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No. 50.—HON. W. P. HOWLAND, C. B.
LIEUT.-GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO.

The work of confederating the British American Provinces was one of compromise among the statesmen, the political parties and the people concerned. Nobody, perhaps, got exactly what he wanted; no Province secured the full realization of its own views; no political party was able to put its hand upon the scheme, as first framed at Quebec in 1864, or as subsequently re-modelled in London in 1866-67, and say, "this is exactly what we wanted." Concessions were made to Conservative opinion and to Reform opinion; to Protestant feeling and to Catholic feeling; to the necessities of the several Provinces according to geographical or other reasons; and in a great degree to the divergent views on constitutional government held by the representative men who took part in the negotiations. When, therefore, one who was a leading party to the inception of the scheme claimed that those who had so far matured it as to fit it for the consideration and judgment of the Canadian Legislature, claimed that its framers had deserved well of their country for the political and personal sacrifices they had made in the cause of general harmony, he claimed no more than was due to him and his colleagues, and no more than was, at the time, freely accorded by their supporters. Mr. Howland, whose portrait we give on this page, was not a member of the Coalition Government as formed in June 1864, and, consequently, was not present either at the Charlottetown Convention which assembled on the 1st September of that year, or at the famous Quebec Conference that met, on the 10th of the following month, at which, during eighteen days' deliberation, the "Seventy-two resolutions" were agreed to. He was, however, an active and most influential supporter of the Reform wing of the Coalition; and on the elevation of the Hon. Mr. Mowat to the Bench in Nov. 1864, succeeded that gentleman as Postmaster-General, and a member of the Executive Council. From that time, and up to about a year after the Union Act went into force, he continued to be a member of the Govern-

ment; he was also one of the delegates on behalf of Upper Canada at the London Conference in 1866-67, and has, thus, every claim to be ranked among the "fathers" of British American Union, to the accomplishment of which, by his personal and political influence, he contributed a great deal, not merely in its early stages, but what was of perhaps very much more consequence, to its

rank, having been for some time President of the Toronto Board of Trade. As a warm supporter of the Reform party as led by Mr. Brown after the disruption in its rank in 1852, Mr. Howland was regarded by the Reformers as an eligible candidate for public life; but it was not until the general election of 1857 that he consented to enter the lists as a candidate for Parliamentary

honours. In that year he was elected to represent the West Riding of the county of York (the metropolitan county of Upper Canada), and continued to sit for the same constituency until his elevation to the Lieut.-Governorship of Ontario, when he was succeeded in the representation of the Riding by Mr. Amos Wright, the sitting member. In Parliament, though a steady supporter of the Reform party, Mr. Howland was by no means demonstrative in enforcing his views, and was doubtless valued as a party man chiefly because of his respectability and personal influence. When the Reform party came into power in May 1862, under the leadership of Hon. Messrs. J. S. Macdonald and Sicotte, Mr. Howland was offered, and accepted, the office of Minister of Finance, which he held for a year, and was then succeeded by Hon. Mr. Holtton in the Macdonald-Dorion Cabinet at that time formed, in which Mr. Howland was assigned the office of Receiver-General. He held this position until the defeat of the Government in March 1864, and did not return to office until November of the same year, when the then Postmaster-General, the Hon. Mr. Mowat, having been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Upper Canada, Mr. Howland was



HON. W. P. HOWLAND, C. B. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN & FRASER.

going harmoniously into working order, after the Imperial Parliament had given sanction to its legal existence.

William Pearce Howland was born at Kinderhook, on the Hudson river, New York State, and came to Canada with his family when quite a youth, more than thirty years ago. He engaged in commercial pursuits, and by his industry and business talents, in time became one of the leading wholesale merchants of Toronto, with large interests in the produce, milling, and other branches of trade. Among his commercial friends he held a high

rank, having been for some time President of the Toronto Board of Trade. As a warm supporter of the Reform party as led by Mr. Brown after the disruption in its rank in 1852, Mr. Howland was regarded by the Reformers as an eligible candidate for public life; but it was not until the general election of 1857 that he consented to enter the lists as a candidate for Parliamentary honours. In that year he was elected to represent the West Riding of the county of York (the metropolitan county of Upper Canada), and continued to sit for the same constituency until his elevation to the Lieut.-Governorship of Ontario, when he was succeeded in the representation of the Riding by Mr. Amos Wright, the sitting member. In Parliament, though a steady supporter of the Reform party, Mr. Howland was by no means demonstrative in enforcing his views, and was doubtless valued as a party man chiefly because of his respectability and personal influence. When the Reform party came into power in May 1862, under the leadership of Hon. Messrs. J. S. Macdonald and Sicotte, Mr. Howland was offered, and accepted, the office of Minister of Finance, which he held for a year, and was then succeeded by Hon. Mr. Holtton in the Macdonald-Dorion Cabinet at that time formed, in which Mr. Howland was assigned the office of Receiver-General. He held this position until the defeat of the Government in March 1864, and did not return to office until November of the same year, when the then Postmaster-General, the Hon. Mr. Mowat, having been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Upper Canada, Mr. Howland was chosen by Mr. Brown to take Mr. Mowat's place in the Cabinet, which he continued to hold until the retirement of Hon. Mr. Galt in Aug. 1866, when he succeeded the latter as Finance Minister. This office he held till the Union, when, on the formation of the first Dominion Government on the 1st July, 1867, he was appointed a member of the Privy Council, and Minister of Inland Revenue. In July of the following year, 1868, he was appointed Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Ontario, which position had been, since the Union up to that time, held by Major-General Stisted, under an *ad interim*