



MONTREAL RESIDENCE OF HON. J. J. C. ABBOTT.

HON. J. J. C. ABBOTT, PREMIER OF CANADA.

The Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, Q.C., our new Premier, is a native of this province, having been born in 1821 at St. Andrews, in the County of Argenteuil, which he so long represented in Parliament. His father was the Rev. Joseph Abbott, M.A., first Anglican incumbent of St. Andrews, who had come to Canada in 1818 as a missionary. He was a man of considerable attainments, and as a writer won a reputation among Canada's literary pioneers. He married Harriet, daughter of the Rev. Richard Bradford, first rector of Chatham, Argenteuil County. Mr. Abbott, the oldest of the family, after a careful training under his father's supervision, entered McGill College, where he graduated as B.C.L., and in 1847 he was called to the Bar of Lower Canada. In 1859 he began his political career as representative of his native county in the Legislature of United Canada, a position which he retained till the inauguration of the federal regime. In 1862 he became Solicitor-General in the Macdonald-Sicotte Government. In 1867 he was returned by Argenteuil as its member in the Dominion House of Commons, in which important body he served until 1874. During the six following years Mr. Abbott was unassociated with public life. He had already won a high position both as a lawyer and legislator. To him was due the Insolvent Act of 1864, the principle of which has been the foundation of all subsequent reforms in the bankruptcy law. His annotated manual of the act was so lucid and satisfactory to inquirers that Mr. Abbott was ever after recognized by the commercial community as a man of clear and logical mind whose opinion on business matters could be implicitly relied upon. The Jury Consolidation Act for Lower Canada and other important measures confirmed this

reputation. His practice has always been extremely large. He has been legal adviser to some of the great corporations that have helped to build up Canada, especially the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and has been entrusted with some critical missions affecting the welfare of the country. In 1879 he accompanied Sir Hector Langevin to Great Britain in relation to the *Letellier coup d'état*, as it was called—an event which, both for its political and constitutional bearings, is among the most memorable in our later history. Ten years later he was appointed a Commissioner to negotiate with Australia as to closer commercial relations with Canada. Meanwhile, Mr. Abbott had been for two years—1887-88 and 1888-89—Mayor of Montreal, having been called to that high position, mainly that the city might have the benefit of his legal lore in the formulation of its new charter. In May, 1887, he was invited by Sir John Macdonald to enter the cabinet, without portfolio, and since then he has been the spokesman of the Government in the Senate—a position for which he is admirably adapted. In 1849 the Hon. Mr. Abbott married Miss May Bethune, daughter of the late Very Rev. John Bethune, for over half a century Rector, and for many years Dean, of Montreal, by whom he has several children. Immediately following the death and burial of Sir John Macdonald, His Excellency the Governor General, with the advice of Sir John Thompson, invited Mr. Abbott to assume

the responsible position of Premier, and on the 15th June he was able to announce his success in organizing a cabinet; although being in the disadvantageous position of occupying a seat in the Senate only, and not in the Commons, where skill and leadership is so essential, he retains the professed loyalty of the entire Conservative party, and will, without doubt, maintain the ascendancy of his party and carry on good government in the country for many a month yet. It is noteworthy that while the first two Prime Ministers since confederation were natives of Scotland, the present Premier is a Canadian born and bred. As leader of the Government in the Senate, an enormous amount of work devolved upon him in handling the various measures and explaining their details, all of which were carried through in a most satisfactory manner, his excellent legal training giving him an unusual advantage in the mastery and explanation of the various details of the measures proposed. Our engraving is from a photograph kindly supplied by Messrs. Wm. Notman & Son, Montreal.

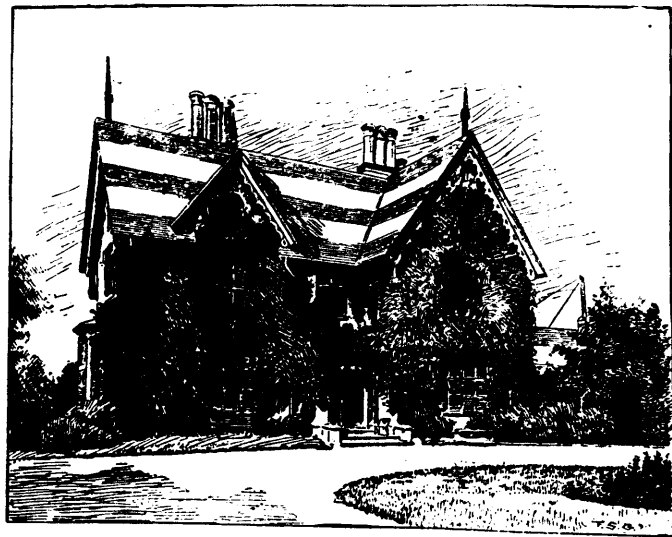
A False Report Corrected.

The *Army and Navy Gazette*, which assumes to be an authority on military affairs, gives prominence to an endorsement of a mischievous report circulated in London this week that Lord Wolseley has been temporarily taken from his command of the Irish forces and was to be sent to Canada. In the present state of public opinion this report created some stir, so the correspondent made an enquiry at the War Office to-day. He is authorized to say on the best authority, that the facts are as follows:—Lord Wolseley received an invitation from Sir George Stephen to go to Canada for salmon fishing. He applied for leave, but was informed that it would not be convenient to allow him to go at present, in view of the coming redistribution of the military forces in Ireland. This leaked out at the Horse Guards and gave rise to the false report.—[EX.]

E. A. Freeman, Regius Professor of Modern History at the University of Oxford, writes a popular article in the July number of the *North American Review*, which will do much to dispel many misconceptions which exist as to the true functions of the English Universities.

NOTE.

We will pay twenty cents each for a limited number of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED of 9th May, 1891, if complete and in good condition.



EARNSLIFFE, RECENTLY LEASED TO HON. J. J. C. ABBOTT.

Answer to Correspondent.

F. G. SMITH.—Motto is to be at head of first page of story, and also on outside of a sealed envelope, to be sent with story, inside of which must be a slip of paper with name and address of author. Writer's name is not to appear on MS.