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OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 25.—HON. GEORGE BROWN.

No "gallery" of eminent Canadians would be complete if it lacked the portrait of the Hon. George Brown. For twenty years or more he has held a prominent position in politics, and for as long a period a front rank as a Canadian journalist. It has been the case with many in Canada to commence their political career as journalists and to abandon the press when they entered public life; but Mr. Brown has never kicked away the ladder by which he rose to eminence. On the contrary, his individual promotion, due perhaps in great part to his newspaper, has been made in turn to advance the influence of his journal; and it cannot be gainsaid but that it has at length generously rewarded his patient devotion and indomitable exertions.

Mr. Brown is a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, where he was born on the 29th of November, 1818. Having completed his educational studies, he entered for a time on commercial pursuits; but when about twenty years of age, his father, the late Peter Brown, Esq., left Edinburgh with his family. George accompanying them, and settled in New York. Here his journalistic career began on a paper projected by his father, called the *British Chronicle*. A journal with such a title in New York was possibly more calculated to attract attention in Upper Canada than in the States; at all events, the ferment prevailing among the Scottish Presbyterians as between the "Free" and the Established "kirks," had extended to Canada, and the "Free" movement, with which Mr. Peter Brown and his son heartily sympathised, having been espoused by the *Chronicle*, arrangements were soon made by which the family removed from New York to Toronto. Here, in the summer of 1843, Mr. Peter Brown began the publication of the *Banner*, the special organ of the Free Church party, to which George became one of the principal contributors. About that period the Reformers were casting about

year. The *Banner* was continued by Mr. Peter Brown for many years afterwards; but the *Globe* displayed so much zeal and ability in the Reform cause, that it soon became the recognized organ of the regular party; the other Reform papers of the day being rather the mouth-pieces of certain cliques. When the Lafontaine-Baldwin Government came into power in 1848, after the triumph of the Reformers at the polls, the *Globe* became the chief Government organ; which position it filled up to 1851, when

reflected the varying phases of Mr. Brown's political creed, though it has owed much of its success to other pens than his—to his father's in its early days: to Mr. McDougall's; to Mr. George Sheppard's, and to those of others little less able; especially to that of Mr. J. Gordon Brown, a younger brother of George, whose abilities as a journalist are esteemed to be of a high order. As a newspaper the *Globe* holds a high rank among the journals of this western world; and is a worthy monument to the persevering, daring energy of the Hon. George Brown.

Mr. Brown first offered himself for Parliament in the spring of 1851, for the county of Haldimand, but without success. At the general election in December of that year, he was returned for the united counties of Kent and Lambton. At the next general election in 1854, the representation being increased, and Kent and Lambton receiving each a member, he was returned for the latter, which he represented until 1857, when the Legislature was again dissolved. He was then in the zenith of his power as the leader of the Reform, or, as it was then called, the "Clear Grit" party; and at the general election of that year was returned both for North Oxford and the City of Toronto. He elected to sit for the latter, a grave mistake for his own future convenience. He got a large, unmanageable constituency, which subsequently rejected him, and gave up one which, with very little trouble, he might have kept until to-day. However, it enabled him to gain a vote for his party in the House, for Mr. McDougall, after several unsuccessful attempts to get a seat in the Legislative Assembly, was returned for North Oxford in his stead. In the language of the time, Toronto was "redeemed" by the ministerial party in 1861, and Mr. Brown being defeated, after a hard and exhausting contest, remained out of Parliament for the whole of one and a considerable part of another session. In March 1863, on the death of Mr. Hope McKenzie, (brother of the member for Lambton)



HON. GEORGE BROWN.—From a Photograph by Notman & Fraser.

them for an "organ;" the *Banner*, from its exclusively sectarian character, though Reform in its politics, did not find its way among general readers sufficiently to commend it for that purpose, and Mr. George Brown's vigorous writings having already attracted the attention of leading politicians, he received the full countenance and support of the party in starting the *Globe* newspaper, which made its appearance in 1844, and is consequently now in its 27th

personal and political divergences, previously at work among the Reformers, led to the retirement of the old leaders, and other estrangements, one of which was a loss of confidence on the part of Mr. Brown in the Hincks-Morin Cabinet. The *Globe* then drifted into vigorous and violent opposition; and except with two or three brief interruptions, it has so continued until this day. During this period, the *Globe* has, no doubt, fairly

the sitting member for the South Riding of Oxford, Mr. Brown was returned for that constituency, which he continued to represent up to the time the British North America Act came into force. At the general election in 1867, he unsuccessfully contested the representation of South Ontario with Mr. Gibbs; and from that time has been in political retirement. Had he merely desired a seat in the House of Commons, Mr. Brown might have