

THE HON. LIEUT.-COL. J. G. BLANCHET, M.D.,

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

DR. BLANCHET is a descendant of an old French family which settled in this country at an early period of our history, and has ever since resided in the Province of Quebec. His father was the late Louis Blanchet, of St. Pierre, Rivière du Sud, and he himself was born there on the 7th of June, 1829. He received his education at the Quebec Seminary, and at the Ste. Anne College. He chose to devote himself to the medical profession, and upon completing his professional studies he settled down to practice as a physician at the town of Lévis—commonly known as Point Lévi—on the southern shore of the St. Lawrence River, opposite Quebec. He enjoyed a successful professional career, and acquired much popularity among his fellow-townsmen, who elected him Mayor of the town on six different occasions. In the month of August, 1850, he married Emilie, daughter of M. G. D. Balzaretto, of Milan, in Italy.

In politics Dr. Blanchet has always acted with the Conservative Party. He first aspired to political honours in 1857, when he unsuccessfully contested the representation of the town of Lévis in the Canadian Assembly. At the general election of 1861 he made the attempt a second time, and was successful. He thenceforth represented Lévis in the Assembly until Confederation. At the first general election under the Union he was returned by accla-

mation to the House of Commons by his old constituents in Lévis; and at the election for the Local Legislature of the Province of Quebec he was also returned at the head of the poll for Lévis. Dual representation was then permissible, and Dr. Blanchet occupied a seat in both Legislatures until the passing of the Act prohibiting such a course in 1874, when he resigned his seat in the Commons in order to remain in the Local Assembly, in which he had ever since the meeting of the first Parliament after the Union occupied the position of Speaker. At the general election held in the following year (1875) for the Local Parliament he was defeated. During the same year the Hon. Telesphore Fournier, the representative of the county of Bellechasse in the House of Commons, was raised to the Bench of the Supreme Court, and a vacancy was thus left in the representation of that constituency. Dr. Blanchet presented himself to the electors, and was returned on the 23rd of November. He sat for Bellechasse until the close of the Third Parliament. At the general election held on the 17th of September, 1878, he offered himself as a candidate for the Commons to the electors of Lévis, in opposition to Mr. L. H. Frechette, whom he defeated by a majority of 118 votes. He now sits in the House for Lévis. Upon the assembling of the Fourth Parliament on the 13th of February, 1879, he was nominated by Sir John Macdonald, the