

HON. WM. ROSS.

Lieut.-Col. Hon. William Ross, P.C., late Minister of Militia and Defence, is the son of Mr. John Ross, who came to Nova Scotia from Sutherlandshire, Scotland, in 1816. He was born at Boulardine Island, Cape Breton, in 1825, and was married in 1855 to Eliza, youngest daughter of Peter Moore, Esq., of North Sydney, Cape Breton. He is Lieut.-Colonel of the 3rd Regiment Victoria Militia. He sat for Victoria, Nova Scotia, in the Assembly of that Province, from 1859 until the union. At the general elections of 1867 he was elected to the House of Commons for the same county, and in 1872 was elected by acclamation. On the advent of the present Government he was called to the Privy Council and offered the portfolio of Militia and Defence. Rumours of his resignation of that important office have been rife since the session of Parliament last spring, but they have been confirmed only within the last few days. His successor is Hon. Mr. Vail of Nova Scotia. Hon. Mr. Ross has been appointed Collector of Customs at Halifax.

CANADIAN METHODISM.

We give on this page the portraits of some of the prominent members of the General Conference of the United Canadian Wesleyan Methodist Church, recently convened at Toronto, Ontario. Fifty years ago Methodism had just commenced gaining ground in British North America, and was comparatively feeble in point of numbers, in its ministry and in its places of worship, but of late its growth has been remarkably rapid. The last census of Canada, taken in 1870, showed that at that time the Methodists were the largest Protestant denomination in the Dominion.

The Canadian Methodists have been under the jurisdiction of several Conferences. Soon after the consummation of the political union of the British Provinces in the Dominion of Canada, the Methodists began to feel the want of a closer ecclesiastical union for the advancement of the interests of the denomination, and measures were set on foot to effect this object. The Conference which held jurisdiction over the Wesleyans of Ontario and Quebec was known as the Canada Conference. At a session of this body held in 1871 the Rev. S. D. Rice, D.D., and the Rev. James Elliott were appointed delegates to the Conference of Eastern British America to request that delegates be sent therefrom to the next Canada Conference to consider the question of union and the necessary measures to carry the movement into effect. In pursuance of this scheme,



THE HON. WM. ROSS, EX-MINISTER OF MILITIA.

—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY TOPLEY, OF OTTAWA.

the Rev. Humphrey Pickard, D.D., and the Rev. Duncan D. Currie were appointed delegates from the Conference of Eastern British America, and met the Canada Conference at its session in Montreal in 1872. At this meeting the subject of union was discussed in all its bearings, and the scheme was deemed entirely practicable as well as eminently desirable.

To further complete the measures of union, a large and influential committee representing the several Conferences, met at Montreal in the autumn of the same year, and prepared a constitution for the united Church. That constitution was soon afterward accepted by the Wesleyan Conferences of Canada and of England, and by the New Connection Conference of Ontario. The constitution provides that the old Canada Conference be divided into three bodies, to be designated the Toronto, the London, and the Montreal Conferences, and that the old Conference of Eastern British America be likewise divided into three bodies, the Nova Scotia, the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and the Newfoundland Conferences. These bodies, with the New Connection Conference of Ontario, this year send representatives to the First General Conference of the United Canadian Wesleyan Methodist Church, which met at Toronto September 16. The Rev. Egerton Ryerson, D.D., LL.D., was chosen President, and the Rev. Duncan D. Currie Secretary, of the Conference.

The several Conferences of the Dominion were largely and ably represented in the General Conference. The London (Ontario) Conference sent fifty delegates; the Montreal Conference, thirty-six; the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, sixteen; the Nova Scotia, eighteen; the Newfoundland, four; the New Connection Conference, twenty-four. One half the delegates are laymen. These delegates, in all numbering one hundred and ninety-six, represent a denomination which is rapidly increasing in strength and influence throughout the Dominion of Canada. It has already about twelve hundred ministers, considerably more than a hundred thousand communicants, and about six hundred and fifty thousand adherents. The union under one General Conference has been effected quietly and without agitation, although it involved a radical change in the constitution of Canadian Methodism. The change cannot fail to be productive of good results. The united Churches will be more intimately connected than ever before, and there will be increased unity of action and greater concentration of effort, which must tend largely to promote the usefulness of the Methodist denomination in Canada.



REV. JAMES ELLIOTT.



REV. EGERTON RYERSON, D.D., LL.D., PRESIDENT.



REV. DUNCAN D. CURRIE, SECRETARY.



REV. JOHN W. MURRAY.



REV. HUMPHREY PICKARD, D.D.



REV. ENOCH WOOD, D.D.



REV. JOHN A. WILLIAMS.



REV. HENRY POPE, JUN.

SOME PROMINENT CANADIAN METHODISTS PRESENT AT THE RECENT GENERAL COUNCIL.