

and destitute, because of the greed of their Lairds, and found employment for them in the city of Glasgow and other localities and attended to their spiritual wants. Some of his deeds as a Catholic priest are admirable. Catholics who entered the army were subjected to an oath odious to their convictions. To have undertaken to have them released from such an oath and with success, to have conceived and realized the formation of a Catholic Highland regiment—the first since the Reformation—prepared to serve wherever British defence or expeditionary needs required; to have had himself appointed Catholic chaplain contrary to existing laws thirty-five years before emancipation, were in themselves astounding achievements.

Another of the chaplain's achievements was the stand he took after the Irish Rebellion, when the Government newspapers indulged in severe aspersions on the Irish Catholics, after a Bill, which had been brought up in the Irish Parliament, had miscarried. At a meeting of some of the Catholic bishops and laymen they came to a favorable view of the Government's proposals, and authorized the chaplain to impart their views to the ministry in London. This he did in an interview with the Hon. Henry Dundas, who, however, considered the information incorrect. Castlereigh had reported that the purpose of the Catholic meeting in Dublin was to counteract the measures of the Government. The chaplain, Rev. Alexander Macdonell, lost no time in producing proof from Lord Kenmare that the information he had produced was correct. He then threatened to have the truth published in the Opposition papers if the Government journals failed to retract their false aspersions on the Catholics. This they reluctantly did.

Again when Upper Canada was considered all but lost to the British Crown, the chaplain prevailed on the Prime Minister, the Hon. Henry Addington, and his government to encourage emigration, assuring them that the most effective means of rendering permanent the British hold on Upper Canada was to encourage Scotch Highlanders and Irish Catholics to emigrate thither. These with his many grand achievements subsequently effected in Canada compare favorably with those of the highest Ecclesiastics of the nineteenth century. Dr. Cleary, of Kingston, an eminent prelate, writing of Bishop Macdonell and his wonderful career in Canada, said: "This profoundly touched the hearts of the Foreign Office in London and of the Governor-General's citadel in Quebec; so much so that in token of high appreciation he received from the King a pension for life, which was afterwards doubled and then quadrupled and made hereditary in perpetuity to his successors in office after he had become Bishop of Kingston."