

An alderman at nineteen, Mr. Duhamel had already served two years in the city council before he attained his majority, an example of popular favor up to that time unknown in the history of municipal government in Montreal. In those days the question of representation, according to nationality in the city council, was more prominent than it is now, the exigencies of the case seeming to demand the very best talent that it was possible to secure. In this point of view it will be admitted that the responsibilities which devolved upon one so youthful and inexperienced, were of no ordinary character; and it is, perhaps, the highest compliment that can be paid to the subject of this brief notice to say—and those who are acquainted with the facts will admit the truth of the observation—that Mr. Duhamel did not disappoint the sanguine anticipations of those who had thus brought him forward. Indeed, so thoroughly satisfied were they with their choice, that when the term for which he had been elected had expired, his constituents strongly urged him to present himself again, but he declined on account of professional duties. Some years afterwards, yielding to the pressure of some of his friends, leading merchants, lawyers, etc., of the East ward, Mr. Duhamel was re-elected for three years more their representative, during which time he devoted himself with much zeal and assiduity to the interests of his constituency.

Joseph Duhamel was born in the city of Montreal, on the 20th January, 1836, a stirring period in the history of Lower Canada. His parents were Joseph Duhamel/Sr., merchant, and Domethilda Mousset. At the age of seven, our subject entered the preparatory department of the college of Ste. Thérèse. Subsequently he followed an Art course at St. Hyacinthe, and finally passed with honors through the Jesuits' college at Montreal. Having selected law as the profession to which his tastes inclined him to devote himself, he entered the office of Messrs. Badgley and Abbott, a firm of eminence, where he passed the term of his legal study. Upon his admission to practice, on the 7th April, 1857, he at once became associated in partnership with the late Mr. Cyrille Archambault, a gentleman very popular in the profession, who came to an untimely end by the explosion of the boiler of the steamer *St. John*. Some years afterwards, Mr. Duhamel entered into partnership with Mr. Gustave Drolet, now retired from the practice of his profession, and a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. Afterwards he became the head of the firm of Duhamel, Rainville, Rinfret and Rainville, which was later, on account of one of the firm having accepted a superior court judgeship, changed to its present name of "Duhamel, and Rainville," a firm which has been engaged in many of the most important cases before the Courts, and which also enjoys one of the largest consultation practices in the city of Montreal. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in June, 1878.

Throughout his career Mr. Duhamel has enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all classes of his fellow citizens, and outside of his own social and professional circle is highly respected by all whose opinion is most worthy of regard. He is always ready to defend and uphold what he believes to be right. His political proclivities have ever been Liberal, and to his assistance,