

business matter that comes before him with almost judicial calmness, and when any new enterprise commends itself to his approval he acts with decision and throws all his energy into it. It is, therefore, not surprising that success generally crowns his undertakings. In politics Mr. Mason belongs to no party, but judging him by his conversation we are inclined to class him as a Liberal with modified Conservative leanings. Above all things, he is a British Canadian, and zealous for the honor of his adopted country. He believes that Canadians have as much brain power, and as much mental and physical abilities to work out their own destiny as the people of the United States, or in fact any people in the world. The only thing they seem to lack, in his estimation, is national unity, and faith in their own glorious future. Time and circumstances, he thinks, will cure this at no distant day. Mr. Mason belongs to the Methodist church, and in the erection of the Metropolitan Church in this city took a very active part. For many years he has been secretary of the trustees Board, and by his influence as a member of the musical committee of that church, has contributed largely to the placing the musical part of the service on its present highly satisfactory state.

Hincks, Sir Francis, was born at Cork, on the 14th of December, 1807. He was a son of Dr. T. D. Hincks, a member of the Irish (Unitarian) Presbyterian Church, a very distinguished scholar and an exceedingly worthy man. Francis, the subject of the present sketch, commenced his education under his father, at Fermoy, and continued it in the classical and mathematical school of the Belfast Institution, then presided over by Dr. James Thompson, afterwards professor of mathematics at the University of Glasgow. In the month of November, 1822, he entered the collegiate department of the institution, and attended the logic and *belles lettres*, and the Greek and Latin classes during the winter session. But, in May, 1823, he expressed a desire to be a merchant, and it was finally arranged that he should be articled for five years to the house of John Martin & Co., previous to which, however, he had three or four months' initiation into business habits in the office of his father's friend, Samuel Bruce, a notary public and agent. The period for which he was articled terminated in October, 1828, but he continued with the firm until the beginning of 1830, when he sailed to the West Indies as supercargo of one of Messrs. Martin & Co.'s vessels. He visited Jamaica,

Barbadoes, Trinidad and Demerara, but not meeting with an inducement to settle in any of these colonies, he agreed to accompany a Canadian gentleman, whom he met at Barbadoes, to Canada, and proceeded to Montreal and Toronto, his object being to ascertain the nature of Canadian commerce and business. Having gleaned the information he desired, he returned to Belfast in 1831. In the following summer, having determined to settle in Canada, he married the second daughter of Alexander Stewart, a merchant of Belfast, and soon after sailed to New York, and proceeded to Toronto, and took up his abode in a house belonging to Mr. Baldwin. Mr. Hincks soon obtained a high reputation for knowledge of business, and when Wm. Lyon Mackenzie attacked Mr. Merritt and others respecting the Welland canal, and obtained a parliamentary investigation, he was chosen, with another merchant, to examine the accounts. He was also appointed secretary to the Mutual Insurance Company, and cashier to a new banking company. On the appointment of Lord Durham to the government of Canada, Mr. Hincks commenced the *Examiner* newspaper, in the editorship of which he displayed such remarkable vigour and talent, that he was invited to become a candidate for the representation of the county of Oxford in the first parliament held after the union of the upper and lower provinces. The election was held in March, 1841, when Mr. Hincks was returned by a majority of thirty-one over his opponent, a gentleman named Carroll. Shortly after his election, he was appointed by Sir Charles Bagot inspector-general, and was obliged, in consequence, to vacate his seat and return for re-election. He was opposed by John Armstrong, who abandoned the contest at noon on the third day, Mr. Hincks having a majority of 218. When Lord Metcalfe dissolved the Canadian parliament in 1844, Mr. Hincks was defeated, his opponents being Robert Riddle (a son-in-law of Admiral Vanassart), who was returned by a majority of twenty over Mr. Hincks, and the Hon. Thomas Parke, who did not go to the poll. In 1848, however, he was declared elected by the legislature, by the large majority of three hundred and thirty-five over his old opponent, Mr. Carroll, although the returning-officer had declared Mr. Carroll elected through some legal technicality in Mr. Hincks' qualification. Having for the second time accepted the office of inspector-general under the administration of his first friend in Canada, Mr.

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