

ble terms in which a strong personal animus towards his chief lieutenant could without difficulty be detected. At length, in the session of 1856, after the Government had sustained an adverse vote in the House, Sir Allan succumbed to pressure, and resigned the Premiership, which, however, was not assumed by Mr. Macdonald, but by Mr. E. P. Taché. It was by this Government that the measure making the Legislative Council an elective body was passed. For this the Reform party had for years been ineffectually struggling, and now it remained for the "hope of the Conservatives" to grant this boon to the country. Towards the close of 1857 Mr. Taché resigned the Premiership, which was assumed by Mr. Macdonald, whose Government was sustained at the general election which followed very shortly afterwards. The Government majority, however, was drawn from the Lower Canadian representatives, the Reform party having carried a majority of the constituencies in Upper Canada. In consequence of this, the question of representation by population, of which Mr. George Brown was the champion, became a burning question in the politics of the day. During the first session it was introduced by Mr. Brown, and its passage strongly urged, in justice to the growing importance of Upper Canada. After a long and heated debate, it was defeated on a division of 64 to 52. At the opening of this session the decision of Her Majesty, to whom had been submitted the question of where the permanent capital of the province should be placed, was made known. Her decision was in favor of Ottawa, which had many advantages to recommend it. The selection, however, occasioned discontent in several of the cities which had aspired to the honor, and the Opposition, taking advantage of this feeling, succeeded in carrying a resolution of regret at Her Majesty's choice. The ministry of Mr. Macdonald thereupon promptly resigned, and Mr. George Brown was invited to form a Cabinet. He undertook the task and succeeded, but his Government lasted only two days, and was succeeded by the Cartier-Macdonald administration which conducted the business of the country till 1861, when dissolution occurred. During those two years a large number of important measures were carried, and among other matters which came before the House was a copy of some correspondence with the home authorities regarding a project for uniting the British North American Provinces. Although, on the re-assembling of the House after the general elections, the Government found itself sustained by a majority of seventeen, it suffered defeat during the first session, on the Militia Bill, which proposed the establishment of a comprehensive system of fortifications throughout Canada. The Macdonald-Sicotte

Government, of which Mr. John Sandfield Macdonald was the head, was then formed. It succeeded in struggling through the session, but receiving a defeat at the close of the session of 1863, an appeal was made to the country, and the ministry, which in the interval had undergone some remodelling, was sustained, though by an exceedingly slim majority. In the Cabinet, as it was now constituted, Mr. A. A. Dorion had taken the place of Mr. Sicotte. The Government struggled through the session in safety, but resigned when parliament opened in 1864. The Taché-Macdonald ministry followed, but only lasted for a month. It now became plain to all, that with the parties so evenly balanced, it would be an impossibility for any Government constituted on recognized lines, to exist and carry on the business of the country. It was at this juncture that Mr. George Brown made the overtures to Mr. Macdonald which resulted in the coalition Government, formed for the purpose of bringing about a confederation of the Provinces. The question of Confederation, which had for some years been presented to the various Provinces as a possibility, was regarded favorably by the people, especially of Canada, and by the authorities in the old land. A number of conferences of delegates from the Maritime Provinces and from Canada were held, at which the conditions of union were discussed, and at length final arrangements were made at the meeting in Quebec. The resolutions adopted at this latter conference were submitted to the Canadian Legislative Assembly in February, 1865, by the Hon. John A. Macdonald. A motion favoring the union was carried, and a committee was appointed to draft an address to the Queen in the matter. The result was the confederation of the two Canadas, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, under the terms of the British North America Act. Mr. Macdonald, who had been one of the most zealous workers for Confederation, was the first Premier under the new order of things, and his services were rewarded by the distinction of knighthood. He was chiefly instrumental, after the union had been established, in obtaining from the Imperial Government that vast tract of territory now known as the North-West, and then called Rupert's Land, over which the Hudson's Bay Company held certain rights by charter, and a portion of this he subsequently erected into the Province of Manitoba. In 1871 he arranged the terms on which British Columbia entered the Dominion, and in 1873, while he was still at the helm of state, Prince Edward Island became a Province of the Confederation. In the general election of 1872 his Government was sustained by a good majority. When parliament opened, however, charges of corrupt collusion with Sir Hugh