

THE HON. THOMAS D'ARCY MCGEE, M.P.P.

PART I.

" His life was gentle, and the elements
So mingled in him, that nature might stand up
And say to all the world, *This was a man !*"

SHAKESPEARE.

FAR away from that glorious, but unhappy Isle, where he dreamt away the bright fleeting hours of his childhood; far away from the home of his dearest hopes, of his highest aspirations; far away from the green church-yard where the white ashes of his revered parents lie clasped in the friendly embrace of the land of their birth; in the new world, far over the sea, in the land of his adoption, high up on the sunny side of beautiful "*Mount Royal*," which, sloping towards the far-famed St. Lawrence, laves its foot in the limpid waters of the majestic river, overlooking the beautiful city of Montreal; where for years his voice was the most potent, his smile the most friendly, his influence in all that was most noble, patriotic, and good, was most felt, sleeps the greatest orator, statesman, historian, the best, the truest friend, counsellor, and guide of the Irish race in America. His grave is bedewed by a young nation's tears; his memory lives, and shall live in that young nation's heart; his name and fame will cast lustre on the pages of her history, and his life labours will stand forth as an example worthy of emulation to future millions.

Thomas D'Arcy McGee was not descended from a long line of noble ancestors, no human power or patent secured to him a noble name or hereditary estate; he was simply the son of an honest man, and a true good woman, and the patent which ennobled him was the gift of God himself. He was born at Carlingford, Ireland, on the 13th of April, 1825; his father was at that time employed in the coast guard service, in which he continued to the time of his death, which took place about three years ago (1865); his father's name was James McGee. While stationed at Belfast he made the acquaintance of and married Miss Dorcas Morgan; they removed, in a short time after their union, to Carlingford, where the subject of our sketch was born. Both on the father and mother's side, Mr. McGee was descended from families remarkable for their devotion to the cause of Ireland; his mother's grandfather was one of the most active men of the rebellion of 1798, as was also his father's brother; and with the exception of his father, all the men of the families on both sides, were "united Irishmen." During the time of that dreadful rebellion, the grandfather of Mr. McGee's mother was for a long time