

No. 51—THE LATE LIEUT.-COL.  
J. BOUCHETTE.

SURVEYOR-GENERAL OF LOWER CANADA.

One of those acts of national ingratitude of which history unfortunately records so many instances, may very justly be charged to the Province of Lower Canada in its treatment of the late Joseph Bouchette. The wrong so palpably done to him may, however, yet be partially repaired by honestly compensating his heirs for the loss inflicted upon his estate through the bad faith of the Legislature. For wise and obvious reasons the law has imposed the statute of limitations to bar the interminable perpetuation of claims as between individuals; but the State is not supposed to die, and the injustice which, through prejudice or misconception, it may work in one generation, it is competent to atone for and repair in another. In this belief the heirs of the late Surveyor-General of Lower Canada have appealed to the Government and Legislature of the Province of Quebec for redress of the injury done to him whose estate they rightfully inherit, and we cannot believe, with the facts of the case before us, that they will be allowed to make their appeal in vain. The spirit of fair play is too strongly ingrained in the hearts of the people to permit of the suspicion that they would look on approvingly upon the withholding of a stipulated remuneration for services fully and faithfully rendered. Yet the unpleasant inference would remain that the contrary is the fact if the prayer of the petition of the heirs of the late Mr. Bouchette be left unanswered.

When question is made of the services to the country of the late Mr. Bouchette and the manner in which they were requited, the occasion seems a fitting one to present his portrait to our readers, and to recite a few facts concerning his life, as well as the particular circumstances under which the claim now being urged for settlement first originated. Mr. Bouchette was the son of Commodore Bouchette, of the Provincial Navy, and was born in 1774. His father was a native Canadian, who, like the majority of the inhabitants of

## OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

THE LATE LIEUT.-COL. JOSEPH BOUCHETTE,  
SURVEYOR-GENERAL OF LOWER CANADA.

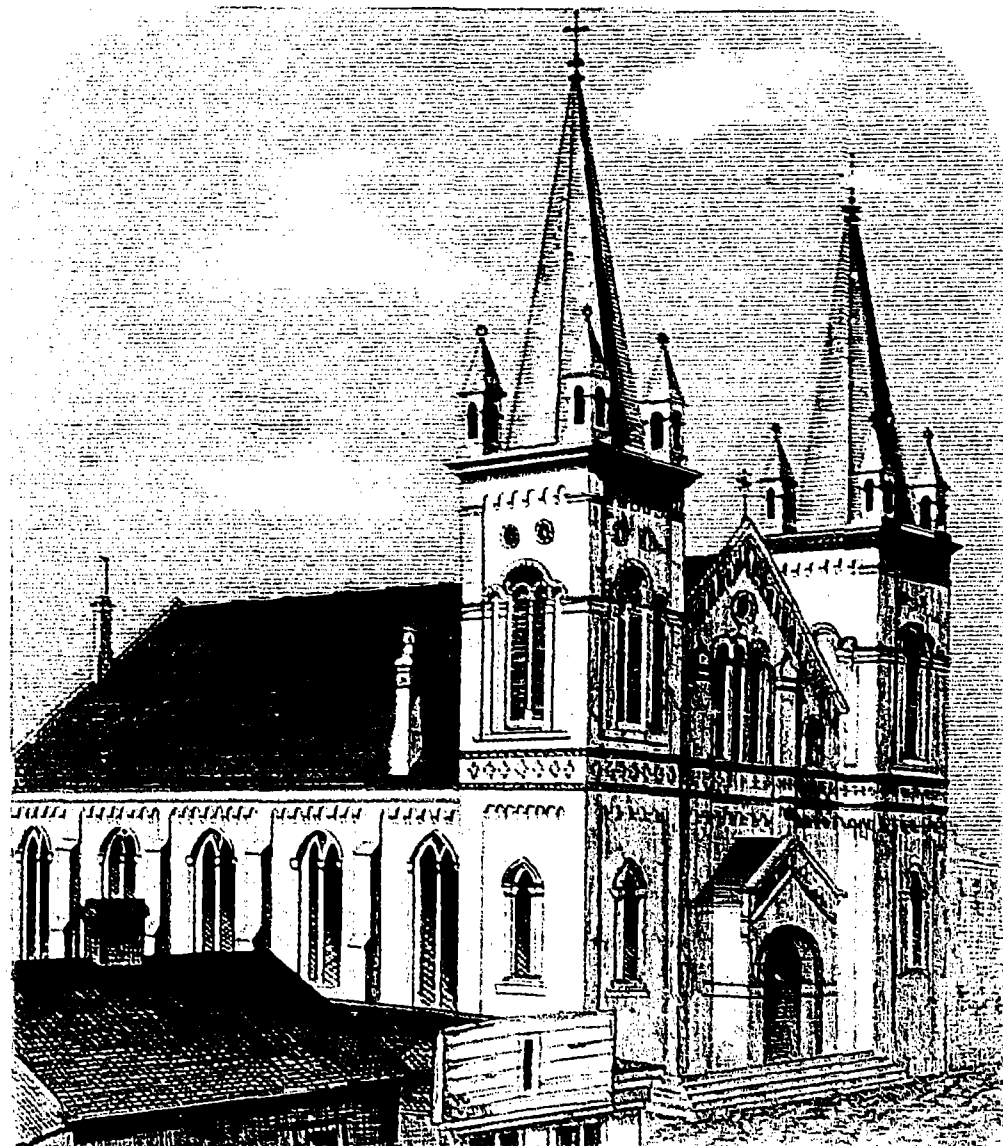
the Province, transferred his allegiance to the British Crown on the cession of the Colony by France. Joseph Bouchette, like his father, served in the Provincial Navy, and won considerable distinction by his gallantry and enthusiasm. His service on the water was not of very long duration, however. He entered the Provincial Naval Service in 1791, and performed some special missions with signal success; and on the death of his uncle, Major Holland, then Surveyor-General, B. N. A., in 1800, he was appointed Deputy-Surveyor-General for Lower Canada. In the following year, under the king's sign manual, he was appointed Surveyor-General for the same Province. During the rebellion of 1812-13, Mr. Bouchette, having by that time risen to the rank of Colonel in the Militia, raised a corps called the "Quebec Volunteers," which, however, he was not permitted to command, his exact topographical knowledge of the country commending him for the discharge of more delicate and important duties. He was appointed to carry despatches from headquarters to Sir Roger Sheaffe, commanding in Upper Canada, and also, as Mr. Fennings Taylor says: "he was instructed to reconnoitre as he went, to ascertain the position and strength of the enemy, and generally to report on the defensive state of the frontier." In these important and confidential duties Col. Bouchette was eminently successful, thereby heightening the esteem in which he was already held in official quarters, as well as by the public.

Mr. Bouchette then had in earnest contemplation the publication of full and accurate maps of the whole country, but the undertaking was too great for the means of a private individual, however enthusiastic. He, therefore, petitioned the Legislative Assembly for assistance in the work; his petition was referred to a Select Committee, which reported favourably to the House; the report of that Committee was referred to Committee of the Whole; and on the 23rd February, 1814, the House, in Committee of the Whole, adopted the following resolution:—

"Resolved, that it is the opinion of this Committee that a sum of fifteen



MASONIC HALL, TORONTO.



COOKE'S CHURCH, TORONTO.