

Commons. He was elected by acclamation, and is now one of the prominent members in that parliament. Mr. Riopel has devoted a great deal of his time and energy towards promoting the scheme of the Baie des Chaleurs Railway, which is now under construction, and he is the managing director of that important undertaking. He is also a director of the North-West Central Railway Company. He married on the 24th of November, 1875, Marie Louise Justine, a daughter of the late L. A. Robitaille, N.P., of Varennes. Mr. Riopel is an adherent of the Catholic faith.

McMaster, Hon. William, Toronto, Senator, was born in 1811 in the County of Tyrone, Ireland, emigrating to Canada in his twenty-second year. He is a son of the late William McMaster, a linen merchant, and a man of the highest character, who did business for many years in the native county of the subject of this memoir. William's early education was a very careful one, he having attended a private school, the best in the neighborhood, presided over by Mr. Halcro, one of the most eminent teachers in the north of Ireland. He had, we learn, intended to settle in the States, but was induced, by the British consul at New York, to come to Canada, where, as we have seen, he reached at the age of twenty-two. He entered the wholesale and retail establishment of Robert Cathcart, whose store was on the south side of King street facing Toronto street. There could be no higher proof of his business ability than that after a year he became a partner. Ultimately he saw his way to do better still, and set up for himself as a wholesale merchant on Yonge street, just below King street. At that time the principal distributing centre, even for Upper Canada, was Montreal. But Mr. McMaster saw that this was not destined to be perpetual; that a change had already set in, and that by energy and business talent, Toronto could be made a formidable rival to Montreal. He can hardly be described as a pioneer in the attempt to divert the trade from its old and well-worn channel, but hardly any one has done more than he has to make the attempt successful. He extended his business until all Western Ontario was his market. He built large premises and took his nephews into partnership with him. Extended business again compelled him to build. When enterprise, sound judgment, and business ability are tempered with prudence and caution, the admixture becomes a powerful lever to success, and these qualities have

been strongly exemplified in the career of William McMaster. He has known how to make money, and he has known how to do good. To give a list of Senator McMaster's business connections, and of the numerous positions that he holds in prominent societies in the community can present no idea of how great the man's achievements have been. We give them, however: He was for many years head of the firm of W. McMaster & Nephews, wholesale dry goods merchants, Toronto; is a member of the Senate of the University of Toronto; president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and of the Freehold Permanent Building and Savings Society; vice-president of the Confederate Life Association; a director of the Toronto General Trusts Company, and of the Wellington, Grey & Bruce Railway. He held for several years the office of chairman of the Canadian Board of the Great Western Railway Company; is chairman of the board of trustees of the Baptist College, which was erected and furnished by him at an expense of over \$100,000. He represented the Midland division in the Legislative Council of Canada from 1862 until the union. He was called to the Senate by Royal proclamation, May, 1867. In all benevolent, religious, moral or worthy movements he has been one of the foremost spirits in the community. The Baptist Church, on the corner of Gerrard and Jarvis streets, Toronto, and one of the handsomest structures in the city, never would have been erected but for this prince of philanthropists. The joint contribution of himself and his wife to this edifice was over \$60,000. He has been a liberal supporter of the Canadian Literary Institute, Woodstock, his contribution to the building fund alone being \$12,000. He is treasurer, and has been in that office for many years, of the Upper Canada Bible Society, to which, with his wonted liberality he has been a consistent subscriber. Senator McMaster has been twice married, first in 1851, to Mary Henderson, of New York city, who died in 1868, and in 1871 to his present wife, Susan Molten, widow of the late James Fraser, of Newburgh, New York state. He was mainly instrumental in founding the Superannuated Ministers' Society of the Baptist Church of Ontario, and the success to the institution is, in a large measure, due to his liberality and excellent management. He has always given careful and conscientious attention to political questions, and though he has been a steadfast Liberal through his life, he has never exhibited nar-

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