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OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 2.—HON. WILLIAM McDougall, C. B.

On the evening of the 28th Sept. last, while the citizens of Montreal were entertaining the late Finance Minister, before his departure from Canada, another Minister had abandoned his portfolio and was then on his way westward from the Capital, to enter upon new duties. The Hon. Mr. McDougall, Minister of Public Works, having accepted the proffered appointment of Lieut. Governor of the North-West Territories, left Ottawa, on the 28th Sept. for Fort Garry, the Seat of Government for these regions. After spending a few days in Toronto, he proceeded *via* St. Paul's, and advices have since been received of his safe progress on the journey as far as the boundary line. His acceptance of this office, though removing him for a time from the political arena in the Provinces with which he was familiar through the associations of a lifetime, has placed him in a position where he can best contribute to the completion of the Union of the whole of British North America under the Canadian Government. The "North-West" question had been for years one of his most cherished hobbies; how to break up the Hudson's Bay monopoly; how to throw these fertile lands open for settlement; how to acquire them for Canada; were with him questions of serious and frequent consideration, and of much discussion both in the press and on the platform. And since the adoption of the Confederation policy in 1861, Mr. McDougall has never ceased to take a most lively interest in the project for the early acquisition of the North-West by the Dominion, and the opening up of its lands for settlement. It was most fitting, therefore, that he should have been offered and should have accepted the responsibility of organizing the government of these territories and preparing the way for the progress of immigration and the establishment of municipal and other local institutions within their boundaries. Though Mr. McDougall's commission will probably not issue until after the receipt by the Governor General of Her Majesty's proclamation annexing Rupert's Land and the North-West Territories to Canada,—which proclamation is expected to issue about the first of next month,—still, for obvious reasons, it was deemed expedient that he and other officers,—among them Mr. Provencher of the Executive Council, and Mr. Begg, Collector of Customs, should proceed to Fort Garry beforehand, to be prepared without delay to give effect to the new authority with which Her Majesty's proclamation will invest Canada.

William McDougall was born near Toronto, on the 25th January, 1822, and received his education there and at Victoria College, Cobourg. His father, (the son of a U. E. Loyalist) being a farmer, William, in his early days, was familiarised with the practical duties of the agriculturist; and though he studied law, it was soon made manifest that he courted journalism, his earliest efforts at which were directed to the instruction and improvement of the class from which he had sprung. In 1848 he established the *Canada Farmer*, devoted to agriculture, science and

literature; and this journal he continued, (having changed the title to the *Canadian Agriculturist*), up to 1858, when he sold the copyright to the Upper Canada Board of Agriculture, which afterwards sold it to the Hon. George Brown. But agriculture had soon in great part to give place to politics in Mr. McDougall's literary labours. Even before he commenced the publication of the *Agriculturist*, he was a frequent contributor to some of the Reform journals then published in Toronto, though his name was not pub-

paper was not long in achieving a position of influence among Reformers for its Editor, who soon came to be regarded as one of the rising men of the party. The quarrels which had divided the Reformers, while their own friends were in power, were in great part made up, when it became known that the Coalition party of 1854 had effectually supplanted them in office. The personal hostilities, and the differences of opinion which had divided those of the Reform leaders who did not support the Coalition, were forgotten in view of the necessity of forming a united party; and in 1857 the *North American*, under this new political influence, was merged in the *Daily Globe*. Messrs. Brown and McDougall had reconciled their political differences, and the necessity for maintaining two Reform newspapers at head quarters no longer existed. Mr. McDougall then became one of the political writers for the *Globe*, and the same trenchant style which had made the *North American* felt, did not a little to increase the influence of the *Globe*. Mr. McDougall continued on the staff of the *Globe* till 1858 or 1861, when he retired from the field of journalism.

Mr. McDougall never followed the law as a profession. He applied himself to the study of the law in his youth, and was admitted as an Attorney; but as already remarked, he turned his attention to journalism. In 1862 he was called to the bar of Upper Canada. In 1854 Mr. McDougall aspired to Parliamentary honours, but in two contests during that year, he was unsuccessful, and a like result attended his effort to defeat Mr. T. M. Daly for Perth in 1857. In 1858 he was returned for North York, for which he sat till 1863. At the general election in that year, Mr. McDougall, then Crown Lands Commissioner, was returned for North Ontario; but on his accepting office in the Coalition Government of 1864, and appealing to the same constituency in July, he was defeated by Mr. Matthew C. Cameron, the present Prov. Secretary of Ontario. In November following, he was returned for North Lanark, which constituency he has since continued to represent up to the present time.

Mr. McDougall was appointed a Member of the Executive Council, and Commissioner of Crown Lands on the accession to power of the Macdonald-Scottie Government in May 1862. He was unaffected by the changes made in the *personnel* of that Cabinet just previous to the general elec-

HON. WILLIAM McDUGALL, C. B. From a Photograph by Notman.

tion in 1863; but retired from office with his colleagues in March following in obedience to an adverse vote of the Assembly. The party strength was so evenly balanced, however, that in less than three months the "Outs" defeated the "Ins," and then followed the Coalition of 1864, with Confederation of the Provinces as the basis of its policy. The Hon. Mr. McDougall was one of the two Reformers whom the Hon. George Brown took with him into the Coalition Cabinet, when he was appointed Provincial Secretary, which office he held till the dissolution of the old Provin-

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