

increased majority. Continuing to sit for his old constituency, Mr. Macdonald became Solicitor general in 1849; having for chiefs of administration, Mr. Louis H. Lefontaine and Mr. Robert Baldwin, whom the current of public opinion had again carried into power in 1848. In 1851 Mr. Baldwin resigned office; and the premiership fell into the hands of Mr. Hincks, by whom Mr. Macdonald was offered the position of the Crown Lands. He declined the offer, being resolved to take no office out of his profession. His aim was the Attorney-generalship; and that, too, he was destined to receive in good time. The year after he had refused the Crown Lands he was elected Speaker, in which position he continued till the dissolution 1854. The dissolution resulted from a defeat of the Government on the Address, and as Parliament had only been called on the last day allowed by law, it was dissolved without passing any Act. Mr. Macdonald, as Speaker, presented an address to the Governor-General, calling attention to this fact, and stating that unless an Act were passed it was no session, and that the dissolution prevented the Legislature from complying with the law. Mr. Macdonald was probably right as to the law; but necessity has no law, and a dissolution was deemed necessary.

In 1858, he was Attorney-General for a few days in the Brown-Dorion Government. He afterwards separated from the chief of that Government on a question of fact relating to a subject of important public policy, the Seigniorial Tenure abolition. There was a truce for a while, after Mr. Macdonald had become Premier and Attorney-General in May, 1862. He was able to hold office on the strength of a very slender majority, till March, 1864, nearly two years. He attained office on a question connected with the Militia organization; opposing the measure of the Ministry of the day, chiefly on the ground of the expense it would entail.

When the future historian of Canada comes to the Confederation era of political change he will admit that the choice of Mr. Macdonald as the first Premier of Ontario was a wise one, and that he amply justified the preference given to him on that occasion. Party strife had been hushed in 1864; there was every reason why it should not be renewed in 1867. Only the foundation of Confederacy had been laid; it was for wise master-builders to rear the superstructure. Mr. Macdonald, fully appreciating the situation, refused to yield to the persuasions and pressure brought to bear upon him to make his Cabinet a strictly party one. Confederation, he contended, had been brought about by a fusion of parties; a fusion of parties he would continue. Carrying out this design he called two Conservatives to his Cabinet, and thereby incurred displeasures which were intensified into bitter animosities that were not once relaxed during his four years of administration.

The history of his government, however severely criticized at the time for partizan effect, is one of which any public man might feel proud. Every encouragement was given to settle the waste lands of the Province. Immigration received an impetus which largely increased the influx of the surplus population of the Old World. Improvements were made in the machinery of the law. Legitimate railway enterprises were encouraged by generous subventions from the public purse. In truth, it may be safely said, there was no wrong which was not righted; no want which was not supplied. A large majority enabled the Government to carry measures which will have a lasting effect in the Province.

Failing to receive the support he expected in the new House elected in the spring of 1871, he retired from office and virtually from public life, on the installation of the new Government. Socially, Mr. Macdonald had not many like him in the political world of Canada. Possessed of a ready wit, a most retentive memory, and a keen appreciation of the ludicrous, he was always a chief spirit in every gathering not essentially of a public kind. He was fond of society—not fashionable society, merely—although with an outward air of seeming carelessness, he had strong aristocratic leanings—but of society which added a relish to the more serious duties of life. His private means enabled him to entertain largely, and he did so in a generous manner, as one who took real pleasure in seeing his friends around him. Distinguished in private life by the largest-hearted hospitality, Mr. Macdonald counted his personal friends by hundreds. Whether it was that the military were quartered at Cornwall, as at the time of the Fenian Raid, or a gunboat was anchored in the stream, or Assizes were going on in the town, Ivy Hall was open house. One of the last remarks he made was to remind his family that his friends Mr. George Stephen, Sir Hugh Allan, Mr. E. H. King and Mr. Donald McInnes were expected that day to visit the manufacturing establishment about to be erected at Cornwall, and must be invited to luncheon. His friends were there, but only to learn the mournful news that Mr. Macdonald's life was fast flickering out. He died very quietly, being perfectly clear and conscious to the end.—*Mail*.

MR. ROBERT MACFARLANE, M. P.

Was born at Williamstown, Glengarry, in 1835, and after receiving his education in Perth and Toronto, was called to the Bar of Upper Canada in Michaelmas term, 1857. He sat for Perth in the Canadian Assembly from the general election in 1863 until the Union, after unsuccessfully contesting the seat in 1862. Mr. Macfarlane was a popular man in the House, although he never took a prominent part in debate.—*Mail*.

OLD SCHOOL REMEMBRANCES OF BROCKVILLE.

The following interesting notice was sent us by an old resident of Brockville, now a resident of the United States, on the renewal of his subscription:—I like to see the *Recorder*, as it brings to mind some of the old times when I was a boy and fished in St. Lawrence's clear, beautiful pure water.

I was born in Brockville about one year after the first Sabbath school was organized.

I have a sharp recollection of attending school there when I was about 14 years of age, and of a tingling sensation to the ends of my fingers when I think of the *Master*. He was a true representative of the Irish Hedge School-master. His name was Rossington Elms, and although forty-five years or more have come and gone since then, still I remember many of the boys that were boys at that time and attended school with me. I have not been in Brockville since 1827, I crossed the lake from Brockville to Rochester in the steamer *Ontario* in about 4 days, which was then considered rather fast travelling. We had to cross from Brockville to Morristown in the ferry boat, as no steam boat stopped at Brockville, from this side, to take passengers.

Perhaps it may be interesting to you to know the boys that got thrashed in that school.

Ormond Stewart, Hoyle Jones, Wm. and Stephen Richards, Wm. O. Buell, Louis Charlien, Robert Hamilton, Billa Flint, Henry Easton, Johnny Ross, Geo. Provost, Isaac Read, James Reid, P. Glassford, James Gray, Tommy Scott, Cris. Leggo, Hubbell boys, E. Dunham, Wells, Landon and many others. A. S. B.

To the Editor of the Recorder.

The "old resident of Brockville" who sent you the interesting notice published in your last paper is mistaken as to some of the parties who attended the Johnstown District Grammar School, and he is equally mistaken as to its master, the late Rev. Rossington Elms. An Irish hedge school master, as I understand the class, was a man with the social habits, manners and dress of the peasantry, had their brogue in ordinary conversation, and used their language. But he had an admirable appreciation of the beauty of the classics, and frequently attained such critical and exact knowledge of them as would put to shame the graduates of universities.

Mr. Elms had no brogue, spoke English correctly, and no one could detect his being an Irishman from his language or appearance, and he had the dress, manners and social habits of an educated gentleman. Whether he received his education in Ireland or in this country, I am unable to say, but Judge Steele, your present County Judge, who, I think, was connected in some way with the Elms family, will know. He may have completed his education under Dr. Strachan at the York Grammar School. He certainly was usher there for some time before he was appointed master of the Johnstown District School. Though somewhat severe as a disciplinarian, and using the rod without stint, if boys neglected to learn their lessons, he was an admirable teacher, and the system of teaching practised by him was well calculated to make his pupils apt and intelligent scholars. A good test of his capacity as a teacher, judging from results, was that no boy who went up from the District of Johnstown Grammar School, whilst he was the master, to pass the Law Society, was plucked. After leaving Canada, he resumed his profession as a teacher in the State of Indiana, and died there within the last ten or twelve years. Shortly after his death, his pupils there met and passed highly eulogistic resolutions as to his acquirements as a scholar and skill as a teacher.

The names of the three brothers he first refers to were in the order of their ages, Stewart, Okill, and Ormond Jones. The eldest became a barrister-at-law, and died many years ago at London, in Upper Canada. Okill had the Furnace Falls mills and property, which he managed for some few years, and died in Brockville, I think at his brother Ormond's house. Ormond, your readers know, is still living, and is the Registrar for the County of Leeds. The present Chief Justice Richards was for several years a pupil of the school, and continued to attend it until Mr. Elms resigned the situation. He was succeeded for a short time by the Rev. Mr. Padfield, who I believe is now living at Burford. Hon. Stephen Richards, Q. C., did not attend the Grammar School whilst Mr. Elms was