

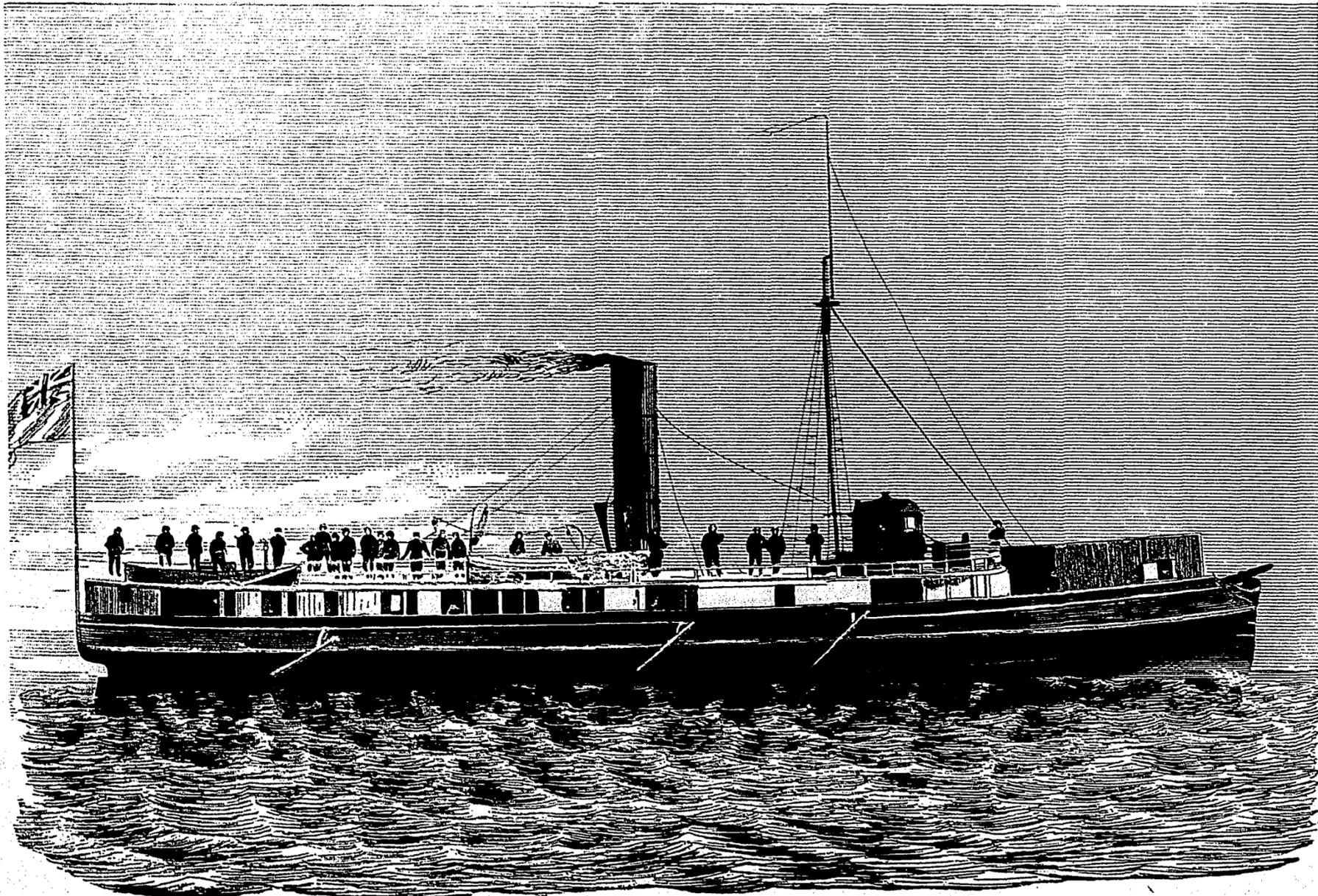
P O R T R A I T G A L L E R Y .

ment, on the 10th of August, 1857, Mr. Sandfield Macdonald, as the Government candidate, was elected to the Speakership. His already ripe Parliamentary experience, and the attention he had given to constitutional questions and Parliamentary practice, well qualified him for this distinguished office, which he filled with honour to himself and satisfaction to both sides of the House. This Parliament sat for two sessions, and assembled for the third time in June 1854, when the Government, being defeated on the address, advised a dissolution, and the Assembly was at once summoned by the Governor-General to attend the Council Chamber for prorogation. Mr. Macdonald's address on that occasion was characteristic. As, according to Parliamentary custom, the Speaker makes a brief address to the Governor-General at the close of the session; and as according to the same custom the passage of one act at least is required to constitute a session in a Parliamentary sense, Mr. Macdonald might well have been silent at the bar of the council without disrespect; but, on the contrary, he chose to tell His Excellency that they had been unable to fulfil these conditions of a session because of His Excellency's summoning them for prorogation; but that their failure to return an answer to his speech arose from no want of respect for him, or the Queen, whom he represented. This document excited the liveliest feelings of interest throughout the Province. By some it was construed as a respectful snub to the Governor-General for dissolving the House without waiting for an answer to his speech; by others as a damaging blow aimed at Ministers; but the probability is that it was simply the assertion of the usages and the dignity of Parliament, for which Mr. Macdonald is a great stickler, and of which, as Speaker, he was then the guar-



HON. PIERRE J. O. CHAUVEAU, LL. D., Q. C. From a photograph by Notman.—SEE PAGE 442.

dian; at all events, Mr. Macdonald was very generally applauded for it by all parties. At the first meeting of the new Parliament in September, Mr. Macdonald voted against the Government, and was a steady opponent of the succeeding coalition throughout its long career. In the short lived Brown-Dorion administration of 1858, he held the office of Attorney-General for Upper Canada, though on many points he was at variance with the Western Reform party; and a short time after that a disagreement between himself and Mr. Brown as to the policy of that administration, giving rise to a newspaper discussion in which Mr. Macdonald was generally conceded to have had the best of it, led to a political if not a personal estrangement between them. As a consequence of this estrangement a Reform candidate was started in Cornwall at the General Election of 1861, who had the support of the *Globe* in opposition to the Hon. J. S. Macdonald. The latter was returned, of course, and it happened that Mr. Brown himself was defeated in Toronto at the same time. Mr. Brown's defeat was gratefully received by Mr. Macdonald and other leading Reformers of comparatively moderate views; and when in May, 1862, the Cartier-Macdonald government was defeated, no one was surprised to learn that the Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald had been sent for to form a Government. In fact it had already been said "if one Macdonald will not do they will try another;" and that trial would have been, in all probability, a much greater success had not Mr. Brown returned to Parliament the following year. The defeat of Col. Lyson's Militia Bill—a defeat brought about by the friends of the Government—was hardly fair ground for resigning, had not the ministry felt itself too weak in other respects to carry on the Government successfully; in fact, the Hon. J. S.



THE GUNBOAT "RESCUE." From a photograph by Ferguson.—SEE PAGE 443.