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"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and the strength of salvation."

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ACCOUNT OF MAJOR GENERAL MACDOUALL OF STRANRAER.

Toronto, Jan. 16, 1849.

MR. EDITOR,—

It occurs to me, that in place of sending you a sketch of one of the "Fathers of the Free Church" for next number of the *Record*, the accompanying account of a lay-member of that Church, lately deceased, would not be unacceptable. It appeared originally in the *Wigtonshire Free Press*, and from thence was copied into the *Scottish Guardian*, from the pages of which last I have extracted it, with some abridgements, of less importance to Canadian readers. The interest with which it will be read among us, may be increased by the knowledge of a fact, which it gives me great pleasure to bring before you.—General Macdouall was one of the most liberal benefactors to the Library of our College. His deep interest in the religious wants of the American colonies had been long tested by his liberal subscriptions to the funds of the Glasgow Colonial Society; and I knew well, that so soon as the proposal of a Library for Canada was submitted to him, it would meet with a hearty response. It did so; and nearly three hundred volumes were presented by him. Indeed this is only one instance out of many, in which the well-stored theological repositories of the excellent donor were made available to the cause of sacred literature. The General was always fond of books; and profitable reading on all subjects, but especially religious, formed the solace of his mind in seasons of retirement; as it had been a strengthening relaxation to him in times of more stirring activity.

The memoir will be read with peculiar interest by all who care for Canada, and her dearest privileges. It is the memoir of one of our heroes.—Little did I think, when precambulating with our brother, Mr. Cheyne, the classic ground of Stoney Creek, that for that brilliant affair we were indebted greatly to one whom I respected and esteemed so much as the worthy Macdouall. I do not recollect of hearing him on any occasion take notice of it; but the scenes of Mackinack and St. Joseph, were often made the topics of agreeable retrospection.

The writer of the memoir has omitted to mention one important trait in the religious character of his friend. He was the tried associate of Sir Andrew Agnew in his heroic labours for the maintenance of the christian Sabbath. I call them *heroic*—and heroic they have been. That eminently godly man has fought many a battle on this sacred field, and no one who has not been a close observer of the whole scene can form an adequate idea of the self-denial, the self-sacrifice, and the undaunted and indomitable heroism of the christian baronet, whose truly disinterested labors were duly appreciated and honoured by the subject of the present sketch. Sir Andrew and he were neighbours and bosom friends; and the fellow-helper of both was their tried and talented counsellor, Dr. William Symington. I never spent a happier period in my lifetime than the week which, in autumn 1838, I passed between Stranraer and Lochnaw, in the society of these valuable friends.

The General never forgot his old companions in arms. He corresponded with many of them, and after his mind became deeply impressed with religious truth, he ceased not to impress upon them the solemn realities of the world unseen.—Captain Anderson, now at the head of the Indian department in this city, bears a willing testimony to the tried worth of his venerable Commander in other times. To that excellent gentleman I had the pleasure of conveying two boxes of books in 1845, entrusted to my care, as a small token of ancient friendship from the gallant veteran whose memory is to him, as to many, very dear.

Mr. Editor, yours ever.

ROBT. BURNS.

GENERAL MACDOUALL OF STRANRAER, SCOTLAND.

This venerable christian soldier of the cross, who died on the 15th November last, was the son of a respectable magistrate in the town of Stranraer in Galloway. He was born in March, 1774, and consequently died in his 76th year. Through the influence and aid of his uncle, the late Admiral Macdouall. He entered the army in 1797; and in 1801 we find Lieutenant Macdouall of the

Poetry.

ADVANTAGES OF AFFLICTION.

BY THOMAS MOORE.

O Thou who dry'st the mourner's tears,
How dark this world would be
If, when deceived and wounded here,
We could not fly to thee!

The friends who in our sunshine live,
When winter comes are flown;
And he who has but tears to give,
Must weep these tears alone.

But thou wilt heal the broken heart,
Which like the plants that throw
Their fragrance from the wounded part,
Breathes sweetness out of wo.

When joy no longer soothes or cheers,
And e'en the hope that threw
A moment's sparkle o'er our tears,
—Is dimmed and vanquished too.

Oh, who would bear life's stormy doom,
Did not thy wing of love
Come brightly waiting through the gloom
Our peace branch from above!

Then, sorrow, touched by thee, grows bright,
With more enraptured ray,
As darkness shows us worlds of light
We never saw by day.