

of Lord Metcalfe's course as Governor General, his opponents may with apparent reason assail the soundness of the conclusions of the biographer by pointing to the inaccuracy of many of his details, while hasty readers, and their number is not small, will, on account of those very inaccuracies do injustice to the memory of one of the most upright, single-minded, and noble hearted men that ever administered the government of Canada.

We propose to illustrate the justice of our strictures by a reference to the author's introductory account of the Hon. Robert Baldwin. We select this first on account of errors of omission and commission which it contains. Mr. Kaye might have, if he pleased, in writing the life of Lord Metcalfe, omitted many or all merely personal details relative to Mr. Baldwin, though in what he chose to state he should have been careful to be right; but in matters connected with Mr. Baldwin's political position and which had a direct bearing upon the influence and power he had to sustain or to embarrass Lord Metcalfe, full information was essential to a just appreciation of the Governor General's conduct, and ought not therefore to have been omitted.

A few instances will serve to justify our opinion that Mr. Kaye has failed both in accuracy in what he has stated and in omitting that which ought not to have been overlooked. It will surprise every one who has long resided here to be told that Mr. R. Baldwin is "the son of a gentleman of Toronto of *American descent*." We have always been informed and believed that the late Wm. Warren Baldwin was an Irishman by birth and descent who left Ireland somewhere about the year 1798 and who in after years was nick-named by some of his political opponents, when he became a member of the Upper Canada Assembly, "Old Vinegar Hill." It is news to us that he ever was considered a member of the Old Family Compact, though like many others who came to Upper Canada at an early period he and his connections were said to have benefited largely by the profuse grants of lands which it was the fashion of the time to make. Judging of the man by his works, or even by what he attempted when a member of the Assembly, he never was one to exercise any very powerful influence in the politics of Upper Canada. And "the most liberal opinions of the day" in which he was an active politician, belong rather to the Little Peddington School than to the larger stage on

which the son acted his part. We are disposed to attribute the latter's political course and influence to causes which seem to have escaped Mr. Kaye's notice. We do not question Mr. Baldwin's deference to, and even veneration for his father's opinions, such as they were, nor that they may have prepared him to adopt the views he ultimately sustained. His first appearance in the House of Assembly of Upper Canada at a time when, if we mistake not, his father was also a member, produced no very striking or favourable impression. It was not until Sir Francis Head in 1836 commenced his capricious administration that Mr. Baldwin began to occupy any share of public attention and when we remember that Dr. John Rolph was one of his then newly appointed colleagues in the Executive Council, we have a more ready key to Mr. Baldwin's course both then and afterwards, than Mr. Kaye has discovered. Besides this, he was favoured greatly by the consideration that he was one of the very few persons of that political party who enjoyed the advantages of good education and of independence in circumstances. And a man who could afford besides giving his own services, to contribute occasionally to the sinews of war, was tolerably sure of occupying for the time a leading position. The disruption of that council was calculated to raise Mr. Baldwin in the estimation of his party though he did not become a member of the Assembly at the general Election of 1836. If we remember rightly he was not even a candidate, a circumstance which coupled with his abstinence from all participation in the mad outbreak of 1837, seemed to indicate that the prominent leaders in that absurd insurrection felt it would be useless to seek his concurrence in any attempt to sever by force of arms the connexion between this Colony and Great Britain. The total discomfiture of the rebels drove from Upper Canada all, or nearly all of those who might have disputed Mr. Baldwin's claim to the leadership of the Reformers. When Lord Sydenham came to Upper Canada, he found Mr. Baldwin, though not in Parliament, in possession of the confidence of his party to a greater extent than any other individual who could be selected; in fact from the sheer force of circumstances the most prominent man left among them. In pursuance of his avowed policy to obliterate as far as possible all merely local party distinctions Lord Sydenham did not overlook Mr. Baldwin. He appointed him Solicitor General of Upper Canada and on