

THE ISLAND OF TIREE.

PRINCE CHARLES'S PILOT.

Shortly after the Battle of Culloden, a French brig anchored in Gott Bay, in Tiree, and sent a boat ashore. The officer in charge of the boat seized the first man he met—Neil MacFadyen—and asked him to pilot the ship to Lochnanuagh, which is about twenty miles north of Ardnamurchan Point. Neil told the officer that he had no acquaintance with the coast, and was consequently unable to do as required. At the same time he pointed to the place in which Donald MacLean lived, and informed him that Donald was thoroughly qualified for the work he desired to have done. The officer then seized Donald, who offered to go with him and pilot the ship to Lochnanuagh on condition that on the way back he should be landed at Tiree.

The officer took Neil MacFadyen with him also, as he was afraid that if he left him he would report the ship's destination and purpose. Donald MacLean piloted the ship safely to Lochnanuagh, where Prince Charles and his retainers were taken on board. The brig sailed immediately and headed by the north of Coll towards Barra. The captives now saw that there was no intention of landing them on Tiree. When they were near a cluster of islands at the east end of Coll, they got into a boat which was lying at the stern of the brig. They cut the tackling, lowered the boat, and rowed off with all their might. When they left, there were only two men on the deck of the brig, the steersman and the lookout. All hands, however, were soon called up. The Frenchmen fired several shots; but as the night was very dark they did not hit the runaways. The Tiree men pulled round to the south of Coll, and landed at Port na Luinge. To their great disappointment and annoyance, MacLean of Coll took the boat from them, and kept it for himself. When they landed at Tiree they were told that they were in danger of being arrested.

Donald MacLean was taken by a friend and hidden in a cave at Vaul—a small rocky, uninhabited island on the north side of Tiree. He lived there for nine months. His hiding place was known to a number of his friends, who were in the habit of visiting him on very dark nights. When hard pressed for food he would go in the night time to the house of an old friend in Tiree. He would scratch gently at the window, get admitted, and have his wants supplied. To prevent the young people in the house from knowing what was going on, there was no light struck, neither was there a word spoken. The authorities paid frequent visits to his father's house at Ruaig; sometimes they would enter it twice during the same night. Donald's health at last began to fail. His father advised him to give himself up to the Government. As he was unwell and tired of living alone in a cave he agreed to this proposal. His father went with him to Tobermory. On the way they passed the Tiree Packet, which was bearing information to the effect that all below the rank of captain had been pardoned. But this was a state of matters which was unknown to them. When they got to Tobermory Donald gave himself up to the Government authorities. He was immediately drafted into one of the Highland regiments. One of the MacLeans of Drimuin happened to be an officer in the regiment. Through the influence of this officer Donald obtained his discharge after two years' service.

Chambers informs us in his "History of the Rebellion of 1745-6" that two French vessels arrived in Lochnanuagh on September 6th, 1746, and sailed for France on Saturday September 20th, with Prince Charles and 130 of his followers. The Act of indemnity to the poorest of the followers of Prince Charles was passed in June, 1747. It follows then that Donald MacLean lived in the cave on Vaul from the end of September, 1746, to the end of June, 1747—just nine months as the tradition states. Donald was born about 1726. He had three sons, Lachlan, Charles, and John. He died at Ruaig. John, his youngest son, was born in 1771. John lived and died at Ruaig. He left three sons, Malcolm, Lachlan, and Donald. Malcolm lived at Ruaig, and was succeeded there by his son Allan. Donald was a merchant and manufacturer in Glasgow. Of Neil MacFadyen I can give no account. There may or may not be descendants of his in existence.

THE MACLEANS OF HOGH.

It is said that Ewen MacLean was known as Eoghann Mac Eachainn, that he was a son of the laird of Coll, and that he received from his father the lands of Hogh in Tiree. John, his son, succeeded him, and also held the whole of Hogh. Lachlan, John's son, held only a fourth part of Hogh. John, Lachlan's son, succeeded his father. John was drowned off Tiree. He left two children, James and Margaret, Mair-easad nighean Iain Mhic Lachainn. James, John's son, settled on a croft in Balephuill, and was succeeded there by his son John, who died in February, 1878. James, John's son is a doctor in England.

If Ewen MacLean was really known as Eoghann Mac Eachainn, and if his father was laird of Coll, he must have been a son of Hector Roy, ninth of Coll. I presume that the names are correct from Ewen down to Dr. James—Seumas Mac Iain Mhic Sheumais. I don't feel at all certain, however, that the name Hector is correct; but it may be.

THE REV. JOHN C. SINCLAIR.

The Rev. John Campbell Sinclair was born in Tiree in 1800. He was the son of Peter, son of Donald, son of Donald, and was known as Iain Mac Phàdrig. He went to school at or near Gott, the name of the teacher being Walker. He studied at the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. He joined the Secession Church, and studied theology under Dr. Dick. He married, in 1822, Mary Julia MacLean, daughter of John, son of James, son of Donald of Brolas. He taught a school for a number of years in some part of Mull—at the head of Loch Scridan, I think. He came to Nova Scotia in 1838, and laboured in Pictou County as a minister of the gospel from that year until 1842. He was inducted into the pastoral charge of the congregation of Alberton, P.E. Island, in 1843. He removed with his family to the United States in 1852. He became minister of the Presbyterian congregation of Galatia in Cumberland County, North Carolina, in 1859. He retired from the active duties of the ministry in 1869. He died at Wheeling, Virginia, in April, 1878. His wife died at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1854. He was a good man and a good preacher, and was held in high esteem.

The Rev. John C. Sinclair had five children—James, Annie, Margaret, Alexander, and Peter—all born in Scotland. James was inducted into the pastoral charge of the Presbyterian congregation of Smyrna, North Carolina, in 1857. He was appointed a chaplain in the army by President Jefferson Davis in 1860. But the Brolas blood in him got so hot on the battlefield that he could not remain with any comfort to himself in the position of chaplain. At the first battle of Bull Run he distinguished himself so much as a fighter that he received high praise from General Longstreet. In December 1861 he became a lieutenant-colonel. He died in 1877. Alexander, second son of the Rev. John C. Sinclair, became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1857. Peter, the third son, was a lawyer in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in 1860. When the war broke out he raised a company of troops, and was appointed captain. He was in several battles, and rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Shortly after the termination of the war he resumed the practice of the law.

Lest some one should think that I have been writing about my own relatives, I may state that the Rev. John C. Sinclair was not related to me. My father was born in Strath-Halladale.

A. MACLEAN SINCLAIR.