

SERJEANT DONALD MACLEOD.

DONALD MACLEOD, a cadet of the family of Ulinish in the Isle of Skye, from the time of his enlisting in the Scottish army, in the reign of King William, to his last campaign with Sir Henry Clinton in America, sent hundreds of heroes to their long homes: but, in return, he raised up from his own loins a numerous race of brave warriors, the eldest of whom is now eighty-three years old, and the youngest only nine. Nor, in all probability, would this lad close the rear of his immediate progeny, if his present wife, the boy's mother, had not now attained to the forty and ninth year of her age.

It was formerly customary in Scotland, as well as other countries in Europe, for gentlemen of landed property to make provision for their sons by settling them, in some character and situation or other, on their own estates; so that the same tracts, and even districts of land, came, in the natural course of things, to be occupied by people of the same name and kindred, who lived together like one great family, drawn together by mutual sympathy, and often more strongly united by antipathy to some common enemy. Sometimes an estate was parcelled out among several brothers, whether in equal or unequal divisions; sometimes large and advantageous farms were let to the younger sons, who, at an easy rent paid to the elder branch and representative of the family, enjoyed their possessions under the name of tacksmen: and these possessions, subdivided and sub-let to inferior tenants, passed by a kind of hereditary right, which it would have been deemed a species of impiety to violate, in the families of the original tacksmen, from generation to generation. As the tacksmen were often the immediate descendants of the independent baron or tenant of the Crown, so also the subtenants were, for the most part, connected by ties of blood with the tacksmen. All the capital and most of the secondary possessions, and all the offices or places in the estate, from the factor or land-steward, down to the ground-officer and game-keeper, were in the hands of men who boasted of the same name and the same descent with the chief. Such, in general, was the state of society, and such the mode in which landed estates were parcelled out, under the seigneur, in feudal and warlike times; when men of family had not the same resources in manufactures and trade that they have now; and which, if they had enjoyed, they would have despised.

Let it not therefore seem any ways incredible, to those who are educated in a commercial age, that Serjeant Donald Macleod, the subject of this Narrative, is the son of John Macleod the son of Roderic Macleod, Esq; of Ulinish, by his wife Margaret Macleod, daughter to Macleod of Taliskar, in the parish of Bracadill in Skye, and county of Inverness, North Britain.

Sir Roderic Macdonald of the Isle of Skye, ancestor to the present Attorney-General, and Roderic Macleod of Ulinish, cousins in the second degree, sent their children Isabella Macdonald and John Macleod, to be educated in Inverness. In former times, more simple than the present, it was common for boys and girls, of the best families, to be brought up together in the same schools, as it is among common people, in common schools in Scotland, even at this day. Isabella Macdonald, accordingly, and John Macleod had been brought up together, in a familiar manner, at the public school of Inverness, for several years, when they acknowledged the mutual influence of love. Isabella was in the fourteenth year of her age, when John, in his sixteenth year, ran away with her from school, and married her. The first fruit of this union was our hero, Donald, who was born at Ulinishmore on the 20th of June 1687, as appears from the parish register of Bracadill already mentioned.

Sir Roderic Macdonald, informed of the early and unfortunate marriage of his daughter, banished her, together with her young husband, from his pre-