

# The Fiery Cross.

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## Our Portrait Gallery.

No. IX.

THE HON. W. MACDONALD, SENATOR.

In a recent issue of the FIERY CROSS we had occasion to remark on the predominance of the Scottish element in Cape Breton, N.S., and by an array of facts and\* figures published elsewhere in this issue the real strength of the predominant race is more clearly shown, and we have here much pleasure in presenting our readers with a sketch and portrait of a member of the predominant clan.

Senator W. MacDonald belongs to the Clan Ranald branch of the Clan Donald, a branch whose possessions embraced the extensive territories of Moidart, Arisaig, Glenfunnan and Glenalladale, on the mainland of Inverness-shire, with the Islands of Eigg, Rum, Muck, Canna, South Uist and Benbecula.

During the earlier history of the clan, the chiefs of Clan Ranald had their seat in the historic Castle Tiorram, Loch Moidart, but before leaving home, with 800 of his clan, to take part in the Jacobite rising of 1715, the then brave Clan Ranald, fearing that in his absence the old family seat should fall a prey to his inherent enemy, Argyle, he ordered it to be set on fire. Afterwards, the Clan Ranald chiefs resided at Ormiclate Castle, South Uist. John MacDonald, XXIV Chief, and Reginald George MacDonald, XXV Chief of Clan Ranald, the latter of whom afterwards sold the family estates, being the first "absentee-landlords" of their race, residing principally in Edinburgh, the keeping of Ormiclate Castle was entrusted to their clansmen and distant kinsmen, Aodh and Donald MacDonald,

father and son, in succession, the great-grandfather and grandfather respectively of Senator MacDonald, the subject of this sketch

In this connection it is interesting to note that only a few months ago a silver brogue buck'le was found in the ruins of Ormiclate Castle. The castle was burned to the ground on the day of the Battle of Falkirk, January 17th, 1746, but was afterwards partly restored, and formed, up till 1826, the residence of a sister of John, XXIV of Clan Ranald, who was known as Miss Peggy, as well as that of its trusty keepers, already referred to. Hence, in reference to the discovery of this buckle, Senator MacDonald says that it probably belonged to his grandfather, as he was the last resident of the castle, which is now a ruin.

On the death of Clan Ranald's sister, Miss Peggy, and the permanent disuse of Ormiclate Castle as a place of residence, in 1826, Donald MacDonald emigrated to Canada and settled in Inverness County, Cape Breton. He was accompanied by a family of three sons and four daughters, named respectively Aodh, Allan and Peter, and Christie, Sarah, Euphemia and Lucy.

We will here again deviate from our subject proper in order to give our readers Senator MacDonald's account, in answer to our inquiry, of how the Christian name Aodh came to be a family name with his people. "Long ago," he says, "when clan feuds were the rule, one of my ancestors was accompanying his Chief on a foray in the north of Scotland, and he had as his immediate companion-in-arms a distinguished stranger named Eugene or Diogenes who was a guest of the Clan. A fast friendship sprang up between the two, and they each agreed that if either one of them should fall in battle the survivor would respect his fallen friend's memory by

\*Held over, will appear next month.