

once called upon to assume the duties of a good citizen by taking up the defence of both new Queen and country in the call to arms of the loyalists of '37. Fortunately, his share of the fighting was confined to repelling the attacks of Jack Frost on the Home Guard doing cold sentry-go, and assisting to allay the panic which threatened the breasts of many of Montreal's hurriedly assembled defenders.

He early formed the connection as clerk with the old firm of Robert Campbell & Co., importers of dry goods, carpets, etc., which he retained in various capacities up to partner, until, in 1859, he severed his connection to establish himself in the new departure of an exclusive carpet business both in Montreal and Toronto. His sterling reputation even then stood him better than large capital with English manufacturers, who were liberal in proffers of all needed credit, and it was his life-boast that every penny then and after thus supplied in goods was fully paid in cash. The Toronto branch was eventually given up, and resources and energy concentrated in Montreal. In 1876 the partnership of James Baylis & Son was formed, which continued till, in 1896, his failing health determined him to seek rest in retirement, and the expediency of continuing the business not being apparent, the firm was voluntarily wound up by mutual agreement. His active and optimistic nature, unfortunately, however, led him into large railway enterprises in the seventies, which are now the success for others his best efforts and highest hopes failed to ensure to him ; and the Huron and Ontario Ship Canal project, in which he was earlier associated with the original promoters, who were compelled to abandon it, is even now among the possibilities for the betterment of Canada's trade highways.

Mr. Baylis early identified himself with movements for the good of the community, and took part in their public discussion, his life story being bound up with that of his loved city. Among his first efforts was a resolution proposed to his fellow-members of the Mechanics' Institute in the early forties, welcoming the then newly-arrived Governor-General, and he was one of the moving spirits in the agitation about the same time for the early closing of shops at eight o'clock (!) and the then startling innovation of the Saturday half-holiday.