

Catholics and the whole of the Scotch Highlanders have given the most unequivocal proofs of their loyalty and attachment to the British Constitution by rushing to arms at the first call of the Government."

The fact that some of the Catholic French Canadians of Lower Canada rebelled was a deep humiliation for him. He lays the guilt, however, at the right door. "The most inexcusable part, however, of the conduct of the Canadians was not to listen to the advise of their clergy, who knew well that the intention of Papineau and his associates was to destroy their influence and extinguish the Catholic religion, which he (Papineau) publicly declared to be absolutely necessary, before liberty could be established in Lower Canada." Bishop Macdonell admitted that there were political grievances, but he very rightly insisted upon remedying them by constitutional means.

When the storm had spent itself, and Canada no longer feared domestic or foreign foes, Bishop Macdonell decided to make a last visit to Great Britain. Now, as during his whole life, his mission was a two-fold one; one which concerned his church, getting funds for Regiopolis College, which he had just established—and one which concerned his country, namely, directing emigration from Ireland and Scotland. Though he was in feeble health, he determined to go. He interviewed the British Government in London in 1839, but before he could finish his work with the Irish and Scottish Bishops, he took a cold of which he died January 14, 1840, at Dumfries, Scotland. He was then seventy-eight years of age. He died as he had lived, for God and country.

Bishop Macdonell, though he fortunately left a vast number of letters, published scarcely anything. In 1833, however, he wrote for the Canadian Literary Magazine an article tracing his history from the day that he and his men left the Highlands in 1792 till they arrived in Upper Canada twelve years later. In 1839, when the Bishop had left for England, there was published at Kingston a booklet of 54 pages, entitled "A Short Account of the Emigration from the Highlands of Scotland to North America and the Establishment of the Catholic Diocese of Upper Canada." This, which also exists in a slightly different form in manuscript, was written by the Bishop. The appendix of this book contains some addresses and memorials of the Bishop dealing with the Rebellion of '37 and the foundation of Regiopolis. The little book, which is in the Canadian Archives, should be reprinted. It is now so rare that there is not even a copy of it in the Library of Parliament.

#### LACKS A BIOGRAPHER.

It is a pity that two brief booklets—one by the late Chevalier Macdonell, and one by J. A. Macdonell, K.C., of Alexandria—represent the only attempts made to write the biography of a man who played such an important role in the history of Canada and the British Empire as Bishop Macdonell. Copies of his letters lie on the shelves of the Canadian Archives at Ottawa awaiting an editor to introduce them to the reading public. The history of Upper Canada and the history of Canada's relation to the Empire cannot be written until this is done. Perhaps these words may induce some careful historian to make known to the world Canada's greatest Chaplain, Alexander Macdonell, Bishop and Patriot.

JOHN J. O'GORMAN.

Ottawa, 21 December, 1915.

X See Canadian Pamphlets 1004 in  
Parliamentary Library — "A Retrospect"