

his satellites during that nobleman's tenure of office, though he had no sympathy with the active rebellion of Papineau and the French Canadians generally. He was one of the most conspicuous members of the British Party, and took part in founding the Constitutional Association of Quebec, the leading members whereof were John Neilson, Andrew Stuart, Thomas A. Young, George Pemberton, and the subject of this sketch.

He first entered public life after the consummation of the Union of the Provinces in 1841, when he was returned to the First Parliament of United Canada for the constituency of Portneuf. In the following year he joined the first Baldwin-Lafontaine Administration, and became Solicitor-General for Lower Canada, an office which he filled from the 26th of September, 1842, until the 11th of December, 1843, when he resigned, with his colleagues, owing to Sir Charles Metcalfe's refusal to comply with the views of the Ministry respecting the distribution of Crown patronage. Mr. (afterwards Sir) John W. Kaye, in his life of Lord Metcalfe, says of him:—"Mr. Aylwin bore the reputation of being the best debater in the Assembly—a man of infinite adroitness and lawyer-like sagacity, skilled in making the worse appear the better reason, and exposing the weakness of an adversary's case. He had rendered essential service to the French Canadians in the time of their utmost need, and had been brought into the Council through the influence of that party. But there was, in reality, little in common between them, and it was said that the connection gave no great satisfaction to the old clients of the Solicitor-General." From the time of his resignation until the month of April, 1848—during which he was twice elected for Portneuf and three times for the city of Quebec—he remained in Opposition, and rendered great service to the Liberal party by his powers as a Parliamentary debater,

and by his great personal popularity. Of him, even more truly than of Sir Francis Hincks, might Lord Metcalfe's biographer have said that he had a tongue that cut like a sword. His powers of sarcasm and vituperation were unrivalled in the Assembly. Sir Dominick Daly, his former colleague, on more than one occasion felt the keen edge of his satire, and it was in consequence of one of his passages of arms with that gentleman that the bloodless duel referred to in the sketch of Sir Dominick's life took place.

Upon the formation of the second Baldwin-Lafontaine Administration, on the 4th of March, 1848, Mr. Aylwin again accepted the portfolio of Solicitor-General for Lower Canada, but retained the office only a little more than six weeks, when he was elevated to the Bench as one of the Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench for the District of Quebec, as successor to the Hon. Elzéar Bedard, who had resigned. In 1851 the Judiciary of the Province of Quebec was remodelled. The tribunal which is now called the Superior Court was invested with the jurisdiction of the old Court of Queen's Bench, and the Court of Queen's Bench, as remodelled, was invested with appellate jurisdiction. Judge Aylwin was transferred to the newly constituted Court of Queen's Bench, and in 1850 he removed to Montreal. For many years subsequent to that date he continued to discharge his judicial duties without interruption. His career as a judge added much to his reputation. His legal learning was great, and his ready grasp of the chief points at issue in the cases which came before him was the admiration of both Bench and Bar. His charges were singularly clear, and were models of lucid exposition. He could see his way through the meshes of an involved and complicated argument with marvellous rapidity, and was wont to expose the sophistries of a lame defence with merciless