

IV. Biographical Sketches.

No. 4.—THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, K. G. *

Henry Pelham Fiennes Pelham Clinton, Duke of Newcastle, was born in London in May 1811. He was educated at Eton having among his contemporaries there Mr. Gladstone and Charles Kean, and afterwards at Christ Church, Oxford, which has numbered so many statesmen among its alumni. He married a daughter of the 10th Duke of Hamilton, who bore him several children, but from whom he was divorced in 1850. He entered Parliament in 1832 as Lord Clinton, in the conservative interest, his father having been a strong tory till the last. He sat for the family borough of Newark and for South Notts until 1846. Attaching himself to the Conservative Chief, Sir Robert Peel, he formed one of that bright galaxy who adhered to his fortunes while living and have striven to continue his policy since his decease. He was the close friend of the late Lord (Sidney) Herbert, and of Mr. Gladstone throughout their public lives. In Sir Robert's short lived Government of 1834 he held office as a junior Lord of the Treasury, and on his return to power in 1841 again took office as Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests. When free trade split the Conservative party in 1846, he followed the fortunes of his chief, while his father adhered to Lord Derby (then Lord Stanley) and Lord George Bentinck. Lord Lincoln exchanging his office for the Irish Secretaryship, returned to his constituency for re-election, and was beaten by his father's influence and exertions. He was forced to fall back on the Falkirk burghs, in which his father-in-law's influence was predominant. Of course he lost office with his chief in the same year. He succeeded his father in the House of Lords in 1851. In 1852 he became Secretary for War and the Colonies in the Aberdeen Coalition Cabinet, and on the division of these offices consequent on the increased work incidental to the Crimean war, he accepted the War department, but was forced out by the growing dissatisfaction with the conduct of the war, which eventually destroyed the Ministry. So profound was his interest in the matter that after leaving office he went out himself to the Crimea to see with his own eyes what was being done. His defence of his own policy was perhaps his greatest Parliamentary effort. In 1859, on the formation of the present Government under Lord Palmerston, he returned to the Colonial office, and continued at work there till ill-health drove him to seek repose. Like his friend Lord Herbert, he may be said to have died in harness. In October, aged 53 years. Like that much loved statesman, too, he over taxed his powers of endurance in a conscientious effort to do his duty. Many thousands in Canada remember the fine, burly figure, the big, massive head, the look of strength, of intellect and determination which characterized the Mentor of the Heir Apparent when he visited us in 1860. But few know perchance how much he thought and labored for the welfare of these colonies, how specially anxious he was to maintain in Britain a kindly feeling towards us, and to stimulate our public men to exertions to place us in a position worthy of our race and position and of Britain's protecting aid. Few knew how zealous and industrious he was to inform himself about all that concerned our advancement—how much he was interested in this very scheme of Colonial union which our statesmen are now busy about when the news of his death unhappily reached them. But to those who (like the writer) have had opportunities to see and know this, the loss of the Duke of Newcastle at a time when the foes of Colonial connection seem so strong, will be esteemed a loss, not only to his family and personal friends; not only to the Queen he had served so faithfully or the Prince whom he had so wisely and kindly advised; not only even to the people of the island which gave him birth, but to the whole empire, the outlying portions of which he labored for with a statesmanlike breadth of view and a truly patriotic spirit all too uncommon among the public men of the day.—*Montreal Gazette*.

No. 5.—GEORGE DESBARATS, ESQ. *

We regret to announce the death on the 12th November of Mr. Geo. Desbarats, joint Queen's Printer, an office which he has held since the union of the Provinces. Mr. Desbarats was an excellent citizen and an admirable officer of the Government. Perhaps no Printing Office in the world was better managed than that of the Province under his management. It used to be his boast that he had the best printers that could be procured and that nothing sent to his office in confidence ever reached the public through any of his employés. We believe, also, that he allowed pensions to some of those who had become superannuated in his employ. He was a lover of Horticultural pursuits, and has been for several years President of the Montreal Horticultural Society. He was actively engaged also in promoting Mining and other enterprises, using the

means he had accumulated to develop the resources of the country. Many men condemned what they called the profitable monopoly of the government printing office, but almost universally recognized the worth and estimable qualities of Mr. Desbarats. He was very widely known throughout the Province and much esteemed, and he will be missed and regretted by many. The deceased gentleman was one of the most active and thorough business men in Canada. The immense establishment which he had under his control was probably the most admirably arranged printing office on the continent. He was the first to introduce in British America printing by steam, the first sheet from the steam press ever thrown off in this Country having been thrown off in his office in Montreal, immediately after the removal of the seat of Government to that city in 1843-4. Every new improvement in the art was at once introduced by him, until as we have said, it is now the most complete and best appointed office in America. Many of the men employed in it had been so employed for nearly a quarter of a century, for Mr. Desbarats never dismissed a faithful servant even when old age made him comparatively valueless. By this means he secured the services of a class of men of the highest merit—and it enabled him to say with truth that no work sent to his office in confidence—and in his capacity of Queen's Printer he had much of such work to perform—ever was divulged through one of his employés. Despite the extent of the business of the office, and in addition to a thorough mastery of its minutest details, Mr. Desbarats found time for other pursuits. The first glass factory in Canada was established by him. Few men have led a more thoroughly active life, and few will be more missed in the commercial and social circle in which he moved, and his death will be very deeply regretted by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.—*Montreal Gazette and Peterborough Review*.

No. 6.—THE REV. JAMES REID, D. D.

We regret to announce the death of the Rev. James Reid, D. D., Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, on the 14th instant, at his residence at Frelighsburg, L. C. He was the oldest member of his church in Lower Canada, and lived continuously for nearly half a century at Frelighsburg, succeeding the Hon. and Rev. Dr. Stewart, who became Bishop of Quebec, serving during that long period in the church which was built by Dr. Stewart. The county of Missisquoi, possessing great natural beauties and advantages, is, we believe, the oldest settled portion of the Eastern Townships. It was to a great extent a rugged wild when Dr. Stewart commenced his missionary labours, and served in two churches,—that at Frelighsburg which we have mentioned, and one at Philipsburg which he also built. The country was still wild when Dr. Reid, employed by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, as a Missionary, succeeded him, with ambition to walk in the footsteps traced by his sainted predecessor, a man of noble birth and learning, who had left his ease at home for the service of God in this country, and whose name will be held in grateful memory so long as the Church of England preserves a record in Canada. Born in the town of Dunkeld, in Athol, Scotland, he came out a missionary, sent by Robert Haldane, and commenced his labors as an evangelist. Through the instrumentality of the present Lord Bishop of Toronto then Rector of Cornwall, and Bishop Stewart, then a missionary, he was led into the Church of England, and, in 1812, moved to Missisquoi Bay, where he took charge of the Government school. In 1815 he was ordained by the first Bishop of Quebec, Dr. Mountain, when he came to Frelighsburg to succeed Dr. Stewart, and continued Rector until the day of his death. For several years he was in charge of the whole Seignior, and was the only clergyman in these country parts, with the exception of Mr. Cotton and the Rev. Canon Townsend, with whom he was ordained. The successor, as I have said, of the sainted Bishop Stewart in his Parish, he enjoyed the love and confidence of that holy man, with whom he corresponded until the day of the Bishop's death. With Dr. Reid may be said to have gone a connecting link between two distinctive epochs of modern history, and more than the average of two generations of men. When he was born Louis XVI. still reigned, and George the Third was King. He was nine years old when the first French revolution broke out, with its frightful saturnalia and propaganda which filled Europe with bloodshed. He was in the prime of manhood during Napoleon's dream of universal empire, and 35 years old when the battle of Waterloo was fought. He married and we believe baptized grandfathers of the present generation, and buried both grandfathers and fathers and children, before his own almost iron frame would yield up its life, and was buried in the old churchyard among the rest. Dr. Reid was to the last days of his life a very studious man. And he was a man of vigorous mind. He thus became possessed of great stores of learning—much greater than most men of the present day possess—and this, indeed, was merely an incident of a long, quiet country life, with very few distractions.

* Omitted in their proper place in the December number.