

In view of the general opinion prevailing that the letters and writings of Bishop Macdonell have been lost, I am able to state that there is abundance of papers and letters in manuscript of all kinds in the cathedral archives in Kingston. I have chosen a few copies of these letters to show his style and the variety of his correspondence and enterprises. There are fully two thousand foolscap pages in the archives mentioned, and His Grace Archbishop Spratt has expressed his willingness to allow me access to them. I shall very willingly help a capable person by collecting matter for the history of the founding of the early church in Upper Canada, with the life of Bishop Macdonell. I think a life of his would be inspiring and educating for ecclesiastics and laymen. His fortitude, passive and active, was admirable; his patient endurance would win the hardest heart, while his unflinching determination for the cause of right compels the admiration of even his opponents.

In his new field of labor in Upper Canada his influence was unequalled and all the while he was the zealous, untiring missionary. I have heard from those among whom he labored, that the kind, encouraging and sympathetic word would come when needed, and sometimes the stern rebuke. Surprising, one day, a few Highland would-be pugilists, he put them to shame by pointing to a furious animal, saying: "Ha taraibh air taibh araide a bheireah buaidh airbh le ceile." Bishop O'Brien of Kingston sometimes related to me how he often heard the Catholics of the missionary Bishop's day say: "He would come carrying his vestments on his back and for several days a house became his cathedral, where young and old received the Sacraments to their great joy. Bishop Jamot of Seperta related how he had heard the older inhabitants of Northern Ontario, some of them Indians at Fort William, speak of his untiring labors among them.

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