

No. 33.—HON. H. L. LANGEVIN, Q. C., C. B., MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Hector Louis Langevin is the son of Jean Langevin, Esq. of Quebec, and was born there on the 26th August, 1826; and educated at the Seminary of that city. Having completed his educational course he entered on the study of the law in the office of the late M. Morin, in this city; and afterwards completed his articles with Mr. (now Sir George) Cartier. He was called to the bar of Lower Canada in October, 1850, and created Queen's Counsel in 1864. Commencing in 1847, he edited, for two years, the *Mélanges Religieux*; and afterwards the *Journal d'Agriculture*. A few years later, having removed from Montreal to Quebec, where he commenced the practice of the law, he became also editor of the *Courrier du Canada*. In 1855 he published an Essay on Canada which, in the general competition that then took place, was awarded the third prize; and in 1862 he published a work entitled, *Droit Administratif ou Manuel des Paroisses et Fabriques*. In this intimate connection with literature Mr. Langevin had no doubt, while serving the public, also qualified himself for the important offices of public trust soon afterwards conferred upon him. In 1853 he was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the North Shore Railway Company; a few years later he became a member of the Quebec Corporation, and in 1857 he was elected Mayor of the ancient capital, which office he held for three years. During that time he visited England on Corporation affairs. In later years he has held the highest offices in the *St. Jean Baptiste Society* and in the *Institut Canadien* of Quebec.

In 1857 he entered the Legislative Assembly of Canada as member for the County of Dorchester, and continued to represent that constituency until the Union. At the last general election he was

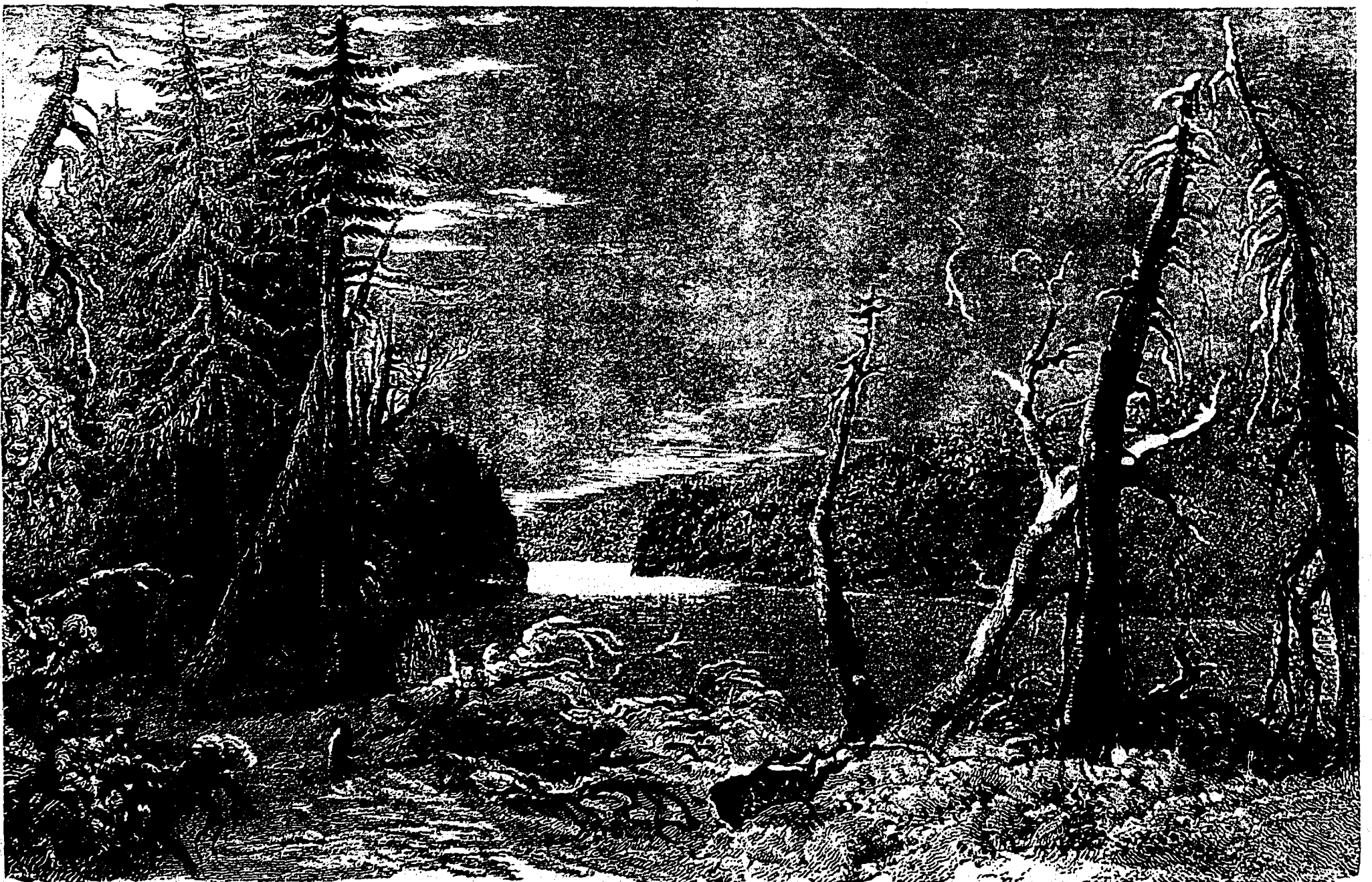


HON. H. L. LANGEVIN, Q. C., C. B. From a photograph by Notman.

elected by acclamation for the same county to represent it both in the House of Commons and in the Legislative Assembly of Quebec.

Mr. Langevin's career in parliament has been comparatively smooth. He first attracted general attention by his Motion of Want of Confidence in the Brown-Dorion Cabinet, August, 1858; and a few years later he secured the passage of two bills through the Assembly—one relating to the rate of interest, the other for the abolition of public executions, but both were stopped in the Legislative Council by the dissolution which took place in May, 1863. When the Macdonald-Dorion Government was defeated in March, 1864, Mr. Langevin took office with his party, being assigned the position of Solicitor-General for Lower Canada. In November, 1866, he was appointed Post Master General; and on the 1st July, 1867, he was appointed a member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, and Secretary of State in the Government that day formed by Sir John A. Macdonald. In November of last year, when the reconstruction of the Cabinet took place consequent upon the resignation of several members, Mr. Langevin was transferred from the Secretaryship of State to the Ministry of Public Works, which office he now holds.

With the other members of the Government he attended the Charlottetown Convention held in the summer of 1864, and also that of Quebec held in October following. He was, as a member of the Coalition Government of 1864, one of the "fathers of Confederation," and has of course since that time supported the policy throughout. In 1856 he was one of the six Canadian Ministers who went to London to attend the Colonial Conference at which the British North America Act was drawn up; and two years later he administered the Department of Militia and Defence in



ORFORD LAKE IN WINTER. From Willis' Canadian Scenery.—See PAGE 458.