

man ; no wall or brook ever stopped him when he was on horseback. He danced enormously, like most of the English youths of the day, and was always guided by personal appearance in his choice of partners. The lecture terminated with an allusion to the friendly relations between Great Britain and the United States, which he thought the Prince's visit would still further establish.

### V.—ANECDOTES OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

#### THE QUEEN'S RESPECT FOR THE MEMORY OF HER DRESSING MAID.

The Queen, while lately in Edinburgh, attended by an equerry and a lady in waiting, drove to a cemetery in the neighbourhood of the Scottish capital, to visit the grave of a young Italian dressing maid, who seems to have won, to a remarkable degree, the affection of her royal mistress. Whereupon an English paper says:—"England's Queen paying the heart's homage at the tomb of a humble domestic ! The spectacle was one of affecting interest, and will strike into the deepest recesses of the loyal hearts of Victoria's subjects."

#### THE QUEEN'S PROMISE TO THE SCOTCH LASSIE FULFILLED.

A correspondent of the *Aberdeen Free Press*, near Balmoral, states that several years ago Her Majesty on leaving her Highland residence for the season, promised to Jenny —, daughter of a cotter in the vicinity, to bring a toy to her next year. During the interval some very important State affairs passed and the Queen was over in France on a visit to the Emperor. The promise was all-but forgotten on the one side—that of the Highland girl ; not so on the other, for on arriving at Balmoral next season, her Majesty presented the humble lassie with the promised toy, remarking, "See, I have not forgotten you."

#### THE QUEEN CONFERS KNIGHTHOOD ON A COLORED MAN.

The Queen of England has recently honoured herself by conferring an unexpected honour upon one of the officers of the Colonial Government ; an honour such as never before was given by any British sovereign to such a British subject. In the Island of Jamaica, there has lived during the last sixty years a man whose life both in private and public has been singularly disinterested, unselfish, and heroic ; who in the beginning of his career, gave evidence of fine literary abilities ; but who earned his first title to the gratitude of good men, not by these, but by advocating, at the hazard of his life, a great and noble cause, in behalf of which, in the days of its early struggles, he brought upon himself an indictment for high treason, and narrowly escaped the scaffold ; and in behalf of which, in the more prosperous years which have succeeded, he has laboured incessantly for a more complete recognition before the world of the social and civil rights of his own race. He is an old man who has seen much service, and on whose gray head has now graciously fallen, from the Queen's hand, the honour of knighthood. We only add here that he is a negro ; one of the same blood with those whom our Chief Justice declares to have no rights which white men are bound to respect ; one of the same material of common human nature with those who are bought and sold as merchandize in Richmond and New Orleans ; one who has no more title to be called a man than if he had come from Congo in a slave ship ; but at the same time one whom the Queen of the first empire of the globe has found fit to welcome to the circle of her nobility, and whom the peers of her realm—styled "the first gentlemen of Europe"—are made to recognize as their equal, and to salute hereafter as Sir Edward Jordon, Knight of the Order of the Bath. Mr. Samuel Cockburn, a gentleman of color, and a Creole, of the Island of St. Granada, been appointed Administrator of the Government of Montserrat. —*American Paper.*

## VI. Biographical Sketches.

### No. 20.—SIR GEORGE SIMPSON, K.C.B.

In recording the death of one who occupied a high position amongst us, and who commanded, we may say, universal respect, we are anxious to gratify the natural wish of the public to know something of the personal history and career of the late Governor of Hudson's Bay. Sir George Simpson was born in Scotland, in the County of Ross, where he passed his youth. In the year 1809, he removed to London, and was engaged in commercial pursuits for the succeeding eleven years, during which period he was brought into communication with the late Earl of Selkirk, then the leading spirit of the Hudson's Bay Company, and, at the same time, engaged in philanthropic schemes for colonizing the territory under their control. At this period, the rivalry between the Hudson's Bay Company and the North-West Company of Canada was at its height,

and the former Company very wisely made choice of the subject of this memoir to take a leading part in the fur trade. Mr. George Simpson sailed from England for New York in February, 1820, and in May following left Montreal for the Far West, spending his first winter at Arthabasca Lake, where he endured much privation, and carried on the competition with the North-West Company with the energy and success which characterised all his undertakings. The disastrous competition was terminated the following year by the coalition of the two companies, when Mr. Simpson was appointed Governor of the Northern Department, and subsequently Governor-in-Chief of Rupert's Land and the general superintendent of all the Hudson's Bay Company's affairs in North America. On attaining this position, the peculiar talents of the Governor became conspicuous ; he reconciled conflicting interests, abated personal jealousies, and established, by firmness and urbanity, a controlling influence which he retained to the last.

Sir George Simpson took great interest in the cause of geographical discoveries on the northern coast of this continent ; and to his admirable selection of leaders and skilful arrangements are due the successful expeditions under Messrs. Dease and Simpson in 1834-8, Dr. Rae in 1845-'53, and Messrs. Anderson and Stewart in 1855. For these services, and as a mark of general approbation, Her Majesty was pleased to confer the honor of knighthood on Mr. (thenceforward Sir George) Simpson ; soon after which he set out on his celebrated overland journey round the world, of which he subsequently published a very interesting narrative.

Sir George has latterly resided almost entirely at Lachine, near which village is situated the beautiful Isle Dorval, from whence, but a few days ago, came off the canoe expedition given by the Hudson's Bay Company to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The last public act of Sir George Simpson's long and active life was to receive as a guest the heir apparent to the throne of England ; and it must be gratifying to his family and friends to know that the Prince graciously acknowledged the attentions shown to him by Sir George, and that the noble Duke who presides over the Colonial Department availed himself of the opportunity afforded by personal communication to express the high opinion entertained by himself and Her Majesty's Imperial advisers of Sir George's long continued, skilful and successful administration of one of the most extensive provinces of the British Empire. —*Montreal Herald.*

### No. 21.—THE HON. PETER MCGILL.

Death has been busy of late among the leading men of Montreal. Within a few months the Hon. John Molson and Sir George Simpson have been borne to their last resting place, and to-day we have to perform the mournful duty of announcing the decease of the Hon. Peter McGill. Few men have been longer in business in Montreal, few have occupied a more prominent position among her public men, and none, we venture to say, have been more beloved. Mr. McGill was born in Galloway, at Newton Stewart we believe, in August, 1789, and was in his 72nd year at the time of his decease. He came to this country in the year 1808, and has been a resident here fifty-two years. He then bore the name of McCutcheon. He became a clerk in the counting-house of Messrs. Parker, Gerrard, Ogilvy and Co. Later he entered into business on his own account as a member of the firm of Porteous, Hancox, McCutcheon, and Cringan. In 1819 he became a director of the Bank of Montreal. In 1824, upon the decease of his uncle, the Hon. John McGill, a member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada, he became heir to his large estates in the Western Province, and assumed his name. About the same time he formed a new business connection with Mr. Dowie, of Liverpool, and with him carried on business for some years as McGill & Dowie, the name of the firm being subsequently changed to Peter McGill & Co. In good or bad times alike the credit of the house was unimpeachable. In 1830 Mr. McGill became Vice-President of the Bank of Montreal, and in 1834 President, an office which he held for 26 years—until June last. In 1832 he was called to the Legislative Council of Lower Canada, and in 1838 became an Executive Councillor also. After the suspension of the Constitution in 1837 he was made a member of the Special Council to which were entrusted *pro tempore* the duties of legislation, and on the subsequent restoration of the Constitution and union of the Provinces was made a Legislative Councillor for United Canada. In 1843 he was offered the Speakership of that body by Lord Metcalfe. The Hon. Messrs. Viger and Quesnel waited upon him at the time and stated his acceptance would be received with favor by the French Canadian members of the Council. The offer was then declined for private reasons, but was accepted in 1847 when offered by Lord Elgin with a seat in the Cabinet, and was held till 1848, when Mr. McGill returned with his colleagues of the Conservative Government. In 1836 he was elected President of the Constitutional Society, and continued to serve in that capacity during the years of strife which followed. During the