

# Hector the Hero

## Major-General Hector A. MacDonald

**1857** Born in the Black Isle

**1870** Enlisted in 92<sup>nd</sup> Gordon Highlanders

**1879** Served as a colour-sergeant in the Afghan War

**1880** Promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant at end of the Afghan War

**1881** Mentioned in despatches in 1<sup>st</sup> Boer War, South Africa

**1885** Led military expedition up Nile (Sudan)

**1888** Took part in Battle of Sunkin (Sudan)

**1889** Won Distinguished Service Order (DSO) medal (Sudan service)

**1891** Took part in Battle of Tokar (Sudan)

**1896** Led 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade – the Dungen Exeditionary Force (Sudan)

Was now a Brigadier-General. May have been promoted about this time

**1897/98** Khartoum – Battle of Omdurman

**1898** ADC (Ade de Camp) to the Queen (Victoria)

**1899** Served as Brigadier-General in Sirhind province of India

**1900** Served as Major-General with Highland Brigade in South Africa

**1901** Knighted

**1902** Served as a Major-General with forces in Ceylon

**1903** Accused of being a homosexual. Committed suicide.

## Lyrics:

### Verse 1:

Lament him, ye mountains of Ross-shire;  
Your tears be the dew and the rain;  
Ye forests and straths, let the sobbing winds  
Unburden your grief and pain.

Lament him, ye warm-hearted clansmen,  
And mourn for a kinsman so true  
The pride of the Highlands, the valiant  
MacDonald  
Will never come back to you

### Chorus:

Oh, wail for the mighty in battle,  
Loud lift ye the Coronach strain;  
For Hector, the Hero, of deathless fame,  
Will never come back again.

### Verse 2:

Lament him, ye sons of old Scotia,  
Ye kinsmen on many a shore;  
A patriot-warrior, fearless of foe,  
Has fallen to rise no more.

O cherish his triumph and glory  
On Omdurman's death-stricken plain,  
His glance like the eagle's, his heart like the  
lion's  
His laurels a nation's gain.

### Chorus:

Oh, wail for the mighty in battle,  
Loud lift ye the Coronach strain;  
For Hector, the Hero, of deathless fame,  
Will never come back again.

### Verse 3:

Oh rest thee, brave heart, in thy slumber,  
Forgotten shall ne'er be thy name;  
The love and the mercy of Heaven be thine;  
Our love thou must ever claim.

To us thou art Hector the Hero,  
The chivalrous, dauntless and true;  
The hills and the glens, and the hearts of a nation,  
Re-echo the wail for you

### Chorus:

Oh, wail for the mighty in battle,  
Loud lift ye the Coronach strain;  
For Hector, the Hero, of deathless fame,  
Will never come back again.