

THE LATE HUGH MATHEWSON.

We publish to-day a portrait of the late Hugh Mathewson, of this city, and append a brief memoir prepared by an intimate friend. Although Mr. H. Mathewson was not precisely a public man, we believe the tribute we pay him is due to his memory, because he was a type of manly worth in every respect, a true citizen, a devoted husband, a kind father, a trusty friend, one of the oldest residents of Montreal, a prominent officer of one of our chief institutions of benevolence, and because his career is deserving the imitation of every young man in the country.

Hugh Mathewson was born on the first of February, 1813, at Clare House, near Castle-derry, County of Tyrone, Ireland, a spot rich in scenic beauty, and associated with many a legend, some wild as the heather-covered hills that surround the "Old Mansion," others gentle as the silvery stream which passed, almost unseen, through the verdant sward that inclined from the front of the "homestead." His father dying while Hugh was a mere child, his guardian, at a suitable age, sent him to business in the thriving town of Enniskillen, where he served his apprenticeship in the principal dry goods establishment of that place, to the complete satisfaction of his employers and with much credit to himself. On the expiration of his term, instead of settling down in Ireland, he decided on finding a home for himself in America—that country which seems to be the natural outlet to the expanding population of Europe. Having family connections in the State of Tennessee, he concluded to find his way there, and in 1833 he sailed for Philadelphia, intending to proceed thence to Nashville, where his friends resided. The passage across the Atlantic was marked by few startling incidents until they neared the American coast, when a continuance of stormy weather resulted in the loss of the vessel at the entrance of the Delaware, and the shipwrecked Hugh found his way to his relatives, stripped by the disaster of nearly all he had with him when he left Ireland. He remained in the Southern States until the year 1835. At that period Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Mathewson, of Montreal, visited Nashville for the purpose of seeing their friends, and meeting with Hugh, who was then contemplating going back to Ireland, he was induced to accompany them on their return to Montreal. In 1836 he married his cousin, Eliza Scott Mathewson, who now



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as his widow, mourns her sudden and irreparable loss, and who, in her prostrating affliction has our warmest sympathy. Shortly after his marriage he commenced business in this city, and up to the time of his death continued actively engaged in commercial pursuits. Thoroughly British in his proclivities, he was among the first in 1837-38 to enroll his name among those noble volunteers who, at that critical juncture, assisted materially in subduing the widespread Canadian rebellion.

From the influences of early training, and possibly from a deep religious tone that pervaded his disposition, he felt the necessity of identifying himself with some Christian church organization, and impelled by carefully considered convictions, he attached himself to the Wesleyan Methodist denomination, shortly after making this city his place of residence, and in the church attachment he then formed, he never wavered. Unobtrusive and unselfish, he kept aloof from all attempts to insinuate himself into office, but when, at length, he was induced, reluctantly, to accept the Stewardship of the Ottawa Street Circuit, he filled the position with a Christian ability that secured for him the esteem and confidence of the entire membership, and his resignation, in consequence of removal to a distant part of the city, was accepted with much hesitancy and extreme regret. Many will remember the hearty unanimity with which, in 1857 or 1858, he was elected President of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, and the remarkable attachment evinced towards him during his tenure of office, by those associated with him in its management. This position afforded a fine demonstration of the benevolent phase of his character. As chief of this Society, the afflicted ever found in him a sympathetic comforter; the destitute, a prompt and considerate helper; the embarrassed, a judicious adviser; and the desponding, a cheering encourager. Mr. Mathewson was distinguished throughout life as a man of great amiability, and as a most genial companion and friend. Possessed of a remarkable talent for mimicry and description, his society always afforded pleasure, but never of a kind to occasion pain to another, or that would be remembered with dissatisfaction. During the short and severe illness that terminated his earthly career, his mind was singularly clear, and his reliance on that great atonement that provides eternal safety for all that test its efficacy, was of a most complete and confiding nature. He closed his earthly career on Sunday, January 21, and was buried on the 23rd, amid a vast concourse of sorrowing friends.



MONTREAL:—FANCY DRESS ENTERTAINMENT AT THE VICTORIA RINK.