

the members of this family did not take a prominent part. They purchased the claims of the soldiers and officers and thus secured large landed possessions. When the Duke of Kent made his visit to Niagara he was entertained at Judge Hamilton's house at Queenston. This was the house destroyed by the American battery at Lewiston the day of the Battle of Queenston. He died worth £2,000,000.

#### JOHN HAMILTON.

Mr. Hamilton built the *Queenston*, *Great Britian*, *Lord Sydenham* (which was the first large boat that ever ran the rapids), *Passport*, *Canada*, *Kingston* and *Sovereign*, and chartered many others. For a long time he made a determined fight against the Great Western (now the Grand Trunk Railway) which became a competitor for the carrying trade of Upper Canada. John Hamilton also maintained a line of stage coaches. He was called to the Legislative Council in 1831, and served continuously in the Upper House for more than fifty years. In 1881 his colleagues in the Senate of Canada presented him with a complimentary address, which was read by Sir Alexander Campbell. He was chairman of the Board of Trustees of Queen's College from its incorporation in 1841 until his death. Senator Hamilton's figure was large and well knit; his countenance was marked by singular dignity and benevolence. Intelligence and refinement shone there, and were characteristic also his manners and conversation. He married in early life Francis Pasia, daughter of David Macpherson of Inverness, Scotland, by whom he had ten children, several of whom lived to occupy influential positions.

The history of the Canadian branch of the noble family of Hamilton began before the organization of Upper Canada as a separate Province, and its members had much to do with the development and progress of the country. The living descendants of Hon. Robert Hamilton are very numerous, and at the meeting of the Ontario Historical Society it was most appropriate that a word should be spoken concerning them and their achievements.