

ed his seat for the city of Hamilton and left Canada for England, designing to make it his permanent residence. In 1859, having previously received the rank of Baronet, he became a candidate for the town of Brighton, but was defeated by a considerable majority; and his health being improved, he returned to Canada soon afterwards. On the retirement of Col. Prince from the Western Division in 1860, Sir Allan became a candidate for a seat in the Legislative Council, for that constituency, and was elected by a small majority over Mr. James Dougall. After that event he became reconciled to Mr. J. A. McDonald, the leader of the Upper Canada section of the Government, and at the opening of the late session was chosen the first elective Speaker of the Legislative Council, by a small majority over Mr. Alex. Campbell, of Kingston.

This brief sketch of Sir Allan's career exhibits him in a prominent and even distinguished position, as a soldier, a lawyer and politician. He possessed great courage, activity and self-confidence, which gave him extraordinary force of character. He had a handsome person, a pleasing address, a tact which never failed him in any position, or under any circumstances. Not remarkable either as a student or as a speaker, he may, nevertheless, be fairly described as a successful lawyer. Not eminent for his knowledge of political economy, or the principles which ought to guide the rulers of nations, he was, nevertheless, an influential politician. We do not know that he ever studied Jomini, but he was a successful soldier according to his opportunities. His courage, activity and self-confidence, abundant tact, and restive shrewdness, carried him through difficulties which would have baffled men much more highly endowed in intellect and education.

He was a man of liberal tastes, upon which he set but slight restraints. His house near Hamilton, named Dundurn, after the residence of his grandfather in the Scottish Highlands, was the most pretentious building in Western Canada at the time it was erected, and there Sir Allan displayed a liberal hospitality, which secured him many friends and much political and social influence.

Sir Allan married first, on the 6th May, 1821 Elizabeth, daughter of Lieut. Daniel Brooke, who died in 1825; by whom he had one son and one daughter. The former died in 1831, the latter (Ann Jane) married in 1849 Assistant Commissary General Davenport. Sir Allan MacNab married secondly in 1831, Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. Sheriff Stewart of the Johnstown district, who died in 1846, by whom he had two daughters, the eldest of whom (Sophia) married in November, 1835, Right Hon. Viscount Bury, eldest son of the Earl of Albemarle; now a member of the House of Commons, and an officer of Her Majesty's household. The younger married in 1861, a son of Sir Dominick Daly, Governor of South Australia.

Sir Allan's death leaves a vacancy in the Western Division, and the Speakership of the Legislative Council. It leaves a larger vacancy in the list of public men. A permanent and active leader in the affairs of the Province, associated with all the great events of the last half century, his departure will be felt deeply by thousands, who took part in the same events and witnessed the same scenes.—*Globe*.

#### LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

—Under the usual heading will be found the announcement of the death of William Grant Sewell, Esquire, Advocate, son of Sheriff Sewell of this city. The deceased had been, for a number of years, connected with several of the leading New York journals, and had contributed extensively to many of the most popular American periodicals. He was a gentleman of strong literary taste, a persevering student, and a graceful writer. His last and greatest work, "The Ordeal of free Labor in the West Indies," a treatise on the results of negro emancipation, written from personal observation, and published we believe in 1861, had established his reputation as an accomplished writer. He will be long regretted by a numerous circle of personal friends, to whom his amiable manners had endeared him, while thousands to whom he was known through his works will mourn the early death of one before whom a brilliant literary career had just opened.—*Morning Chronicle*.

—The students of Canadian History will learn with satisfaction, that the Historical Society of Montreal contemplates the publication, in book form, of two important MS narratives of the American invasion of Canada in 1775. These documents form part of a valuable collection of manuscripts made by the late Commander Viger, and are enriched with copious notes and commentaries by the learned gentleman himself. The period is a very interesting one to the student, and the causes, events, and objects of the war, have been differently stated by American and Canadian authors.

—The following interesting note we give as bringing out a fact new to most of our readers in connection with the early history of Canada.

My dear Sir,—The other day you appeared to take some interest in the fact that Rabelais had mentioned "Canada." The reference is to be found in *Liv. iv, ch. 2*. Pantagruel discovered the "isle de Medamothi" the circuit of which "n'estoyt moins grand que de Canada." The first two books were printed for the first time, so far as is known, in 1535 (the year Cartier discovered Canada) but the fourth book, or I should rather say the first eleven chapters of it, only appeared in 1547. This tends to confirm Garneau's opinion, which however could hardly be doubted, that the name of Canada is of native and not European origin, for we

find it no where prior to Cartier's discovery, but immediately afterwards it is made a point of comparison and the country is alluded to as the wonder of the day.

Yours faithfully,

T. K. R.

#### SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

—A paper was read last month by the Rev. Dr. Honeyman, "On the geology of the Gold Fields of Nova Scotia," before the Royal Geological Society. The strata passed through from Lunenburg and Allan's farms to Mount Uniacke, and thence onward in the same direction were described, the paper being prefaced by an interesting sketch of the history of the discovery and working of gold in the province. In the course of the discussion which followed, Sir W. Logan said that he believed the granites of Nova Scotia to be of Devonian age; they had the same in Canada. In Canada it was certainly of newer age than that which they gave to the gold-bearing rocks; this formation is traceable through Maine to New Brunswick, and thence westward. They had found gold in Canada, and at the International Exhibition they had now two nuggets, weighing respectively 8 and 4 ozs. He would be glad if Dr. Honeyman could tell them whether chrome iron has been found in the gold-bearing rocks of Nova Scotia, because he had observed that it was usually found in rocks of that character.—Sir R. Murchison thought that gold was seldom found in great or even appreciable quantities except in the Lower Silurian rocks; he might say between the bottom of the Lower Silurian and the end of the palaeozoic. Dr. Honeyman said that he had received the specimens of serpentine from Dr. Dawson, and they were said to have been got from that region. He did not know that there was any chrome iron; the gold principally occurred in the chloritic slates.—The President said it was contended that the gold-bearing drifts were derived from Lower Silurian strata, but the question was were they spread out over countries where the Lower Silurian did not occur?—Sir William Logan thought the drifts were, no doubt, derived from the Lower Silurian.—The President was bound to admit that there was much in the hypothesis that gold is found in the Lower Silurian formation, and there might be something to be learnt in connection with them from the hypothesis propounded by the author of "Ore in Mineral Veins."

The third paper by Mr. J. W. Salter, comprising notes on some fossil crustacea from the lower coal measures of Nova Scotia, on Eurypterus, and on some Tracks of Crustacea in the Lower Silurian Rocks, was of an exceedingly interesting character but as it was profusely illustrated a satisfactory abstract is scarcely possible. An interesting discussion followed, at the conclusion of which the President observed that some of the speakers had apparently somewhat misunderstood Darwin's hypothesis, which he considered supposed change but not necessarily progression.—The meeting then separated.—*U. C. Journal of Arts*.

—Another discovery threatens to change our railway plan, perhaps our railway system. M. Girard, under the patronage of the Emperor, has constructed an experimental railway, on which the carriages are impelled after the manner of a sledge. The runners of the sledges rest on a species of hollow clogs, between which and the rails water is introduced. Thus the carriages slide on a thin layer of water, and friction is almost annihilated. The success of the experimental railway is stated to be so decided that the Emperor has appointed a commission to report on the system.—*Athenaeum*.

—The value of mica depends upon the size of the sheets and their transparency; the clear, rubytinged being the finest, and the cloudy grey the least valuable. With regard to the mica from British possessions, it appears that the sale of Canadian has been much damaged through the carelessness of those shipping it. The first parcel, of about 1 ton, which Messrs. Nash and Lienard received was sold at 2s. 1d. per lb.; and the second, of about 1 ton, realised 2s. Since this the quality has not been kept up; the third parcel, of about 1 ton, required careful sorting after arriving in this country, to render it marketable at all, and then sold one-half at 2s. and the remainder at 7d., the nett amount cleared and transmitted to Canada being only 147l., or about 1s. 1d. per lb. The same firm has since undertaken to import mica from Calcutta, and the quality is so much superior to that from Canada that the latter is now saleable only at a very low price. The Calcutta mica is indeed, about equal to that from Siberia, and is at present readily saleable at from 2s. 6d. to 4s per lb. according to quality, and the quantity taken. Owing to varying quality the price of mica varies considerably; Canada mica will range from 3d. to 2s., and Calcutta from 6d. to 4s., lb.—*Mining Journal*.

—Mr. Crookes, whose discovery eighteen months ago of thallium by the spectroscope we have already announced, has since prepared numerous compounds of it, some samples of which are to be seen in the Chemical department of the International Exhibition. We were shown some time since a specimen in its pure metallic state, obtained by Mr. Crookes, but as no detailed statement of its characters, nor of the nature and actions of its salts, have been as yet published, although a short abstract has been displayed with the specimens since the opening of the Exhibition, it may be interesting to our readers to know what this new element—the only one discovered by an English chemist since Sir Humphrey Davy's detection of the metallic bases of the alkalies—is