

EDITORIAL NOTES.

In the death of the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, the Dominion of Canada has lost one of its purest and ablest statesmen, and the Baptist denomination one of its most honored and most distinguished members. All parties and all creeds unite in doing him honor. It is fitting that a prominent place should be given him in this magazine. We had hoped to publish a sketch of his life, accompanied by a portrait, in the present issue, but the shortness of the time available made it impracticable to complete our arrangements in time. The June number will contain a portrait in Desbarat & Co.'s best style, and an article on Mr. Mackenzie's career by Mr. J. E. Wells, who possesses unsurpassed qualifications for this task. We feel ourselves peculiarly fortunate in being able to make so satisfactory an arrangement.

The following facts from the student life of Dr. Heinrich Middendorff, of the Gymnasium in Erlangen, Germany, and one of our classmates at the University of Berlin, will help our readers to gain a correct notion of the years of mental toil and pecuniary outlay it costs to become a duly qualified instructor in a German Gymnasium. When in 1884 we became acquainted with the gentleman referred to, he had already been at least two years in attendance at lectures. In 1887 he obtained his doctor's degree at Leipzig, having now studied five years at the University, and eight or nine at the Gymnasium. He then went to Munich, to discharge his military obligations, after which he engaged in studies preparatory to the State Examinations which he passed with brilliant success in the fall of 1890. The whole time spent in study therefore, from the date of entering upon the gymnasium or high school work, was fifteen or sixteen years. To us, this seems an unduly long period of preparation for any life work, but the young German thus equipped, with his thirtieth birthday still to come, enters upon that work with great possibilities within his reach. Dr. Middendorff is a specialist in English philology, and at present engaged upon an etymological school dictionary of the English language, which will appear in the early autumn. If his health is spared, he will no doubt win fresh honors in the field where his countrymen have so long led the world.

In a letter received from him a short time ago, Dr. Middendorff writes as follows concerning the political affairs of the fatherland :—