.

To trace his ecclesiastical career is outside the scope of this paper. To do so it would be necessary to trace the ecclesiastical history of Ontario for thirty-five years. I shall confine myself to his work as an imperial and Canadian patriot. No sooner was he in Upper Canada than he saw the military unpreparedness of the Province. While half its settlers were United Empire Loyalists, who were staunch supporters of British institutions, the other half were recent settlers from the United States, who favoured annexation. "The thin red line" which the settlers formed along the St. Lawrence and Lakes Ontario and Erie, from Glengarry to Essex, had many gaps in it and was a poor defence against the powerful American Republic, which was then bitterly anti-English. The ex-military chaplain, with the keen eye of an old campaigner, saw the necessity of a strong defence. Appointed in 1806 Vicar-General of Upper Canada,—with the whole of Upper Canada, except the French parish at Sandwich, to administer without the assistance of a single priest, a state of affairs which lasted for ten years—he became acquainted with every settlement of the Province. On Col. Brock, who that year was appointed the Commandant of the Forces in Canada, he urged the necessity of strengthening the military defence. He proposed to raise a corps of Highland Fencibles in Glengarry, he to act as chaplain. It must be remembered that the men of Glengarry were nearly all soldiers, or sons of soldiers. The first settlement had been by the Macdonells, who had settled in the Mohawk Valley in the present New York State before the Revolutionary War, and who had fought all through that war on Britain's side, being largely responsible for Western Canada being saved to the Empire. The second settlement had come in 1786