

PREFACE.

General Elections for the Commons and six of the Provincial Legislatures have created many changes in the *personnel* of the Canadian political world since the last appearance of the Companion in 1889. In the general election of 5 March, 1891, 82 members were elected to the House of Commons who were not in the previous Parliament, and of these, 69 were elected for the first time. The result of that election and the six Provincial general elections is that new blood, to the extent of 203 members, has been introduced into our legislatures.

The present year has witnessed the removal by death of the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, for many years the First Minister in Canada. He was succeeded in that high office by the Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, who, in forming his Administration, retained all the members of the late Government and they continue to hold the same portfolios.

In Prince Edward Island the Government of Hon. Neil McLeod gave place on 21 April, 1891, to a Liberal Administration, led by Hon. Fred. Peters.

The Editor has sought to increase the usefulness of the Companion as a work of reference, by including in the present edition, a list of the Elections to the Commons which are contested; tables showing dates of the opening,