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HON. W. A. DART,
U. S. CONSUL-GENERAL FOR CANADA.

OUR readers will be glad to have the portrait and a brief biographical sketch of the present U. S. Consul-General for the British American Provinces. The intimate relationships, both social and commercial, existing between the Provinces and the United States, relationships extending from Newfoundland to New Westminster, render his office one of great delicacy and importance. Throughout British North America there are twenty Consuls and sixty Vice-Consuls and Consular agents, whose official communications have to be made to the Consul-General. It is therefore of the utmost consequence that this office should only be conferred upon men of high social position, unblemished character and acknowledged ability, and in the person of Mr. Dart these attributes are happily blended.

Notwithstanding his New England ancestry, running back for some nine or ten generations, Mr. Dart has the full portly figure and genial bearing of an English country gentleman. In official and social intercourse he is affable and courteous, and we believe studies earnestly to maintain friendly feelings between the two countries. His promotion to the responsible position he now holds has been well earned by long and faithful services, official and political, to his party, and President Grant in selecting him for the high office paid a fitting compliment to this country, in that he selected a gentleman of such standing, and one so well able to sustain the dignity of the nation he represents and to respect the feelings of those to whose midst he is accredited. Mr. Dart's appointment was welcomed in Canada, and we are sure his retirement would be viewed with regret.

He can lay claim to an ancient and honourable pedigree, one of his ancestors having sailed from England in or about the year 1552, bringing with him to America the original patent from the Crown for the Township of New London, Connecticut; and Mrs. Dart counts on her ancestral roll the names of Ethan Allen of Revolutionary fame, and Gov. Winslow of the "May Flower," which brought over to Newfoundland the "Pilgrims" immor-

talised by the poet Longfellow. Mr. Dart was born at Potsdam, St. Laurence Co., in the State of New York, in the year 1814. He was educated at St. Laurence Academy in that State, studied his profession in the office of his future father-in-law, Hon. Hiram Allen, at Potsdam, and in 1840 was admitted to practice at the bar, and opened an office at Potsdam. His devotion to his profession, added to a cautious, industrious and correct character, soon attracted the attention of the future Governor of

the opportunity of meeting many of the great men of the period, some of whom have written their names on the scroll of their country's greatness, and whom he also met in political debate and in warm and earnest discussion on various questions of State policy. His speeches upon these questions while in the Senate, and particularly those bearing upon the internal development of the State by grants for her canals and railways, were able and influential, and were marked by a wise, liberal, and far-

seeing policy; while he was earnest and uncompromising in his opposition and denunciation of every species of partial, unjust and corrupt legislation, and to the rings, ring-masters and lobbyists by and through whose influence such legislation is effected. He held the position of State Senator till 1852, when he again returned to Potsdam and resumed the practice of law, and for several years devoted himself almost exclusively to the practice of his profession.

In 1861 Mr. Dart, by unremitting study and an extensive practice, had achieved for himself the deserved reputation of being an able and successful lawyer; more even than this, he had so conducted himself professionally and otherwise, as to be recognised by political opponents as well as friends as a man fit to be trusted and honoured; and in the year last named, by the solicitations of his political party and his personal friends, and the recommendation of the members of Congress from his State, in the House of Representatives, and in the Senate of the United States at Washington, he was appointed by President Lincoln United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, which comprised all of the State, except the counties bordering upon the Hudson River south of Albany, the city of New York and Long

Island; and this appointment was unanimously confirmed by the Senate without reference to Committee. Through the trying times of the Rebellion he laboured steadfastly and earnestly at his post, and although his duties were most exhaustive he was ever watchful and ready. In 1865 he was re-appointed upon President Lincoln's re-election, but was dismissed by President Johnson, with hundreds of others, for refusing to support unreservedly the policy of his administration. The zeal and ability



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FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN.

the State, the Hon. Silas Wright, who patronised the young lawyer, and gave many proofs of his interest by recommending him to clients. In 1845 his talents and arguments as a lawyer procured him the appointment of District Attorney for the County of St. Laurence, which position he held until 1848.

In 1849 his political friends testified their confidence in him by electing him to the honourable position of State Senator. At the Capital of his State, at Albany, he had