

With the exception of six months spent in missionary work at Ganonoque his whole life has been spent in Glengarry. Towards men of other creeds he was always kind and forbearing, so that by all he was revered as a patient and kind father. The *Alexandria News* expresses well his fellow-townsmen's appreciation of Bishop Macdonell when it says: "We had almost come to look on his presence as an abiding blessing — so thoroughly had the social and spiritual life of the community received the impress of his dignified personality."

Born near Alexandria, in 1833, he entered St. Joseph's College, now Ottawa University, where he made his classical course. He then proceeded to Regiopolis for theology and was ordained priest in 1862, by Bishop Horan of Kingston.

While Father Macdonell was still a young priest his nobility of character and administrative abilities marked him out as worthy of promotion. In 1886, Bishop Cleary made him Vicar General of the diocese of Kingston and when, in 1890, the Eastern counties were erected into an independent diocese with the episcopal See of Alexandria, Vicar General Macdonell was chosen to preside over its destinies. The choice was a popular one and his consecration was everywhere received with manifestations of joy and pride.

The task of administering the new diocese was an onerous one, for parishes had to be formed, churches had to be built and, most of all, priests had to be found to minister in those churches. But, before Bishop Macdonell's eyes were closed in death, he could point to a model diocese, divided into flourishing parishes with churches in which a noble band of young priests, all children of the diocese, ministered to the spiritual welfare of the people.

But Bishop Macdonell's activity was not confined to the spiritual wants of the people alone. The beautiful St. Margaret's Academy and Separate School and the magnificent episcopal residence in Alexandria, with the large General Hospital in Cornwall, all bear lasting testimony to the various lines in which his administration extended.

That he was admirably fitted for his position is evident from the fact that he could preach in English, French or Gaelic. In the latter language, so wonderfully preserved in the Highland county of Glengarry, Bishop Macdonell took a great interest and it was his pleasure