

circumstances, allowed himself to be carried by his ambition almost beyond the domain of reason. A national council was formed, with a man named Bruce at its head, though the potential head was Riel, and by this body the lieutenant-governor was forbade to enter the territories. Mr. McDougall disregarded the order, however, crossed the line, and quartered himself and his staff at a post of the Hudson Bay Company. But a party of half-breeds came there, displayed much excitement, and made divers threats if he did not return. Deeming prudence to be the better part of valour, and being, at any rate, powerless to fight his way to Fort Garry, the governor retraced his steps to the southern side of the line. Then the Metis under Riel, became more insolent. They secured Fort Garry; proclaimed themselves masters of the territory; and emblazoned their dominion by the trial and execution of Thomas Scott. Without a patient and a thorough hearing of the case, and to cover its own criminal indecision, ignorance and tardiness, the government seemed to throw the blame of the miscarriage of its scheme upon Mr. McDougall, and appointed another gentleman to the administration of government in Manitoba. But in the mean time, Mr. McDougall had returned to Ontario; though he did so only after he had discovered that the Government had refused to accept the transfer of the territory at the time stipulated. They had simply sent Mr. McDougall, with a personal staff, to a country seething with revolt; and then left him single-handed to deal with the insurgents. We never remember having read anything more criminal and indefensible. Mr. McDougall was afterwards appointed by the Hon. Sandfield Macdonald government trustee of the Canada Southern Railway municipal bonds. After his return from England in 1873, whither he had proceeded on important government business, he became a member of the law firm of McDougall & Gordon, Toronto. In May, 1875, he became the representative of South Simcoe, in the legislature of Ontario, and sat in the house till 1878, when he stood for Halton in the House of Commons. He was elected, and sat for Halton till the last general elections. Mr. McDougall has been twice married. His first wife was Amelia Caroline, daughter of Joseph Easton, of Millbank, County of York. She died in 1869; and Mr. McDougall married again in 1872, Mary Adelaide, daughter of Dr. John Beatty, formerly a professor in the Univer-

sity of Victoria College, Cobourg. Mr. McDougall is one of the foremost constitutional lawyers in Canada, and one of our very ablest public men. We have no doubt that the country is destined yet to hear much from a man so distinguished.

Spiers, William, Berlin, Ontario, was born on his father's farm of Knowhead, Galston, Ayrshire, Scotland, on the 15th of August, 1825. His father, John Spiers, was born near Kilmarnock, and the birthplace of his mother, Elizabeth Brown, was Kilmours, Scotland. There were not superior educational advantages within the reach of William Spiers, but he attended the school in the village of Darvel, near his native place, where he received a plain, sound education. He lived with his parents on the old homestead farm till 1853. A few years previously he had sought to induce the owner of the farm to build new houses and a new road to it, but this man would not consent. Mr. Spiers cropped the best of the farm for a few years, and then gave up the lease, which had seven or eight years to run. He invested the proceeds of the farm for the benefit of his parents, and sailed for Canada in the fall of 1856. Here he had to begin anew, penniless, and without a trade. His half-brother, William Osborne, now of Hamilton, and his brother, David Spiers, of Galt, who were then in company, carrying on a large business in the latter town, opened a branch store in Berlin, in the spring of 1857, and William Spiers' first employment was being sent from Galt, on the 8th of May, with a load of carpenters. He next had a number of plasterers and painters to look after till the 23rd July, on which day the store was opened. The firm sent up one of their most experienced young men to manage the business, and he remained for two years or better. From the beginning Mr. Spiers kept the cash book and the keys of the building. At that time the other clerk made things so unpleasant for Mr. Spiers that he determined that either one or the other must leave, and at the same time handed in his resignation. The affair ended with the domineering young man being removed to Galt. The only assistant he had now left was an apprentice boy, Joseph F. Eby, now of the firm of Eby, Blain & Co, who remained with him four and a half years. The Galt firm seemed to have doubts about his ability to manage the business, and made several proposals of partnership, all of which he refused. He offered, however, to risk his salary against any loss that he would make the first year, which was accepted. But