

landers. During the earliest years of his life the subject of this sketch not only breathed a military atmosphere, but these years were marked by that constant change which usually falls to the lot of those who reside in garrisons or bear Her Majesty's colours. Before he was fourteen years of age his father's regiment had been in all the garrison towns of England, Scotland and Ireland, including Dominica and Barbadoes, then an important military station in the West Indies, so that our future Senator had seen much, even at this early period, to awaken interest and curiosity in his young mind. He received his education, first at the regimental school of the 93rd Highlanders, and upon the regiment coming out to Canada in 1838, in connection with the outbreak, it was continued at Dalhousie College, Halifax, and completed at the Bay Street Academy, Toronto, he having removed to this city in the fall of 1838. He remained at this institution until 1840, carrying away with him the medal for classics. The Academy was presided over by John Boyd, the father of Chancellor Boyd of Ontario, and John Macdonald left the school as the head boy about the time the future Chancellor entered it as the youngest pupil. Having finished his education, as far as the schoolmaster was concerned, the next step was the business or profession in which he would engage. His choice of mercantile pursuits has long since been justified by results, although he would, no doubt, have succeeded equally well in other walks of life. He began his business training in the village of Gananoque, with the firm of C. and J. Macdonald & Co., the senior partner at the time being Hon. John Macdonald, who was a member of the old Legislative Council, and the junior member William Stone Macdonald, who is still living. This firm conducted an immense trade in lumber, milling and general merchandise. The members were of the highest business rectitude, and their young assistant received an inspiration from the method in which business was carried on which has since proved of service to him. After serving here for about two years he returned to Toronto, and took a position in the mercantile establishment of the late Walter McFarlane on King Street, who at that time was doing one of the largest trades in Upper Canada. After being here for about six years he was obliged, through failing health, to resign his situation and seek change of climate. He sailed for Jamaica in 1847, and after resting for some time, entered the business house of Nethersoll & Co., the largest on the island. He remained here for about nine months, when he again returned to Toronto, bringing back with him a spirit of business enthusiasm begotten by the wondrous system and energy which he saw displayed in that concern. With renewed energy he applied himself to work again, and in 1849 we find him beginning business for himself, in an unpretentious store on Yonge Street, near Richmond. The first step accomplished in business, viz., the training, the second was now reached. Before passing, it may be well to note that mercantile clerks in those days did not enjoy the advantages conferred on them to-day. Besides, the hours of business then had practically no limit in summer. They began at six o'clock in the morning and continued until eight o'clock in the evening, or up to ten or twelve o'clock as circumstances demanded. This, however, was perhaps a blessing in disguise, for it turned one's attention more exclusively to practical concerns, and encouraged industry and perseverance in the right sort of young men. When Mr. Macdonald launched out in business as his own master, his first move was characteristic of the man. He made the bold attempt to establish an exclusively dry goods trade, which at the time was an extremely precarious venture, particularly for a beginner to make. He, however, succeeded, and his establishment became an institution in the mercantile community.

In 1853 he moved to larger premises on Wellington Street, not far from his present warehouse, and here he laid the foundation of the present large wholesale importing house of John Macdonald & Co. In 1862, his trade in the meantime having constantly increased, he removed to larger premises on the south side of Wellington Street which he erected; these again, speedily becoming too small, he greatly enlarged by adding another pile of buildings, which now occupies the ground formerly covered by the North American Hotel and the Newbigging House on Front Street. They have a frontage of 100 feet with 140 in depth, and are six stories high. Employment is furnished to about 100 men, including the buyers in the British and American markets, and while the establishment is without doubt, the largest of its kind in Canada, it will compare most favourably with any of the wholesale houses in the largest cities in the United States. The business interests of this city have made amazing strides since Mr. Macdonald first embarked upon his responsible career, and during the period that has elapsed, he has contributed in no small measure to their advancement, and to the condition of things which we find in Toronto to-day, from a commercial standpoint. He has been long connected with the Board of Trade, and his voice has not unfrequently been heard in its councils. On the appointment by the Board of a Trustee to the General Hospital he was its representative for many years, during which time he held the office of Chairman of the Hospital Trust. He is at present a member of the Executive Council of the Board of Trade.

Although Mr. Macdonald had never taken any active part in political matters, in the beginning of June, 1863, he was asked to come forward as a candidate for the Western Division of the city. The gentlemen who waited upon him, about 100 in number, headed by Dr. J. T.

Agnew, and the requisition they presented to him containing nearly 1,000 names of the most prominent electors in the division, and obtained without any systematic canvass having been made, must be taken as proof of the high regard in which Mr. Macdonald was then held by the public. In his reply to the deputation who waited upon him he said, after signifying his willingness to stand: "I will advocate the removal of the seat of Government to this city, as also representation by population, as the just and honest rights of Upper Canada. I will support every measure which will tend to develop the agricultural and commercial interests of this magnificent Province, and I will oppose every effort that would have the effect of impairing in any degree either of these sources of our country's prosperity. I will oppose a wasteful or an extravagant expenditure of the public money. I am opposed to the division of the University funds. I am opposed to grants for religious purposes, and to every species of religious oppression." Mr. Macdonald had for his opponent Mr. John Beverley Robinson, afterwards Lieutenant-Governor of this Province. The contest proved a very hot one. As the anxious time approached, the excitement in this city was intense, and made the election of 1863 memorable in the history of Toronto. The result showed a majority in favour of Mr. Macdonald of 462. No sooner had the vote been announced, than a grand triumphal procession was formed on Elizabeth Street to escort the member elect to his General Committee Rooms in the Montreal House. It was under the direction of Mr. Wm. Hodson, the Marshal for the day. First came a carriage drawn by four white horses, with four Union Jacks flying aloft. In this carriage was seated the band of the 10th Battalion playing "See the Conquering Hero Comes." This was followed by a handsome barouche, drawn by six beautiful grey horses, gaily caparisoned. In the barouche were seated Mr. Macdonald, the member elect, Dr. L. W. Smith and Mr. D. Mathews his proposer and seconder; Dr. Agnew, Chairman of the Central Committee, and Mr. Samuel Alcorn. A long line of vehicles of various descriptions containing the Ward Committees and Mr. Macdonald's supporters followed, many of them being decorated with Union Jacks. As the procession passed along, it was witnessed by thousands of enthusiastic citizens. "The band made the streets resound with martial airs, and the cheers of the populace made the welkin ring." Thus were Parliamentary elections celebrated, two decades and a-half ago. In his speech at the Montreal House Mr. Macdonald said: "I have been elected by the independent honest vote of the people, and therefore I will know no one as Reformer or Conservative, Protestant or Catholic." He was as good as his word. It would be better for Canada to-day, if there were more of such men in Parliament, and particularly in office. The *Globe*, commenting on the result of this contest, which had surprised many persons said: "Ten years ago, the idea of any one but a member of the Family Compact contemplating the idea of becoming a member for the city would have been considered evidence of insanity. But the influence of the Compact has been constantly declining, from causes known to every one, while the merchants and mechanics of the city have grown in a corresponding ratio in numbers, wealth and influence. The election of Mr. Brown in 1857, and again in 1858 broke the solid phalanx of Toronto Toryism, and showed that when circumstances were favourable, a Liberal could be returned in spite of all the efforts of the Compact." Referring to the two candidates returned (Mr. Macdonald and Mr. A. M. Smith) the same journal said: "Nothing could be said against them, except that they had been brought up on oatmeal and brimstone, and those who tried to raise the anti-Scotch cry found that it was of no force. . . . The idea, that Mr. Macdonald, because he happened to be born in Scotland, although brought up from a child in Toronto, was unfit to become a member of Parliament, was at once rejected, even by the most ignorant and prejudiced."

Mr. Macdonald sat in Parliament until Confederation was brought about. At the next general election he was defeated for the House of Commons by the late Robert A. Harrison, who afterwards became Chief Justice of Ontario. In 1875, a vacancy having occurred in Centre Toronto, a constituency established in 1872, Mr. Macdonald was invited to become a candidate, and having consented, he was returned by acclamation. In 1878, when the National Policy was sprung on the public, whose adherence it largely secured, Mr. Macdonald was defeated by Mr. Robert Hay by a majority of 490 votes. In politics Mr. Macdonald has always been an independent Liberal, discarding entirely party views whenever they appeared to clash with his entire convictions. He opposed the coalition of 1864, and voted against the Confederation of the Provinces. His attitude towards party, when its claims conflicted with duty, he clearly explained in his reply to a request asking him to be a candidate in 1875. He promised to give the Government a cheerful support, but nothing more; and to the credit of the requisitionists, they conceded to him in advance perfect freedom of judgment in deciding upon all questions. For a number of years Mr. Macdonald had been entirely out of politics, until November, 1887, when he was made a Senator of the Dominion.

Mr. Macdonald takes a keen interest in all public questions, and with several, of great moment to the country, his name will ever be prominently associated. During the exciting debates that took place in the Board of Trade in 1887 on the subject of Commercial Reciprocity with the United States, he took an important part. He is the author of the resolution that was adopted, and was the

means of dissipating the political feeling that was beginning to manifest itself in that body. The resolution reads as follows:

"That this Board desires to place on record the conviction that the largest possible freedom of commercial intercourse between our country and the United States, compatible with our relation to Great Britain, is desirable.

"That this Board will do everything in its power to bring about the consummation of such a result.

"That, in its estimation, a treaty which ignored any of the interests of our own country, or which gave undue prominence to any one to the neglect or injury of any other, is one that could not be entertained.

"That in our agricultural, mineral, manufacturing, and our diversified mercantile interests, in our fisheries, forests, and other products we possess in a rare and an extraordinary degree all the elements which go to make a people great, prosperous and self-reliant.

"That these are fitting inducements to any nation to render reciprocity with Canada a thing to be desired, and such as should secure for us a reciprocal treaty with the United States of the broadest and most generous character, which, while fully recognizing these conditions, would contain guarantees which would prove of mutual and abiding advantage to both nations; but that this Board cannot entertain any proposal which would place Great Britain at any disadvantage as compared with the United States, or which would tend in any measure, however small, to weaken the bonds which bind us to the Empire."

In 1888 Mr. Macdonald visited the West Indies and British Guiana for pleasure and to learn what openings they offered for an extended trade with Canada. In January of this year he laid before the Toronto Board of Trade the result of his enquiries, in a paper entitled "The Present and Possible Commercial Relations between the Dominion of Canada, the West Indies, and British Guiana." It contained much instruction for the commercial community, and, indeed, for all who take an interest in the commercial development of Canada, which is synonymous with its general advancement; and it showed that Mr. Macdonald had spared no pains to furnish himself fully with the facts concerning the subject which he had so much at heart. He assured his hearers of the general desire that prevailed in the West Indies for closer business relations with Canada. He entered into a comparison with the West Indian trade done in Canada with that done in the United States, pointing out that Canada did not receive its fair share. In Grenada, for instance, the United States, as compared with Canada, appeared to have a monopoly; for while they sent quantities of bread, butter, candles, flour, and fish, all of which Canada could supply on terms as favourable as they could, and, in some instances, upon terms even more favourable, the market, so far as Canada was concerned, had been neglected. "Go and get your fullest share of this West India trade," he said; "the share that is yours by proximity to them, the share that is yours by affinity with them, the share that is yours by interest and yours they desire you to have." While he gave an emphatic affirmative to the question, "Is it possible to increase the West India trade?" he stated that this could only be brought about under certain conditions. It would be necessary to secure, (1) a rapid and regular steam communication, (2) a direct and inexpensive cable service, (3) a regular and prompt postal service, (4) an efficient lighthouse service, and (5) a new departure, bringing our merchants, millers, lumber dealers, and manufacturers into direct contact with the great leaders in trade in the various islands and British Guiana. At the close of the paper two resolutions were passed by the Board, the first thanking Mr. Macdonald "for his able, interesting, and instructive report of his recent investigations in the West Indies and British Guiana," and ordering the same to be printed and issued to the members of the Board and to the Boards of Trade of the Dominion; and, secondly, instructing the Council of the Board to take into consideration the many matters referred to in the report, as to the best methods of opening up an extended trade with the West India Islands, and at the same time to indicate what steps would be deemed best in approaching the Government in order to secure these ends. In March last, Mr. Macdonald, in his place in the Senate, rose and called the attention of the House to the present condition of the trade of the country, import and export, in view of and in connection with the proposal of the Government to open up extended commercial relations between Australia, South America, and the West Indies; and enquired when the Government proposed to introduce any measure in relation to the same. The speech he delivered on this occasion was long and exhaustive. It showed a complete mastery of the facts, and was well received throughout the country. He reviewed the Government's intention to provide subsidies for the improvement of the Atlantic mail service, and for the establishment in connection with Her Majesty's Government of a line of fast steamers between British Columbia and China and Japan, and its request to the Senate to consider the best mode of developing our trade, and securing direct communication by steam with Australasia, the West Indies, and South America. He pointed out the disadvantages of attempting to develop our trade with Australia—among other reasons, its distance from this country and the little need it had for our manufactures; he traversed again in a large measure the ground covered by the paper which he read before the Board of Trade in Toronto, and reiterated the advantages held out, and the prospects offered by extended trade relations with the West Indies. The closing sentences in his speech can well bear repetition here: "I have already stated that Governments