

Messrs Higgins and Lawson — with labourers to assist them in establishing the new settlers in their respective holdings and for some time afterwards he liberally expended large sums of money for that purpose; and in 1772 there arrived under the care of Captain McDonald's brother for the purpose of settling lot 36, a vessel with three hundred Highlanders, who were furnished with a year's provisions, besides subsistence for the passage, clothing and implements of husbandry. There were also with them, an overseer and labourers, and they were supplied with every requisite for raising crops to support them the following year. Notwithstanding all this, when they learned that the previous year's crop had failed, the dismal prospect before them, and the distress that universally reigned around them greatly discouraged these Highland Settlers, who were little accustomed to habits of agriculture in their native land, where they had earned their subsistence by the grazing or pasturage of cattle, and Captain McDonald was obliged on his arrival the following year, to undertake to provide them with provisions in case of failure of their crops, in order to induce them to remain in the country. For this purpose he chartered a vessel in Boston while on his way to the Island to convey thither a year's necessities and provisions for his settlers, and on his arrival he found another in the harbour of Charlottetown, laden with a like supply, which his brother had been obliged to purchase in Quebec in order to keep the people from leaving the island.

For several years, he continued to support these people until they were enabled to shift for themselves, supplying them with cows, horses, sheep, and swine which he imported at large expense from other colonies, and at the same time instructing and superintending them in farming operations, as well as showing them an example on a farm of his own. He was always remarkable for his true Highland hospitality, and being then the only person on the island who had anything in reserve, his hospitality and liberality were called into active exercise. He was the constant recourse of everyone in extreme distress, and there were many such indeed in that day. His house appeared more like a Public House than a private dwelling,— it is said that it was no uncommon occurrence to see 20 or 30 men lying on straw, of a night in the place he had for a kitchen, who besides being provided for, while under his roof, were seldom allowed to depart without a