

OUR ENGRAVING

T. B. AKINS, D.C.L.—Thomas Beamish Akins was born at Liverpool, N.S., on the 1st of February, 1809, and died at Halifax, of pneumonia, on the 6th of May, 1891. His father, Thomas Akin (who added an "s" to his surname), was a merchant of Liverpool. Dr. Akins was educated in Halifax, where he was called to the Bar in 1831. His practice, which was chiefly that of a solicitor, was wholly discontinued many years ago. At an early age he became interested in provincial history. While a lad he assisted Haliburton in collecting facts for his "Historical and Statistical Account of Nova Scotia," and some thirty-six years later he supplied a large portion of the materials for Murdoch's more elaborate history. In 1857 a grant was made for the arrangement and preservation of documents illustrative of Nova Scotian history and progress, and Dr. Akins was appointed the Commissioner of Public Records. This appointment he held until his death. The new Record Commissioner found everything in confusion, except the papers in the Provincial Secretary's office; but he succeeded in arranging and cataloguing them in a way that has won the applause of several historians. To the papers originally confided to his keeping he made most valuable additions, considering the slender means at his disposal. His materials for the single volume of selections, which he was authorized to publish, were chosen with much judgment, and the value of the book is largely increased by his excellent biographical and explanatory notes. Many quotations from this work and several tributes to its excellence may be found in volumes 4, 5 and 8 of the "Narrative and Critical History of America," edited by Justice Winsor. Parkman terms it "a government publication of great value." It is as freely, but not so appreciatively, quoted by MM. Rameau and Casgrain. The charges preferred against Dr. Akins of suppressing and garbling manuscripts in his printed "Selections" cannot be fully discussed here. I think the Abbé Casgrain will regret these charges (so widely repeated in France), which he made on seemingly good evidence, but *in ignorance of the man*. Dr. Akins was a single-minded lover of historic truth. I feel that M. Casgrain would have instinctively recognized this had these two historians met. The distinguished abbé was not aware, when he framed his accusations, that the documents (all of them I fancy, but certainly nearly all) which he thought were wilfully omitted were not in the possession of Dr. Akins when his "Selections" were published; that Dr. Akins himself never crossed the Atlantic; and that if any copyist acting for him overlooked or imperfectly transcribed any important document in London or elsewhere it was wholly without the knowledge or direction of the Record Commissioner. In his abhorrence of strife, he hesitated to strike even in self-defence, and in his dread of notoriety he held back more than one champion who was ready to strike in his behalf. That no papers designed to vindicate him will be found in the new volume of the Nova Scotia Historical Society is due only to his own strongly expressed wishes. Besides his "Selections from the Public Documents of Nova Scotia" (Halifax, 1869), Dr. Akins was the author of a short history of the University of King's College, Windsor, N.S. (Halifax, 1865); of two pamphlets, "Rise and Progress of the Church of England in the British North American Provinces" (Halifax, 1849), and "Prize Essay on the History of the Settlement of Halifax," (Halifax, 1847), and of two or three papers printed in the "Collections" of the Nova Scotia Historical Society. At the time of his death he was vice-president of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, of which he had been president in the year 1882. He was an honorary or corresponding member of the American, the Massachusetts, the Quebec, the Maryland, the Texas and other historical societies. King's College gave him an honorary D.C.L. in 1865; but, notwithstanding this distinction, he modestly preferred being

addressed as *Mr. Akins*. He was a zealous and intelligent bibliophile, and he had a large and valuable collection of 15th and 16th century books, some of which he had some years ago presented to the library of King's College, whose chief attraction they are. The rest of these, with all his miscellaneous books, he has willed to the same library. His famous and unique collection of books and pamphlets relating to Nova Scotia and other provinces of British North America is, however, bequeathed conditionally to the Nova Scotia Historical Society, provided the society supplies safe and suitable accommodation for the collection and keeps it apart from their other effects. Dr. Akins was a charming raconteur, a gentleman of the old school, a kind friend, and a doer of generous deeds who shrank from letting his left hand know the good that his right hand wrought. He was the greatest authority on the history and antiquities of Nova Scotia and, perhaps, the Maritime Provinces. His antiquarian zeal was not stimulated by any desire for fame. And yet, when many who are now playing prominent parts on the world's stage are



THE LATE DR. T. B. AKINS, D.C.L., OF HALIFAX, N.S.

quite forgotten, this retiring scholar will be gratefully remembered by students of Provincial and Canadian history. A resolution regretting the death of Dr. Akins and eulogizing his services, was moved by the Attorney-General, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, and unanimously adopted by the Nova Scotia House of Assembly.

F. BLAKE CROFTON.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND DELEGATES BEFORE THE HOUSE OF LORDS.—On the 23rd April last a noteworthy scene was enacted in the House of Lords, one which brought prominently before us the widely extended range of the Empire and yet its practical centralization in the city of London. There appeared at the Bar of the House, by special permission, the members of the delegation sent from Newfoundland to protest against the Knutsford Bill, which had been introduced by the Imperial Government as a step towards the temporary abatement of the excitement over the French claims, which has been so prominent a feature of Newfoundland politics for the past few months. There was a full attendance of peers, including the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Clarence; the galleries were crowded, and a great number of the members of the House of Commons were present. On the presentation of the

petition for audience, the assent of the Government was given and the House thereupon granted a hearing. The delegates then advanced to the Bar of the House, and Sir William Whiteway, Premier of the Colony, read a statement which detailed at great length the objections to the Bill, after which the delegates withdrew. Of the members of the delegation we to-day present to our readers portraits of Sir W. V. Whiteway, K.C.M.G., Premier of Newfoundland and chairman of the delegation, and also of Mr. A. B. Morine, who is leader of the Opposition in the Colonial House of Assembly. Sir W. V. Whiteway is an Englishman by birth, coming from the fair County of Devon. He was born in 1828, and when 16 years of age came out to the Colony in which he now occupies such a distinguished position. When 30 years of age he was elected a member of the Assembly, of which he became Speaker six years later; in 1873 he was appointed Solicitor-General, and became Attorney-General and Premier in 1878. After holding this position for seven years he retired from politics, but in 1889 again came into the field, being re-elected for Trinity district; he again holds the position of Attorney-General and Premier. As a man of marked ability, he early saw the advantages that would accrue to the Island from its union with Canada, and in 1869 publicly advocated confederation; but the voice of

of the people showed them to be unfavourable to this measure, although a step which would have in all probability long ago settled the whole trouble of French treaty rights. In 1880 he received the honour of knighthood for his services on the Halifax Fishery Commission and on the French Shore Question in 1879, 1881 and 1890. As chairman of the delegation, Sir William read at the Bar of the House of Lords the statement which he and his colleagues had drawn up. Mr. Alfred B. Morine, the leader of the Opposition, is a Nova Scotian by birth, having been born in that province in 1857; he is therefore but 34 years of age, and is the youngest member on the delegation. Mr. Morine removed to Newfoundland in 1883, and three years later was elected to the House of Assembly, representing the district of Bonavista; in the election held two years ago he was re-elected for that constituency, and was also appointed to the leadership of the Opposition party. Mr. Morine is a journalist, being editor of the leading Opposition newspaper. He is also a warm advocate of federation with Canada, and it is probable that his vigour and influence in that direction will do much to lead public opinion in favour of such a step. For our illustrations of this event we are indebted to the *Illustrated London News* and *Graphic*.

ROYAL NAVAL FIELD GUN DETACHMENT.—

At Esquimaux, B.C., and at Halifax, N.S., our only naval stations, may be at times seen a drill of Jack Tars such as shown in our engraving. The necessities of the naval service often demand that the sailors co-operate with land forces, or act independently on shore as a military body, and for this purpose frequent drill is kept up, both in infantry work and in the handling and use of light cannon. The view now shown represents a gun detachment from one of H. M. ships on the Pacific station drilling at Esquimaux, B.C.

BLOCK HOUSE AT FORT EDWARD, WINDSOR, N.S.—One of the most important posts in Nova Scotia during the old French and Indian wars was that at Windsor, N.S., known as Fort Pisiquid or Fort Edward. It commanded the extensive and fertile marshes of the Avon and the St. Croix, which in 1755 supported nearly 3000 Acadians. The first block house seems to have been erected here in 1749. The fort was built in 1750 by Major Lawrence, and was, at the expulsion of the French, commanded by Capt. A. Murray, who in that undertaking vigorously co-operated with Col. Winslow. It was described by Col. Morse in 1784 as a small square fort of 85 yards exterior front with bastions, a ditch and a raised counterscarp, and composed of sod, containing about 175 men and officers, and mounting eight guns. French prisoners to the number of nearly 400 at a time were confined here so late as 1764. During the Revolutionary War it was put in order as a protection against American privateers. The works are now in ruins. We are indebted to Mr. L. A. Allison for this view.