

PROMINENT CANADIANS—XXXIX.

SKETCHES of the following Prominent Canadians have already appeared in THE WEEK: Hon. Oliver Mowat, Sir Daniel Wilson, Principal Grant, Sir John A. Macdonald, K.C.B., Louis Honoré Fréchette, LL.D., Sir J. William Dawson, Sir Alexander Campbell, K.C.M.G., Hon. William Stevens Fielding, Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, C.B., K.C.M.G., Alexander McLachlan, Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Sir Richard Cartwright, K.C.M.G., Sandford Fleming, C.E., LL.D., C.M.G., Hon. H. G. Joly, Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, Sir William Buell Richards, Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, M.P., Hon. Honoré Mercier, Q.C., Hon. William Macdougall, C.B., Rev. Principal MacVicar, D.D., LL.D., Prof. Charles G. D. Roberts, M.A., George Paxton Young, M.A., Hon. Auguste Real Angers, Principal Caven, D.D., William Ralph Meredith, LL.D., Q.C., M.P., P.P., Sir William Pearce Howland, C.B., K.C.M.G., Senator the Hon. John Macdonald, the Hon. John Hawkins Hagarty, D.C.L., Chief Justice of Ontario, Lieut.-Col. George T. Denison, Sir Antoine Aime Dorion, His Grace Archbishop O'Brien, Charles Mair, F.R.S.C., Chief Justice Allen, Sir John Thompson, K.C.M.G., Archibald Lampman, John Cook, D.D., LL.D., Grant Allen, and Rev. Doctor Dewar.

CHIEF JUSTICE SULLIVAN.

THE Honourable William Wilfrid Sullivan, Chief Justice of Prince Edward Island, is regarded by those who know him as one of the most fortunate of the prominent men of Canada. He was born at Hope River, New London—not far from the birthplace of Archbishop O'Brien—on the 6th of December, 1843. His parents were respectable Irish folk, who were able to afford their son the capital advantage of a good education; and he, on his part, appreciated and made the most of all that he received from them. He was early distinguished as a diligent and energetic scholar. Before he began to attend the Central Academy in Charlottetown, and St. Dunstan's College, he had to go about two miles each way every day to and from the school in the neighbouring settlement of New Glasgow. One of his fellow scholars of that time states that, notwithstanding the long distance he had to walk, he was, almost invariably, in winter as well as in summer, the first to arrive at the school in the morning.

The means by which he achieved success at school were those by which, with the aid of attendant good fortune, he won the high judicial position which he now occupies. Those who are conversant with his early, as well as with his later, career, say that as student-at-law, lawyer and politician he has ever been painstaking, laborious, persevering, prudent, calculating and wide awake to his own interests as well as to the interests of his clients, his constituents and his party.

When he came to Charlottetown to pursue his studies he was fortunate in being enabled to live under the same roof with one of his teachers, a Mr. Edward Roche, a man of a well-informed and original mind, and in having for his college companion and friend Mr. James Jeffrey Roche, the accomplished editor of the *Boston Pilot*, and one of the recognized poets of the great Republic. Leaving St. Dunstan's College, he entered as a student-at-law with Mr. William Johnson; and, upon Mr. Johnson's departure for Halifax, he was transferred to the office of the Honourable Joseph Henshy, who was at that time a leading lawyer and politician of the Island. Here again he was fortunate and successful. After being called to the Bar in 1867, he immediately became Mr. Henshy's law partner; and so he was ready when the latter was, a year later, elevated to the Bench to take full charge of the lucrative practice of the firm. Subsequently he entered into partnership with several rising young barristers of the Province, notably with Mr. W. A. O. Morson and Mr. C. B. McNeill. He was fortunate, too, in obtaining several excellent agencies, including that of the Credit Foncier, for which he invested large sums of money upon real estate.

But he succeeded not alone to Judge Henshy's law practice. By means of the press, for which he was an occasional writer, and by means of an occasional speech upon the stump or at the hustings, he had become a factor in the politics of the day; and he was elected in 1872 to fill the seat for the first district of Kings County which his former partner had vacated. Important questions to the Province were then being considered, discussed and settled. One of these was that of the Prince Edward Island Railway and its location. Mr. Sullivan belonged at that time to the Liberal party, which was opposed to the railway. The Conservatives succeeded with great difficulty in carrying a measure which provided for the construction of a line extending from Alberton to Georgetown. A large proportion of the people were, however, opposed to it; those through whose districts and close to whose farms it did not run being particularly strong in their opposition. At the general election in 1872 the Conservatives were, as a consequence, defeated. The Liberals then formed a Government in which Mr. Sullivan filled the office of Solicitor-General. But the main line of the railway was by this time a fact. The contract for its construction had been let. The work was going on; construction of the railway could not be prevented. Then many of the people who didn't want it at all began to agitate for the construction of branch lines to extend to Souris in the east, and to Tignish in the west. But the Liberal Government was slow to appreciate the significance of this movement. Mr. Sullivan had in the meantime transferred his attentions to the second district of King's County, through which a branch railway to Souris, if constructed, would run. He seems never to have been quite at home with his Liberal colleagues. It is said that differences of opinion in respect to the school question and other matters, as well as personal incompatibility, stood in the way of his cordial co-operation with them. However this may be, it is certain that the young Solicitor-

General took an early opportunity to transfer his political allegiance to the leader of the Opposition and to advocate the construction of the branch railways. This action of his seems to have aroused the Government to the necessities of the situation. In view of the then prospective union of the Province with Canada, it was deemed expedient by the Government to adopt a course of procedure which one of its members pertinently termed "a Dashaway Policy." It is presumed that the Government were acting according to this policy when, contrary to their pre-election protestations and pledges, they followed the advice of Mr. Sullivan and authorized the construction of the branches. But they had lost forever the future successful leader of the Liberal-Conservative party in Prince Edward Island.

In the spring of 1873, they went to the country on the question of the acceptance or rejection of the Haythorne-Laird terms of union, which had, in the meantime, been arrived at in a conference with the Government at Ottawa; and they suffered defeat. The Hon. James C. Pope then formed an administration of which Mr. Sullivan was the Solicitor-General. Better terms of union with Canada were sought and obtained by a Government deputation consisting of Messrs. Pope, Haviland and Howland; and Prince Edward Island became part of the Canadian Confederation on the 1st of July, 1873.

By the terms of union the sum of \$800,000 was set apart at Ottawa as a fund from which to obtain means for the purchase of the proprietary estates of the Province. The lands of the colony had early been distributed among a number of officers in the British army who had done duty in America. Neither they, their heirs successors nor assigns had fulfilled the terms on which their grants were made. But they clung tenaciously to their possessions, and as absentee proprietors were paid rents which though comparatively small in amount per acre made up a large sum per year to be sent out of the country by a poor and struggling tenantry engaged in subduing the forest. Thus there had been for many years a ground for complaint and agitation. Mr. Sullivan as Solicitor-General for the Government took a leading part in the preparation and passage of the Land Purchase Act in 1875 under the provisions of which the \$800,000 were expended, the proprietors being compelled to give up the fee simple of their estates on terms somewhat similar to those by which the Seigneuries of Quebec were abolished. He was also, as Solicitor-General, one of the counsel for the Government before the Land Commissioners' courts by which the amount paid to each proprietor was fixed. Altogether he took a prominent part in the movements which resulted in the abatement of the land grievance.

But his grand opportunity occurred in the year 1876. In that year the school question, which had from time to time engaged public attention and caused a great deal of bitter feeling between the Roman Catholics and the Protestants, came to an issue in the general election. Bishop McIntyre had erected in Charlottetown and other towns and villages a number of collegiate and convent schools in which many Catholic children received secular as well as religious education. He asked the Government to grant annually to each of these schools a sum of money in payment for the secular education therein imparted. The leader of the Government with several of his colleagues, including Mr. Sullivan, and some of their supporters in the Legislature, were ready to make terms with the Bishop. But several other members of the administration with a strong Protestant following took ground against the proposition condemning it as the "thin edge of the wedge of Separate Schools" throughout the province, and denouncing the idea of religious denominations opposed to the Roman Catholic faith being compelled to contribute, directly or indirectly, to the support of colleges and schools in which Roman Catholic tenets were taught. Upon this ground they coalesced with the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. L. H. Davies, and upon this ground the parties took issue. The result was that Mr. Pope and those who continued to follow him suffered a heavy defeat. A strong Protestant Government, with Mr. Davies at its head, was then formed. Mr. Pope, who had fallen with his party, was soon after elected a member of the Dominion Parliament. The only man who was, at that juncture, available for the leadership of the Opposition was Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Sullivan was unanimously chosen for the position when the Legislature met on the 14th of March, 1877. His party was at that time numerically weak. The Government party was apparently very strong. But there were points of weakness in it which he was not slow to discover; and his reputation was considerably heightened by the ability and wit which he displayed in laying them bare.

After the passage of the Education Act, 1877, the main object of the coalition was accomplished. Divisions and complications soon appeared as a consequence of the fact that the several members of the administration took opposite sides in Dominion politics. The Liberal wing of the Government had been placed in charge of "the spending departments." The tax-payers soon began to feel that the spending was too lavish. An obnoxious Assessment Act was passed. Supporters of the Administration who had been steadfast, notwithstanding the split over Dominion politics, soon fell away when their pockets were touched. Agitation prevailed for a time. Finally, on the first of March, 1879, a little more than two years from the date at which the coalition was formed, Mr. Sullivan moved a vote of want of confidence in the Government, which was, five days later, carried by a majority of nine in a House of thirty members. Mr. Davies resigned at

ciety of Artists the other Saturday evening. Not only was the large and attractive rooms—on whose walls were displayed a large number of the best productions of our distinctive Canadian artists—filled to their utmost capacity, but several hundreds had to turn homeward disappointed, being unable to obtain even standing room.

Mr. Frank Yeigh, the President of the Young Liberal Club of Toronto, a young man himself of wide literary sympathies and attainment, worthily presided on the occasion, and delivered an appropriate opening address. Interesting also were the letters, sympathetic with the purpose of the gathering, read by him from a number of men of letters, whose names are household words in the Dominion, notably Louis Fréchette and the Canadian Burns, the venerable Alexander McLachlan. The key-note of the evening was struck by Miss Agnes M. Machar's, "The Mystic Singer." The fame of "Fidelis," many of whose productions have appeared in these columns, extends far beyond the Dominion, and her contributions find a place in the leading literary magazines of England and the United States. Miss Machar, though present, did not, like the poets in the brave days of old, recite her grand and beautiful ode, but found an excellent interpreter in her friend, the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell. Mr. William Wilfred Campbell made an excellent impression, a thing for him by no means difficult to do. His poems have already found their way to the hearts of Canadians; and his gentle, modest, yet effective, presentation of his story, "How Death Came to Mortgaged Concession," and above all his poem, "The Mother," were received with a measure of appreciation pleasant to behold. Mrs. Harrison, the well-known "Seranus," gave her characteristic, "In the Valley of St. Eustache," in which her dainty delineations of character and rhythmic word-painting found free expression, and was most heartily received and admired. Mr. H. K. Cockin, with much vim and good taste, gave his spirit-stirring and powerful "Gentleman Dick o' the Greys." Other contributors to the interest and enjoyment of the evening were Mr. W. D. Lighthall, Miss E. Pauline Johnson and Mr. Duncan Campbell Scott. A peculiar interest attached to Miss Johnson's poems, embodying, as they do, the emotions and reflections of the original inhabitants of this fair land. The enthusiasm with which this lady's recitations were received was amply merited by the beauty, force and originality of "A Cry from an Indian Wife." Very pleasing also was Miss Helen M. Merrill's contribution, "Regret." She is a young Canadian authoress who gives promise of excellent work.

The music interspersed was as appropriate as it was excellent, being thoroughly in keeping with the spirit of the evening. It was artistically and pleasingly rendered by Mrs. Scrimger-Massie and Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Cameron. There would be neither merit nor justice in differing from the general criticism expressed that the programme was too long, a mistake that can be easily avoided in the future. To the Young Men's Liberal Club of Toronto we are indebted for the conception and carrying out of a most excellent idea. What has been done so successfully and with such excellent results can judiciously be done again at proper intervals. There are many whose writings are fitted to convey profit and pleasure, besides those who so gracefully took part in the initial gathering, whose services could be made available for several "Canadian Literature Evenings" to come.

THE ROYAL FUNERAL.

The Princess of Wales remained for some time after the service was concluded, looking mournfully at the coffin of her beloved son. (Cable report of the funeral.)

SADLY the old flag droops its crimson folds
In all the lands that own our empire's sway,
Millions of hearts one common sorrow hold
About the bier they carry forth to-day.

Death claims a nation's hope, an empire's heir,
The first-born son,—his parents' joy and pride,
Our aged Queen's young bud of promise fair,
The cherished darling of his promised bride.

Slowly the sad procession wends its way
Through sorrowing crowds, to England's royal tomb,
—All the bright visions of the bridal day
Are quenched in darkness mid a nation's gloom.

Oh death and sorrow,—conquerors of kings!
Though nought terrestrial can resist your sway,
Yet, with the doom, one balm your presence brings
The tender touch of human sympathy.

The mother mourning o'er her first-born's bier
The maiden's tears that for her lover fall,
The grief of sorrowing age o'er child so dear
Are one in cottage or in royal hall.

From east to west, wherever true hearts beat,
Through the wide realm that knows no set of sun,
About that flag-wrapped bier to-day they meet
And multitudes of pulses throb as one.

Oh wondrous bond of sympathy divine,
Linking our hearts with unseen powers above,
Faith hails you, mid her sorrow as the sign
That death itself can never conquer Love!

FIDELIS.