

well as the other, National Societies of Montreal,* may in part be attributed to political circumstances, still the grand cause to which they owe their origin, was the fact that it had long been a matter of complaint and regret that no institution existed in Montreal, for the encouragement and assistance of Emigrants from the British Isles.

To a person far removed from the land of his nativity and at a distance from his friends to whom he could apply for relief when in the hour of misfortune and distress, the friendly assistance of those who own a common home, and boast a common origin is always cheering to the heart and acts as balm to the wounded spirit. Appeals were often made in this city to the feelings and commiseration of Scotchmen, for the relief of those suffering under unforeseen calamity, sickness, or any of the multiplied misfortunes incident to the life of a stranger from his native land, and while in most instances assistance was granted with a free and liberal hand, at the same time it was too often withheld from a fear, unfortunately in many instances well grounded, that the applicant was unworthy the bounty he sought, or was attempting to impose on the benevolence of his neighbours.

In the month of November, 1834, a few of the most active and enthusiastic amongst the Scottish residents animated by patriotic feelings, resolved to celebrate the festival of their Patron Saint, by dining together on the Anniversary with as many of their countrymen as were disposed to join them, and so general was the disposition to do so, that the room engaged for the purpose proved scarcely large enough to contain the company. St. Andrew's day in that year falling on the Sabbath, the dinner took place on Monday, the 1st December, 1834, at the Albion Hotel, in rear of the Theatre, and upwards of one

*The St. George's, St. Patrick's, and German Societies were formed about the same time as the St. Andrew's Society.