

of Dunkeld. We like to see those famous old Parliament Houses in Quebec and Toronto, where so many eminent Canadians have contended for the political supremacy in days gone by. One who lives in Ottawa, however—in daily sight of the handsome pile of Government Buildings—may doubt the necessity of calling special attention to the prominent tower which was added to the western block during Mr. Mackenzie's regime as Minister of Public Works and is now distinguished by his name. In the illustration its incongruity is not very apparent, since it stands as a part of one block; but surveying it in connection with the pile of Parliament and Departmental buildings—as a part of an architectural whole, it is obviously a defect, since it destroys the effect of the central tower and mars that unity of design which should have been observed in all changes and additions to the well-proportioned edifices that grace the hill on which they stand.

With these general observations, the writer leaves a book which is an improvement on Canadian biographies, that he may refer briefly to the eminent man who has called it forth. Mr. Mackenzie was among the last of eminent men who a quarter of a century ago were prominent in the public life of Canada. Only yesterday the writer took occasion to consult the "test roll" on which the members of the first House of Commons inscribed their names after they had taken the oath of allegiance required by the constitutional law. About twenty years have passed since that roll was completed and folded away at the close of the first Parliament of the Dominion among the archives of the Clerk's department. Unfolding it once more, let us for a moment or two study the signatures of the men of 1867-72—of the most famous Parliament of Canada—and think how many of them have ceased to sign the roll since those memorable years. This roll consists of a long, broad sheet of vellum, at the head of which is engrossed the title: "Oath of Allegiance of Members of the House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada. First Parliament." Then follows the oath given in the British North America Act of 1867, in English and French: "I, —, do swear that I will bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria. So help me God." The signatures of all members elected during the Parliament appear in due order on this one roll, which consists of seven columns, together with the names of the commissioners appointed by the Crown,—the Clerk and other prominent officers of the House,—to administer the oath. The first name on this historic roll is that of the eminent Canadian statesman, now a baronet of the Empire and High Commissioner for Canada in London, Sir Charles Tupper, whose signature is written in a rapid, uncertain way, nowise indicative of his decision of character and his positive style of debate. Then follows the name of Alexander Morris, once a Cabinet Minister, a Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, and a founder of Confederation. Just below is the name of J. C. Abbott, then chiefly distinguished as a commercial lawyer, and now the First Minister of the Government of Canada. Following his bold lettering is the clear, well-defined signature of William Macdougall, an incisive, logical debater, long distinguished in Canadian public life. John Hamilton Gray, a man of culture and great courtesy of demeanour, a pleasing rhetorical speaker, who was prominent in the politics of the Maritime Provinces, and one of the fathers of Confederation, writes his name in a neat, graceful hand, giving prominence to Hamilton. A little further down is the not very legible or elegant signature of Mackenzie Bowell, still an active Minister of the Crown, but only in those days in the rank and file of his party. In the middle of the column is a collection of rapid strokes, which long experience tells the writer is the name of the great Canadian, Edward Blake, now one of the hopes of Ireland. Here is the bold, clear signature of Stewart Campbell, once speaker of the Nova Scotia Assembly, a polished gentleman and graceful speaker, who died a district judge in his native Province. Next follows the plain signature of Charles Fisher, once Attorney-General of New Brunswick, one of those very rapid speakers that the Maritime Provinces produce in numbers. A former Chief Justice of Ontario, an old student of Sir John Macdonald's, Robert Harrison, signs his name in bold letters, which were characteristic of his own portly presence. Last but one on the column is the very modest signature of David Mills, who has won for himself in the years that have passed a high reputation for his diligence as a public man, and his earnest study of the constitution of his own and other countries.

At the top of the next column is the signature of Joseph Howe, written in a clear, running hand, taking up the whole space allotted—the signature of a *littérateur*, a poet, orator and statesman, who commenced his life in a printing office with a composing stick, and ended it in the old stone Government House at Halifax, where he was refused admittance in the days of Lord Falkland. The third name, written in a graceful, easy style, is that of the most famous Minister of the Crown that the dependencies of England have yet produced—Sir John Alexander Macdonald. Charles A. Colby, for a short time a member of a Dominion Cabinet, a careful, thoughtful speaker, whom Parliament misses in these later days, when Canada requires the services of all her best men, signs his name in a very unostentatious way, characteristic of his demeanour. J. G. Blanchet, a speaker of the Quebec Assembly and the Commons, is the next prominent name on the list. The present Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, Sir Leonard Tilley, for many years a very conspicuous figure

in the politics of British North America, before and since Confederation, the first exponent of the protection policy of the Macdonald administration from 1879, writes his name in an ordinary business hand. John Costigan, in a delicate hand, represents the name of a faithful Irishman, now a Cabinet Minister. The large, clear letters of the signature of H. G. Joly recall a gentleman whose motto was always *noblesse oblige*. In the same column is the signature of Christopher Dunkin—noted in Parliament for his extremely tedious, though well-studied, learned speeches—written in a careless style, not at all characteristic of his cautious manner of public speaking or ordinary conversation. Sir Hector Langevin, whose name has been so long prominent in public annals, writes his signature in that careful natty way, which has not altered a whit for a quarter of a century. The scratchy, uncertain letters that immediately follow indicate the name of Geo. Et. Cartier—thus abbreviated—one of those liberal-minded, patriotic statesmen, who, freeing themselves from national prejudices, have been instrumental in laying—deep and firm, as we must all hope—the foundations of the Confederation. Albert J. Smith, Minister of Fisheries in Mr. Mackenzie's Government, knighted for his services in connection with the Halifax award, writes an illegible scrawl. Thomas B. Gibbs, who for a short time was a Cabinet Minister, writes his name in a clear commercial hand. At the foot of the column is the very clumsy, but bold, signature—very characteristic of the man—of E. B. Wood, the "Big Thunder" of the public platform, who died Chief Justice of Manitoba.

An almost undecipherable signature heads the third column of the roll; it is recognized by experts as that of Pierre J. O. Chauveau, once Premier of Quebec, Speaker of the Senate, President of the Royal Society of Canada—an orator of the old régime, a *littérateur* of note, and a polished gentleman. The recognized Nestor of the Liberal party, Luther Holton, who died a few years later, deeply regretted by friends and opponents while in attendance on Parliament, writes his signature in a small, symmetrical manner. Sturdy Joseph Rymal, possessing a great fund of rough, natural humour, gives a signature which bears the impress of the plough. The remarkably small, unpretentious signature below is by no means an index to the emphatic character and portly person of Timothy W. Anglin, once Speaker of the Commons. One of the most modest, retiring signatures on the whole page is that of John Carling, who has held office for a long time in Conservative administrations. Lucius Seth Huntington, who possessed the gift of oratory in a remarkable degree, a Minister in Mr. Mackenzie's Cabinet, evidently liked a very scratchy pen. Immediately following is the somewhat original signature of a famous leader of the Liberals of French Canada, Antoine Aimé Dorion; one of those gentlemen whose unsullied character in political and private life and unvarying courtesy of demeanour gave dignity to the public life of Canada. Further down is the small, neat signature of Thomas D'Arcy McGee, poet, historian, orator and patriot; the last signature he ever appended to a similar public document, for a few months later he was the victim of the midnight assassin. Soon after the name of the brilliant Irishman comes the neat, ladylike handwriting of John Hillyard Cameron, a polished gentleman, great lawyer and eloquent speaker. Closing the column is the hesitating ambiguous signature of A. T. Galt, famous in finance and eloquent in debate, and above all a true Canadian in thought and aspiration. In the fourth column we meet with the jerky, inelegant signature of Richard John Cartwright, then a prominent member of the Conservative party; a signature not at all indicative of his incisive style and force of expression in the debates of later years when he spoke from the Liberal benches as Sir Richard. A Minister of the Crown and a Lieutenant-Governor in later years, A. W. McLelan, an exceptionally fortunate man since he was generally in office from 1867, signs his name in an ordinary business style. Alfred Jones, a prominent man ever since in the councils of the Liberal party, a Minister in Mr. Mackenzie's Government, takes up only a very small space with his unpretentious name. In the next column a Minister of Finance, and a very successful man in his subsequent career in England, John Rose, banker, baronet and Imperial Privy Councillor, writes his signature in a free way, with the John a little doubtful. Adams G. Archibald, urbane gentleman, Dominion Secretary of State, Lieutenant-Governor of two Provinces, Knight of St. Michael and St. George, writes his name, probably for once in his life, so that one may read it. John Henry Pope, in later times a Minister in Sir John Macdonald's Ministry, a man of political sagacity, a keen political manager, denotes his name by a few faint scratches. Further on is the hasty signature of Alonzo Wright, who in the twenty years before him in Parliament was to make himself the most popular man in the House for his urbanity and hospitality in his spacious mansion on the banks of the picturesque Gatineau, and too rarely delighted his peers with flights of genial humour and eloquent periods, illustrating a mind that revelled in much miscellaneous reading. Towards the foot of the fourth column is the very small, neat signature of Sir Francis Hincks, an old time Liberal, one of the earnest advocates of responsible Government, a Prime Minister of old Canada, a Governor of one of the dependencies of the Empire, who was chosen by Sir John Macdonald to replace Sir John Rose as Finance Minister, a position he was to hold for a relatively short time.

In the sixth column, representing the members elected

in the third session of this Parliament, we meet for the first time with the symmetrical signature, in a running hand, of George Airey Kirkpatrick, afterwards Speaker and now Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, who was returned after the death of his father, whose name appears previously on the roll of 1867. The remainder of the roll is chiefly noteworthy as illustrating the development of the Dominion, for we see the signatures of the representatives, first of the new Province of Manitoba, and later of the Province of British Columbia. We see the names of John Christian Schultz, then conspicuous for his conflict with Riel in the first North-West rebellion, and now Lieutenant-Governor of the Province; of Donald A. Smith, a man of great financial ability, who in later times became associated with the Canadian Pacific Railway, and received a Knighthood from the Queen. Amor de Cosmos, of Victoria, who came to the Commons with the reputation of having made the longest speech ever made in a colonial Assembly, writes his signature in a bold, school-boy style as if he were not quite sure of the spelling—perhaps it had not been long since he changed the Saxon "Smith" to the Greek "Cosmos." Here we may close the roll; for the other names are less noteworthy, and, in many cases, probably forgotten by the Canadian world.

It is on this roll of distinguished men—many of them distinguished for breadth of statesmanship, great knowledge of economic questions and oratorical gifts—that Alexander Mackenzie's name appears, written on the first column in that clear, graceful style which makes it almost elegant compared with most of the signatures I have mentioned. Twenty-five years had passed when he again stood before a roll—that of the seventh Parliament—and as we unfold it, and compare its names with those of the historic parchment of 1867-72, we recognize the numerous changes that have happened in the interval—changes brought for the most part about by the inexorable mandate of death; by the fluctuations of popular favour, or the stern necessity of repairing private fortunes almost wrecked by political conflicts, or by the disappearance of a few favourites of the political Fates into the Senate or comfortable offices. The first Parliament will always be memorable for its intellectual strength; but of the one hundred and ninety-one men that signed the roll from 1867-72 only thirteen or so appear on that of 1891. We see the name of Sir John Macdonald just above that of his son, the member for Winnipeg; but he was called away from the scenes of his political triumphs only a few weeks after he stood by the Clerk's table and made his last signature on the roll. Sir Hector Langevin, Mr. Mills, Mr. Carling, Mr. Bowell, Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. Costigan, Dr. Cameron, of Inverness, Mr. Geoffrion, Sir D. Smith, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Scriber, and Mr. Bechard now alone remain to connect us immediately with that famous House.

During the years between 1867 and 1891 Mr. Mackenzie had held the highest political rank in his adopted country's gift; and then the storm of political adversity that overwhelmed his party in September, 1878, left him stranded on the shore of Opposition until the close of his life. But he was never again the same man; the effects of the severe strain on his strength, caused by his conscientiously performing the joint duties of political head of a Cabinet and Minister of a most laborious department, showed themselves rapidly in his case; and at the last it was only a feeble, speechless man who presented himself session after session. For months he sat an immovable, silent figure in his customary seat, the object of the respectful care of his friends around him; and all the while it was obvious to those who watched him that never for an instant did he lose his interest in every question of Canadian import, but from time to time his eye lighted with the fire of old times though disease held him in its ruthless grasp.

When the session of 1891 opened it was evident that the end was drawing near, and nothing showed more clearly the indomitable energy of the man than his again presenting himself in that scene which now had become to him his very life. But the roll of 1891 does not present the well-known signature of Alexander Mackenzie; for when he stood for the last time in the Clerk's office and silently took the oath, he asked in a feeble whisper that the Clerk should sign for him, and in this way it was done. He had finished his career; he could not execute the simplest act of a member of the Commons' House. But all Canadians will say that his name is assuredly

On Fame's eternal bead-roll worthy to be filed.

Mr. Mackenzie's life was in many respects remarkable. It illustrates the success that may be achieved in this country by a man of great natural ability, of extraordinary energy, and persistent purpose. Much stress has been, and always will be, laid upon the fact that he was of humble origin and worked as a mason or stone-cutter in his youth, though we notice that the joint authors attempt, for some reason or other, to break the force of his father having been a carpenter by dwelling on his superior connections on his mother's side. Well, we all know that every Campbell is kin to Argyll. The fact is, if a man is possessed of great intellectual qualities he is not likely to remain a carpenter, a stone-cutter, a shoemaker, or even a political editor. Mr. Mackenzie could never have remained a stone-cutter; nature carved him out for higher things. It would be a pity, however, if all the stone-cutters or masons in Canada were on account of his personal success to devote themselves to politics and aim to be Prime Ministers. The probability