

No. 68.—HON. E. B. WOOD,  
M. P.,

TREASURER OF ONTARIO.

Mr. Wood has not been long in public life considering the high position he has achieved. A little more than seven years ago he entered Parliament for the first time, yet it is almost four years since he became a Minister of the Crown. For this rapid promotion he is probably indebted, in about equal proportions, to his own ability and the favour of circumstances. Going into the Legislative Assembly as a supporter of the then existing Macdonald-Dorion Government, after having defeated Mr. Ryerson for one of the Ridings of Brant by a very large majority, his Parliamentary duties were at first not very burdensome, consisting chiefly in voting steadily with his leaders. It soon happened, however, that his party exchanged seats with their opponents, and in the Opposition ranks Mr. Wood was not long in gaining for himself a high position. His powerful physique, and his store of legal lore, supplemented by great facility of speech, soon won for him a leading part as a debater, and during the stormy and exciting period which preceded the formation of the coalition of 1864, he had the opportunity of breaking a lance with almost every leading man of the Conservative party. If our memory is not astray, it was during that time that poor McGee, in allusion to Mr. Wood's powerful style of oratory, as well as to the fact of a large Indian settlement being within his county, gave him the *soubriquet* of "Big Thunder," and indeed the volubility and thundering tones of Mr. Wood's voice gave McGee's well meant pleasantry so much of aptitude that it has not yet been quite forgotten. When the Coalition was formed on the basis of Confederation, Mr. Wood gave it his hearty support, and continued, during that and the two following sessions, to adhere to the general policy of the Government. It was fitting, therefore, from the position he had won for himself in the ranks of the Reform party, that the Hon. J. S. Macdonald should seek his assistance in forming the first Cabinet for the Province of Ontario.

Edmund Burke Wood was born near Chippawa, U. C., on the 14th February, 1817. His father, who was of Irish extraction, removed from the United States to Canada in 1812. Mr. Wood completed his education at Oberlin College, Ohio, and returning to Canada, devoted himself to the study of the law. He was called to the U. C. bar in 1854, and commenced his profession at Brantford, where he still carries on a lucrative practice.

At the general election of 1863 he offered himself for South Brant in the Reform interest, and was returned by a large majority. At the next general election (the first under Confederation) he was elected both to the House of Commons and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. At the late election for the same Province he was again returned by a handsome majority, thus proving that he possesses that very necessary element of strength to a politician—the confidence of his constituents.

When the Ontario Cabinet was formed by the Hon. J. S. Macdonald in July, 1867, Mr. Wood became Treasurer of that Province and a member of its Executive Council. His position in that important office has been an enviable one, for he has had, year after year, in his budget speeches, to recite the story of an ever-accumulating surplus. The financial arrangement under the Union Act, which was said by many to have been unfair to Ontario, and which, in fact, gave a smaller proportion per head to that Province than to any other, has resulted in endowing it with a surplussage of funds already counted by millions of dollars, while some of the other Provinces are represented as scraping at the bottom of their lockers. This



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FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN.



WOODLAND SCENE NEAR THE TOWN OF DUNDAS, ONT.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MR. R. STARR, WOODSTOCK.

apparently inexplicable fact will be readily understood, however, when it is stated that the Upper Canadians pay for their roads and bridges, and for the maintenance of the greater part of their public educational establishments and charitable institutions, by local or municipal taxation. Were a like system followed to the same extent in the other Provinces the plethora of funds would not be confined to Ontario. It must be said, however, that the Ontario Government has been economical, almost to parsimony, and of this policy Mr. Wood has ever been the staunch champion.

In the House of Commons and in relation to the Arbitration between Upper and Lower Canada, Mr. Wood has been no less zealous in the advocacy of Western interests. He battled earnestly against the "better terms" conceded to Nova Scotia, bothered the late Minister of Finance not a little as to the financial settlement to be made between the Dominion and the late Province, and finally succeeded in getting a verdict from the arbitrators in favour of his Province, which we think, however, will hardly "hold water." Though Mr. Wood has entered his fifty-fifth year, he is still fresh and vigorous, and, being of a strong constitution, appears to be fit for very many years of hard work yet.

#### WOODLAND SCENE NEAR DUNDAS.

We have already described the small but thriving town of Dundas, in the South Riding of the County of Wentworth, Ont., and illustrated some of the neighbouring scenery. The view here presented is on the stream which furnishes the water-power to the various industries in the town, and was photographed by Mr. Stark, of Woodstock.

The Duke of Gloucester, third son of the Prince of Wales, father of George IV., was a dull child, and his mother used to cause him great distress at times by jeering him on account of his dullness, in the presence of his brothers and sisters; on one particular occasion telling them to laugh at the fool. The sensitive child held down his head and said nothing; upon which the princess changed her tone, and accused him of sulkiness. "No," he said, "he was not sulky, he was only thinking." "And pray what are you thinking of?" inquired the princess, with increasing scorn in her manner. "I was thinking," said the poor child, "how I should feel if I had a son as unhappy as you make me."

It is now perfectly understood that the Prince and Princess of Wales will visit Ireland in the month of August next. His Royal Highness has accepted the office of President of the Royal Agricultural Society, and in that capacity it is expected that he will preside at the annual dinner which will take place—the show being held this year in St. Stephen's green, Dublin—in the Exhibition Palace. It is said that the Prince of Wales is most desirous of affording the Princess an opportunity of viewing the magnificent scenery of Killarney, and that for this purpose Viscount Castlerosse has placed his charming residence at the disposal of their Royal Highnesses, whom he has invited as his guests. If our information prove correct, the stay of the Royal party in the autumn, 1871, will not be as brief as former visits, but will constitute in real truth a Royal progress through Ireland. Other seats than those of the nobleman mentioned will, it is thought, be visited. The Victoria and Albert yacht will be commissioned for the service of the illustrious party.

The *Courrier du Pas de Calais* says that a petition to the Assembly at Bordeaux has been signed by seventy-five persons in Boulogne, praying the Assembly to offer the Crown of France to the Count de Chambord, on condition that he shall recognise the Count de Paris as his heir presumptive.