

ment in the recently established cotton mills. In the summer of that year 1792, he took up residence in Glasgow, the first priest to live there since the Catholic Chapel and priest's house had been burned by the mob during the Gordon Riots twelve years before. Within a few months, he brought 600 Highlanders to Glasgow and got them employment. He at once opened a Catholic chapel and preached the Gospel in Gaelic and English without being molested—though the Penal Laws were yet on the Statute Books. The following year Britain declared war against the French Republic, and the consequent business depression soon threw the Highlanders out of employment.

FOUNDS A HIGHLAND REGIMENT.

It was at this critical moment that their priest, with that resourcefulness which never failed him, conceived the idea of embodying his Highlanders in a Catholic corps in His Majesty's service under the command of their young chief Glengarry. This was a time when no Catholic could join the British Army without forswearing his religion. He organized a meeting at Fort Augustus and proceeded on a deputation to London, where he was graciously received by King George III. and was entirely successful. The First Glengarry Fencible Regiment was accordingly raised in 1794, as a purely Catholic corps, the first since the Reformation. Rev. Alexander Macdonell was gazetted as Chaplain, law to the contrary. It is no exaggeration to say that, with the organization of this Catholic Highland regiment, Alexander Macdonell enters the stage of the world's history. His zealous and far-seeing patriotism was henceforth one of the forces which were to build up the British Empire. The first Catholic Chaplain of the British Army in modern times was one of the greatest army chaplains that ever lived. The Glengarry Fencibles, unlike the four or five Regiments which had been previously raised in Scotland and which had mutinied when ordered to England, then endangered by the spread of French Revolutionary principles, were persuaded by their chaplain to volunteer to serve outside of Scotland. This offer was welcomed by the Government, as it served as a precedent for future Fencible regiments. They were accordingly sent in 1795 to Guernsey, and in 1798 to Ireland, to quell the rebellion there. They took part in the Battle of Vinegar Hill and spent the winter under tents in the Wicklow Mountains in pursuit of Dwyer. The chaplain always accompanied his regiment in the field with the view of preventing the men from plundering, and thus constantly exposed his life to danger. On countless occasions he saved the lives of prisoners from the barbarous yeomanry whose outrages had goaded the Catholic peasantry of Wicklow and Wexford into defensive rebellion. The Catholic chapels which the yeomanry had converted into stables, he had restored to their proper religious use. During his four years' campaign in Ireland, when his Highlanders were engaged in stamping out the last vestiges of the Irish rebellion, Chaplain Macdonell not only shared all the privations, hardships and dangers of his soldiers, but managed at the same time to be a ministering angel of peace to his fellow-Catholics and fellow-Gaels—the Men of '98.

A MILITARY EMIGRATION.

During the short Peace of Amiens in 1802 the British Government, singularly misjudging Napoleon and imagining that an era of peace had come, disbanded the Fencible Regiments. The men of Glengarry were once more destitute. Their chaplain again proved himself a resourceful patriot. Emigrate they must; their chaplain determined on a plan of emigration that would be most profitable to the British Empire. The bulk of Scots had hitherto emigrated to the United States. Chaplain Macdonell determined that his men should go to a British Dominion, and chose Upper Canada, where, in the present County of Glengarry, there was already a large settlement of Catholic