

sence, and vowed revenge against Roderic Macleod of Ulinish, John's father to whose privity and contrivance, in the first transports of his passion, he attributed all that had happened. But, in the lapse of time, his anger abated, and, on the pregnancy of his daughter, when her time drew nigh, he agreed to meet the laird of Ulinish on peaceable and friendly terms, for the purpose of providing an establishment of some kind for the very young couple, that were the natural objects of their common concern.

At an interview between those gentlemen it was settled, that John Macleod should be put in the exclusive possession and right of the village and farm of Ulinishmore, by his father; and that another farm, of about equal value, should be added to this by the father of the young lady, Sir Roderic Macdonald. On this ground, contributed from different estates, the father and mother of our hero were settled, and lived in perfect comfort for six years, at Ulinishmore; where, besides their first-born, who saw light, as already mentioned, in the year of the Revolution, they were comforted by the birth of another son in 1690, named Alexander; that of a third in 1692, named Roderic; and that of a daughter, Agnes, in 1694.—But this state of domestic innocence and felicity was soon converted, on the part of the fond husband and parent, into a life of great disquietude and danger to himself, as well as neglect and unnaturality to his offspring, by the death of his wife, who never recovered after bearing Agnes; for that melancholy event drove him to a course of dissipation, which terminated in a military life, and in the alienation of all his paternal inheritance from his family.

Being a man of high spirit and sensibility, and at no time restrained by the strictest laws of moderation, he gave a loose rein, after the loss of his wife, to unruly passions; and, while he wasted his substance by gaming and various kinds of expensive excess, he incurred general displeasure and dislike by challenging, in his cups, even his best neighbours and friends to fight him with the broad sword, at which he was esteemed uncommonly expert and dextrous.

But all the power of extreme dissipation was not able to efface, from his mind and heart, the image of his dear and almost infant partner. The whole scenery around, every object, recalled to his imagination that beloved image, together with tender regret and sorrow, that she whom it vainly represented was now no more! A year had not elapsed, from the death of his wife, when he mortgaged the land that had been made over to him, for seven years, for a sum of money; left a country, the sight of which was become painful to him; went to sea; and, after various vicissitudes of fortune, became a Lieutenant of Marines in the Chatham Division.

By the time that the term of years for which he had granted the possession of his land had expired, he came home, sold it, returned to sea, and pursued his fortune. He rose in the naval service to the rank of Captain of Marines, in a ship of war, and fell at Belle-Isle, in the year 1761.

Captain Macleod, when he went to sea, left his children, four in number, in the care of their grand-father, Roderic Macleod of Ulinish; who was not able to do much for them, as he had a family of his own by a second wife, young, numerous, and yearly increasing. His children and grand-children amounted to the number of twenty-three, who lived all together at Ulinishmore; the youngest part going every day a space of about four miles, even amidst the severest winter storms, to the parish school of Bracadill. Sometimes Donald was obliged to carry his little brother Alexander, scarcely five years old, on his back. At the school of Bracadill, Donald learned to read English, and to write; though his fingers have now become so stiff, through age, that it is with difficulty he can sign his own name. It would cost him greater exertion to write one page than to walk an hundred miles, or to go through a trial at the broad-sword.

The regimen and manner in which he, with his little brothers and uncles, some of whom were younger than either he or any of his brothers, were brought up, was as follows. They were clothed with a woollen shirt, a kilt, or short