

## The St. Lawrence Hall - 1850

About 1850, we find an announcement: ". . . recently opened, this Commodious and Elegant House, situated in the most salubrious part of the City, The St. Lawrence Hall, on Gt. St. James St."

So numerous are the items of historical interest associated with this old Hotel that only a few can be mentioned. They range from Royalty down to renegades, and include the names of the notables and notorious of the day.



ST. LAWRENCE HALL

King Edward, when Prince of Wales, slept beneath its roof, at the time of his visit to Montreal in 1860. It was on this visit that H. R. Highness opened, officially, the Victoria Bridge.

In 1853, the seditious Gavazzi fled to this Hotel in which to hide, following the riot which he started by his fiery oratory at the old Zion Church. History tells us that the mob was met on Beaver Hall Hill by the Cameronians, and about twenty rioters were killed. When opportunity afforded, Gavazzi was hustled away in a cab to the wharf, and smuggled on board the old "Iron Duke" which carried him to Laprairie, from which place he fled from Canadian soil.

During the American Civil War, the St. Lawrence Hall was frequented by many of the supporters of the Southern Confederacy. Jeff Davis (of "Sour Apple Tree" fame), found sanctuary here both before and after the Civil War. The old Terrapin Inn, on Notre Dame St., was about this time one of the most fashionable haunts, in fact, the Prince