

# **DONALD III (BANE)**



**DONALD BANE (1093-1094-1097)**

&

# **PRINCE EDMUND**



Extracted from -

**THE PICTORIAL HISTORY OF SCOTLAND**

By James Taylor D.D. London 1859 Vol.1. p. 44.

Donald III  
Bane



[1093-1094-1097] brother of Malcolm III, who had fled to the Hebrides on the death of his father, Duncan I, and does not appear to have visited brother Malcolm at any period of his reign. As soon as he received intelligence of his brother's death, he hurried to Scotland with a powerful armament, collected in the western isles by the assistance of Magnus Barefoot, King of Norway,<sup>1</sup> and apparently with little opposition took possession of the throne. According to the Celtic law of succession, Donald as the eldest male of the royal family, was heir to the crown, and his pretensions were supported by a powerful party among the Scottish nobles, to whom the innovations of the last reign, and the preference shown to strangers, had been peculiarly obnoxious. The children of the late king were hastily conveyed to England, and placed in a state of security by their uncle Edgar Atheling.

The first edict of Donald Bane was a sentence of banishment against all the foreigners who had taken refuge at the Scottish court - an ignorant and foolish attempt to arrest the progress of civilisation, and to bring back the country to the savages state of the western isles, in which his own life had been spent.<sup>2</sup> His triumph, however, was short-lived.

Duncan an illegitimate son of the late king, (now known as the son of Malcolm's first queen Ingibiorg of Orkney), who had been sent as a hostage to England, with the permission of William Rufus, collected a numerous force of English and Normans, expelled Donald from the country and took possession of the throne (May 1094,) whether in his own right, or for the lawful family of Malcolm does not clearly appear.

After a reign of only a few months Duncan was assassinated by Malpedir, the Maormor, or Earl, of the Mearns, in November 1094, at the instigation, it is alleged of Edmund, the second of the legitimate children of Malcolm Canmore, who had entered into an agreement with his uncle, Donald Bane, to share the kingdom between them.<sup>3</sup> On the restoration of Donald to the throne, his inhospitable edict for the expulsion of foreigners was strictly enforced, and every effort was made to overthrow the measures which his brother had taken for the civilization of the country. Matters remained in this state for more than two years.

<sup>1</sup> Fordun, lib. v. chap. xxvi. <sup>2</sup> Hailes's Annals, vol. I p. 49; Sax. Chron. pp. 199, 200.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 423; Fordun, lib. v. chap. xxviii.

**PRINCE EDMUND**  
**BURIED IN**  
**DUNFERMLINE ABBEY**



**PRINCSE EDMUND (1094-1097)**

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JOHN OF FORDUN'S

CHRONICLE

OF

THE SCOTTISH NATION

VOLUME 2. p. 215

EDIITED BY

W, F, SKENE

Donald III  
Bane  
&  
Edmund



[1094-1097] On the restoration of Donald to the throne, his inhospitable edict for the expulsion of foreigners was strictly enforced, and every effort was made to overthrow the measures which his brother had taken for the Edmund civilization of the country. Matters remained in this state for more than two years till 1097. At length in 1097, Edgar Atheling, along with his nephew Edgar, raised a powerful army in England, and marching against Donald, overcame him in battle, and having obtained possession of his person, imprisoned him and put out his eyes. William of Malmesbury states, that Edmund, the unworthy son of the pious Margaret, was condemned to perpetual imprisonment, for his accession to the murder of Duncan; that, during his captivity, he was touched with remorse, and in token of penitence for his guilt, ordered the fetters he had worn in his dungeon to be buried with him in his coffin.<sup>1</sup> Donald Bane died at Roscobie, in Forfarshire, and with him terminated the line of the Scottish kings.<sup>2</sup>

We are informed by the learned Chalmers,<sup>3</sup> that throughout the Scottish period, Scotland proper was divided into ten districts, exclusive of Lothian, Galloway, and Strathclyd. 1. FIFE, comprehending the country between the Forth and the Tay, below the Ochil Hills. Of this extensive district the celebrated Macduff was the Maormor. II. STRATHERN, including the country between the Forth and the Ochil Hills on the south and the Tay on the north. III. ATHOL and Stormont, comprehending the central highlands, lay between the Tay and Badenoch. IV. ANGUS, comprehending the country from the Tay and the Ila on the south, to the northern Esk upon the north. V. Mearns comprehended the district which lay between the North Esk and the Dee. Fenella, the inhospitable murderess of Kenneth III, was the wife of the Maormor of this district the daughter of the Maormor of Angus. VI. ABERDEEN and BANFF comprehended the extensive country between the Dee and the Spey. Greg, the Maormor of this district, occupied the Scottish throne from A.D. 882 to 893. VII. The extensive district of MORAY comprehended the country from the Spey to the Farar or Beaully, and reached, westward, to the limits of northern Argyle. The Maormor of Moray were persons of great importance at that period, and the Moray men acted a conspicuous part in the bloody scenes of Scottish history. VIII. ARGYLE, which formed the ancient kingdom of the Scots, extended along the mainland of Scotland, from the Clyde to Ross, and comprehended the adjacent isles. IX the great district of Ross was composed of the counties of Ross and Cromarty. The powerful chiefs of this province were often engaged in bloody conflicts with the rapacious Norsemen. Macbeth was Maormor of Ross-shire when he slew "gracious Duncan," and seized his sceptre. X. SUTHERLAND and CAITHNESS formed a district which, at the end of the tenth century was governed by Sigurd, the Norwegian Earl of Orkney, and after him, by his son, Thornfinn,

<sup>1</sup> William of Malmesbury, p. 158. <sup>2</sup> It is worthy of notice, that John Comyn, the lord of Badenoch, during the great competition for the crown, claimed the succession as heir of Donald Bane, through the female line.

the grandson of Malcolm II. These districts, during the Scottish period, were connected by very slight ties. The inhabitants of each province possessed peculiar rights, followed their own customs, and were governed by their own chiefs or Maormors, who could not be appointed or displaced by the king; and there was scarcely any recognition of a supreme legislative body or authority having the power to make laws for the whole community. The authority of the king, though it was acknowledged, was often resisted, because it could not easily enforced.

To every careful student of the events and institutions of this period, it must be evident that the predominant people were the Celtic race. The laws were Celtic, the government Celtic, the titles of honour Celtic, the usage of manners Celtic, the church Celtic, the language Celtic. "If," says Chalmers,<sup>1</sup> "Malcolm Canmore, a Celtic prince who did not arrogate the character of a lawgiver, had been disposed to effect a considerable change in this Celtic system, he would have found his inclination limited by his impotence. The Scottish kings, during those times, seem not to have possessed legislative power. Whenever they acted as legislators, they appear to have had some coadjutors, either some Maormors, a term by which we are to understand the civil ruler of a district, or some bishop."<sup>2</sup> At a later period, when the children and grandchildren of Malcolm attempt to introduce new institutions and maxims of government in the provinces of Galloway and Moray so firmly attached were the people to their ancient customs and habits that the innovations gave rise to frequent insurrections.<sup>3</sup>

Mention had already been made of the residence of Donald Bane, in the Hebrides, and the powerful support which the inhabitants of these remote islands gave to him in his attempts upon the Scottish crown. It is evident that they had at this period little or no political connexion with the mainland of Scotland, but were under the domination of petty chiefs, where sometimes independent, and at other periods under the superiority of the kings of Norway.

During the early portion of the ninth century they suffered much from the depredations of the Norwegian pirates, whose incessant ravages were severely felt by the various religious communities scattered over the Western Islands. It appears from the Irish annals, that these fierce marauders not only laid waste the country, and plundered the monasteries of their treasures, but also carried off great numbers of captives both male and female, and sold them for slaves in the markets of Norway and Sweden. They had not as yet however effected any permanent settlement either in the isles or on the mainland of Scotland. But toward the latter end of the ninth century the number of these pirates was greatly increased by a revolution which had taken place in Norway. Harold Harfager, or the light-haired, after a protracted struggle obtained possession of the Norwegian throne,<sup>4</sup> and united the provinces of the Scandinavian peninsula into one monarchy.

<sup>1</sup> Caledonia, vol. i. p. 455

<sup>2</sup> Hailes's Annals, vol. i. p. 182.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Torfæus, Hist. Norw. vol. ii. b. ii. chap. xii.; Skene's Highlanders, vol. i. p. 91.

**JOHN OF FORDUN'S CRONICLE - VOL. 2. CHAPTER XXI. P. 209.**

*Death of Saint Margaret - Siege of the Castle of Maidens by Donald, the King's brother, who invaded the Kingdom- Flight of the King's Sons out of the Kingdom.*

WHEN the queen, who had before been racked with many infirmities, almost unto death, heard this - or, rather, foreknew it through the Holy Ghost - she shrived, and devoutly took the Communion in church ; and, commending herself unto God in prayer, she gave back her saintly soul to heaven, in the Castle of Maidens (Edinburgh), on the 16th of November, the fourth day after the king. Whereupon, while the holy queen's body was still in the castle where her happy soul had passed away to Christ, whom she had always loved, Donald the Red, or Donald Bane, the king's brother, having heard of her death, invaded the kingdom, at the head of a numerous band, and in hostilewise besiege the aforesaid castle, where he knew the king's rightful and lawful heirs were. But, forasmuch as tht spot is in itself strongly fortified by nature, he thought that the gates only should be guarded, because it was not easy to see any other entrance or outlet. When those who were within understood this, being taught of God, through the merits, we believe, of the holy queen they brought down her holy body by a postern on the western side. Some, indeed, tell us that during the whole of that journey, a cloudy mist was round about all this family, and miraculously sheltered them from the gaze of any of their foes, so that nothing hindered them as they journeyed by land or by sea; but they brought her away, as she had herself before bidden them, and prosperously reached the place they wished - namely, the church of Dunfermline, where she now rests in Christ. And thus did Donald come by the kingdom, having ousted the true heirs. Meanwhile Edgar Atheling brother to the just mentioned queen, fearing that it might be with his nephews as the common saying is, "Trust not the sharer of thy throne," thought it, therefore, safer to take them away for a time than to intrust them to their uncle, that they might reign with him; - for every one seeks a partner in sin, but no one does so in the kingship. Wherefore he gathered together the sons and daughters of the king and of the queen, his sister, and, secretly bringing them over with him into England, sent them to be brought up by his kinsmen and acquaintances, not openly, but in hiding as it were. For he feared lest the Normans - who had, at that time, seized England - should try to bring evil upon him and his, seeing tht the throne of England was their due by hereditary right; and though he had stayed there in secret, as it were, for a short time, yet it is told the king that he was mixed up in treason against him. And thus what he dreaded befell him on this wise.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

*Duncan, Malcolm's illegitimate son\*, wrest the kingdom from his uncle Donald - His death - Donald recovers the kingdom at this time the King of Norway takes possession of our Isles.*

NOW when the throne of Scotland had been usurped by Donald, King Malcolm's lawful heirs - that is to say, Edgar, Alexander, and David, who, though the least in years, was nevertheless endowed with the greatest virtue - tarried in England through fear of him. For, as stated below, the king's three other older sons were not then living. Edward, as was said, was slain with his father. About Ethelred I find nothing certain, in any writings, as to where he died or was buried; except that, as some asserts he lies buried in Saint Andrew's Church in Kilremont. Edmund, a vigorous man, and devout in God's service, after his death was buried at Montacute, in England. *William*, however, has written that Edmund's death happened otherwise as will be seen afterwards in the sequel. Meanwhile Duncan, King Malcolm's illegitimate son, when he was with King William Rufus. in England, as a hostage, was by him dubbed knight; and backed up by his help he arrived in Scotland, put his uncle Donald to flight, and was set up as king. But when he had reigned a year and six months, he fell slain at Monthechin by the Earl of Mernys, by name Malpetri, in Scottish Malpedir, through the wiles of his uncle Donald, whom he had often vanquished in battle; and he was buried in the island of Iona. After his death, Donald, again usurped the kingship, and held it for three years; while he had reined for six months before Duncan. And thus after King Malcolm's death, so sad for the Scots, these two - Donald and Duncan, to wit - reigned five years between them. Now *William*, writing about the aforesaid Edmunds says: - Of the sons of the king and Margaret, Edmund was the only one who fell away from goodness. Partaking of his uncle Donald's wickedness, he was privy to his brother Duncan's death, having, forsooth, bargained with his uncle for half the kingdom. But being taken, and kept in fetters forever, he sincerely repented; and, when at death's door, he bade them bury him in his chains, confessing that he was worthily punished for the crime of fratricide. While these, then - namely, Donald, Duncan, and Edgar, too - were struggling for the kingdom in this wise, the king of the Noricans (Northmen) Magnus, the son of King Olave, son of King Harold surnamed Harfager, sweeping the gulfs of the sea with a host of seamen, subdued the Orkneys to his dominion, and the Mevanian islands, both of Scotland and England (Man and the Western Isles), which, indeed, for the most part, used to belong to Scotland by ancient right. For the Scots continued, without any break to hold these same islands from the time of Ethdacus Rothay, Simon Brek's great-grandson, who was the first of all the Scots to dwell in the islands - about five hundred years before the Scottish king Fergus, son of Feradach, entered the soil of Albion - even until now, for a space of nearly two thousand years.

\* Duncan, was the son of King Malcolm's first marriage with Queen Ingibiorg.