

o'clock, after a very painful struggle. Before leaving the Police Office, on Saturday, he gave the keys of his private desk to Mr. Andrews, and told him to keep them till Monday; a thing he had never done before, and which would seem to show that he had some indistinct presentiment of his fate. He was in the 70th year of his age. Deceased was grandson of the late George Gurnett, Esq., of Dorking, Surrey, England; who, in his lifetime, was the last known male descendant of the ancient family of Gernet—De Guernet—Gurnet, or Gurnett—as the name has, at different times, been written; a family of Saxon origin, who established themselves in the County Palantine of Lancaster, more than a century before the Conquest; and the heads of which family, for several centuries after the Conquest, were possessed of several baronies and manors of land in, and were Rangers of the Royal Forests for that county. The father of the deceased lived at Horsham, Sussex, before coming to this country. There he carried on the business of tanner. He died at Ancaster, C. W., on the 4th August, 1850. Mr. George Gurnett, the subject of this notice, was, we believe, born while his father lived at Horsham. Several of the family, two brothers at least, as well as the father, came out to this country. George at one time prior to 1827, lived at Richmond, Virginia, and was in business there in partnership with a person of the name of Wallaca. While there, he once thought of becoming an American citizen, and even declared his intention to do so; but the intention was apparently never carried into effect, and he came to Canada to live and die under the shadow of the British flag. Early in 1827, he commenced the publication of the *Gore Gazette*, printed at Ancaster. A copy of it is lying before us, bearing date October 18, 1828, and being No. 34 of Vol. II. It is a five column paper, printed on small type, and has, in these days, rather a diminutive appearance. This paper continued to be printed till the beginning of 1830; when, on the 28th of January, a prospectus of the *Courier of Upper Canada*, to be published at Little York, was issued. The new journal, which became the organ of the Upper Canada executive, was published weekly at \$4 per annum, exclusive of postage. In early life, Mr. Gurnett set out with very Liberal views; but his opinions moderated, as is generally the case, with years. He was fourth Mayor of Toronto; and afterwards held the same position again. He has long held the office of Clerk of the Peace, and has been Police Magistrate ever since that office was created; having previously been the Alderman, who, above all others, attended to the judicial duties which have to be performed in the Police Office. Though like every other public man in this country, he met a great deal of abuse at one time or another, it is universally admitted that he made an excellent Police Magistrate; his impartiality being above any reasonable suspicion. When he was first elected Mayor of Toronto, it was in opposition to Mr. Washburn; and although a Conservative, he obtained Reform support—an unusual thing when party lines were distinctly marked and tightly drawn. His pretensions were not seconded by the leaders of the party he had served; for they seemed to consider it presumption in him to place himself in competition with one of them. As member of the City Corporation nearly twenty years, Mr. Gurnett paid very close attention to Municipal affairs. The duties of Clerk of the Peace were mainly performed by deputy; and although he continued with unwearied assiduity to discharge the arduous duties of Police Magistrate, there was a general feeling that he had done his share of work, and ought to have been allowed to retire.—*Leader*.

No. 31.—JAMES SAMPSON, ESQ., M.D.

Dr. Sampson was born at Banbridge, in Ireland, according to the *Canadian Journals*, in 1788 or 1790. He matriculated in Trinity College, Dublin, and served his time with an eminent surgeon of that city. He was in London in 1808-9-10, and entered as a student of the *Middlesex Hospital*. Soon after the establishment of a *Military Hospital at Chelsea*, under Major General John Burnet, who had previously commanded one of the *Military Districts in Ireland*, a number of hospital assistants were selected, and among them James Sampson. This was the commencement of his military medical career. Among the Staff Surgeons at York Hospital the young assistant was noted for his earnest devotion to hospital duty, his attention to *post mortem* examinations, and his skill and precision in performing the minor operations in surgery. While performing his duties as assistant in the military hospital, he also continued his attendance at the civil hospital, and perfected himself in all the branches of professional knowledge. His proficiency in operative surgery was of the utmost value to him in the war of 1812, which found him in Canada, an assistant surgeon to the 104th Regiment. In the attack upon Sackett's Harbor, although still a very young man, he was selected to perform all the capital operations upon the wounded, aided by his two seniors, whose familiarity with the operations of surgery had not been so great. And in this, as in every public professional service, he acquitted himself with

such distinction as to establish his fame in Canada as a competent and accomplished surgeon.

If Dr. Sampson had continued in the Military Medical Service, and had survived the duties of the Service, he would long since have achieved the high rank of Inspector of Army Hospitals, and could have retired upon an ample pension. But he resigned his commission in the army, and settled down as a medical practitioner in Kingston, where he continued to practise between 40 and 50 years, being at the time of his decease perhaps the oldest resident practitioner in the Upper Province. In Kingston Dr. Sampson at once took up the position to which his high professional attainments and fine social qualities entitled him. He continued to make the practice of his profession the study of his life, and his clear strong masculine judgment was so highly valued that few cases of an obscure or difficult character occurred without his being consulted upon them. His integrity and honor were never impeached, and his life was in a great measure free from the petty professional quarrels and rivalries which embitter the lives of many.

Of his courage, promptitude, and daring, an idea may be formed from his conduct during the American War, when proceeding with a detachment of troops to Penetanguishene. The officer in command of the detachment was sick, and Dr. Sampson planned and himself executed a night attack in boats upon two armed American ships lying in Lake Huron, both of which he captured without losing a man. During the rebellion of 1837 he received the commission of Major, organized a large body of citizen soldiery when the garrison was denuded of regular troops, and put the city of Kingston in such an attitude of defence when she was threatened by a large band of sympathizers, that the attempt upon the town had to be abandoned.

Dr. Sampson has died full of years and of honors, leaving behind him a reputation both as a man and as a physician which few of his compeers can hope to attain. In his early career he kept open house, and probably injured his private fortunes by his liberality. He successively filled the offices of Mayor of the City, Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions, and President of the Medical Faculty of Queen's College. He was an Honorary Graduate of the University of McGill College, a member of the Medical Board of the Upper Province, and Surgeon of the Provincial Penitentiary, the duties of which last office he discharged faithfully and efficiently for twenty-six years.—*British American Journal*.

No. 32.—COLONEL McDONELL.

Col. McDonell, of whom we now write, came to this country with his uncle, the late Bishop McDonell, when a mere boy, and before the war of 1812. During that war, then a young man of about twenty years of age, he held a commission as a cadet, attached to the Canadian fencibles, and was present at, and took part in, the battle of Sackett's Harbour. He afterwards entered the service of the late Peter Robinson, and in his interest visited the County of Peterboro', then an uninhabitable wild, in the year 1820, where he may be said to have resided ever since. In 1825, when the Robinson immigration took place, he was appointed Emigrant Agent, and had attached to the post the office of Crown Lands Agent. Many of the early settlers of the County owe much in the way of information and encouragement to Mr. McDonell, while he acted in these capacities. In the year 1834, he was returned to the Parliament of Upper Canada, for the Newcastle District, which included the County of Peterboro'; and in the year 1836, he was again returned, the contest being between him and Mr. Ruttan on the one side, and Dr. Gilchrist and Mr. Conger on the other. He retained his seat during the troubles of 1837-38, and until the election of 1840, when he was defeated by Dr. Gilchrist, and has not since been in public life. He was at the same time superseded in his office of Crown Lands Agent by his successful opponent. Since that time he has not been very actively engaged in public matters. Indeed of late years the infirmities of age have kept him almost entirely confined to the house; but until within a week or two of his death, he retained all his faculties clear and unimpaired, and could dwell with evident pleasure upon the incidents of his earlier life. He occupied for many years the position of Colonel Commanding the Sedentary Militia of the District, and in this position alone has his name been before the public of late years.

V. Papers on Physical Geography.

1. DR. HAYES' POLAR EXPEDITION:

At a public dinner to Dr. Hayes, recently given by the Nova Scotia Medical Society at Halifax, the Arctic explorer made the following allusions to his late expedition:—You have intimated to me, Mr. President, that a sketch of our voyage would be acceptable to the gentlemen who honor me with their courteous attention,