

EVAN JOHN PRICE was born on the 10th of May, 1840, at the beautiful family seat of Wolfesfield, immediately above Wolfe's Cove, the scene of the landing of General Wolfe. He was the fifth son of Mr. William Price, the founder of the great firm which has for nearly a century borne his name. This gentleman was sent out to Canada about the year 1810 on behalf of the Admiralty contractor, owing to the closing of the Baltic ports against Great Britain by Napoleon. After completing the mission with which he was entrusted, Mr. Price decided to throw in his lot with the new country to which he had been thus led, and opened business in Quebec as a timber-merchant under the style of W. Price & Co. On his decease, thirty years ago, the name of the firm was altered to that of Price Brothers & Co., under which title it has been known ever since. The first partners were the Hon. David Price, ("the King of the Saguenay") and the subject of this memoir. On the death of the former about fifteen years ago, Mr. Evan John Price became the sole proprietor.

From the first Mr. Price developed a real genius for trade and commerce. For years he had the sole control of the firm and developed its business into the enormous concern it is to-day—confessedly the largest spruce-manufacturing firm in the Dominion of Canada and one of the largest and most important in the world. The story of the growth and management of this immense business, if we had space to give it here, would be found to be of the deepest interest, and would add materially to our admiration of the great Canadian merchant to whose unsurpassed business ability it was due.

But this was not all. One would have thought that the cares of this great concern, which extended its ramifications to all parts of the world, would have been a burden sufficient for one man to carry. But Mr. John Price bore many others. There were few enterprises promising to be conducive to the well-being of the city of his birth to the success of which he did not largely contribute both in sharing their financial risk and in giving time and attention to their working. Thus he was Vice-President of the Union Bank, and was on the Directorate of several other corporations. One of the marvels

to his friends was the good nature with which he permitted burdens, not all of them with reasonable claims, to be heaped upon him. But helpfulness was one of his chief characteristics, and this extended to every thing.

Mr. Price never took a very active interest in politics, but he was a Conservative on principle, and as a matter of course, considering his great share in the trade and commerce of the country and in promoting its best interests, he could not keep quite out of public life, and was finally persuaded to share to a certain degree its burdens. And so in 1888 Mr. Price was called to the Senate as representing the Saguenay District.

The tributes in the press, to which the writer has referred above, all bring out forcibly Mr. Price's liberality in giving to the relief of private distress and to the promotion of public objects. The *Chronicle* speaks of him as "one who had worked hard for the progress of this city and district. . . . One of nature's gentlemen, who never was deaf to a deserving plea for help; who always had a kindly word, and a helping hand for his fellow creatures. A generosity unbounded by racial or religious divisions. But his memory (adds the writer) will be treasured in the hearts of all who knew him."

The *Mercury* speaks with even greater warmth. "He was a whole-souled gentleman. In manners, quiet and unassuming. The head of a great firm whose record for fair dealing was never tarnished. His purse was never closed to a worthy object, and as a giver he was sublimely unostentatious. His charities were boundless, but he never made them known. With a willing hand he helped to success struggling enterprises. He died universally regretted for his sterling worth as a merchant, for his splendid character as a man, for his generous conduct throughout life. He was always sincere. He was ever true."

But it is with his life as a Christian and a Churchman that this Magazine is chiefly concerned. That Mr. Price was a great Churchman, with unusual largeness of heart, and princely generosity in spending for the Church's benefit, was known to the whole Diocese. But his donations were given so unostentatiously that the half never came to light.