

ber, 1794, C. 791, p. 16. Littlehales to LeMaistre, 20th January, 1795, p. 23). In 1796, Miles received from Lord Dorchester his commission as captain. In 1800, he was stationed at Fort George (Niagara) where he served with the battalion till its reduction in 1802 (C. 794, pp. 102-104). A letter from his father, then lieutenant-colonel of the battalion, dated at Fort George, 10th July, 1800, throws a curious light on the interference with elections that was sanctioned at that time by the highest authorities.* The letter addressed to Major Green, Military Secretary, is in these terms :—

“Captain Miles Macdonell being desirous to assist at the approaching election in Glengarry for a member of the Provincial Parliament, I have to request of you to solicit His Excellency’s permission for him to go down with Mr. Sheriff McDonnell, who proposes to offer himself as a candidate for one of the ridings of that County. Captain McDonnell’s interest, joined to that which the Sheriff already possesses there, would, I make no doubt, secure the election in favour of Mr. McDonnell.” (C. 793, p. 62.)

After the reduction Miles lived in Glengarry, some of his letters being dated from Osnaburg, others from Cornwall.

It is believed that he was appointed to be one of the sheriffs of Upper Canada, but this seems doubtful. Mr. W. J. Macdonell, of Toronto, who was written to on the subject, gives it as a family tradition that his uncle Miles offered the reversion of the office to his brother (the father of Mr. W. J. Macdonell) and the Misses Macdonell, of Brockville, grand daughters of Miles, are positive that he was sheriff, but the evidence on the point is not satisfactory, and leads to the belief that it was another Miles who held the office, as it is certain that a Miles Macdonald was sheriff in 1808. In the public and private correspondence of Captain Miles Macdonell who went to Red River, there is not, so far as I have yet been able to see, a single reference to his holding the office. In the loyalist land grant book, his name occurs interlined in red ink, as receiving a grant on the 11th November, 1806, by Order in Council, his name having been omitted in 1784, at which date he would be about seventeen years of age. The difficulty of determining with respect to the question of identity is largely increased in the present case, as will be evident when the fact is stated, that in the one land grant book now referred to, there are, besides Macdonalds, 84 McDonells, nineteen being named John. The title of Esquire appears to have been attached to the names of those holding official positions, but the Miles Macdonell entered in that book, and who is so described as to leave no doubt that he was the same who served at Carleton Island, is called captain, not sheriff.

Leaving the question undecided, it is evident that if he were one of the sheriffs of Upper Canada, with a shrievalty extending from Glengarry to York (Toronto)

* The right of officers of the army, on active duty, to interfere in elections was generally recognized. Captain Compton, when in command of the 65th Regiment at Halifax, N S., on the 12th January, 1774, applied for leave of absence to go home for the purpose of canvassing for his friend, Colonel Vaughan, who was a candidate for the Borough of Berwick-on-Tweed. (S. 71, p. 16.)