

the former city, Mr. Galt retired from public life, and returned to his duties in connection with the Land Company. In 1853 he entered political life again, being returned for the town of Sherbrooke, which seat he retained till Confederation. He put himself in opposition to the Hincks-Morin government, and gave a sort of uneven support to the succeeding administration, till its fall in 1858. When the short-lived Brown-Dorion administration came to an end, Sir Edmund Head invited Mr. Galt to form a government, but he declined, and the "double shuffle" set the wheels of government rolling all right again. In the Cartier-Macdonald administration Mr. Galt accepted the post of Minister of Finance, as successor to Mr. Cayley. The finances of the country were in a deplorable state when Mr. Galt went into office, and there seemed to be little confidence among the mercantile community. But the new Finance Minister had a clear capable head, his experience in financial matters was wide, and he had been singularly successful. Therefore it was that public confidence was in a measure restored when it became known that he had taken office. Then the stars began to work in his favour. There were no summer frosts, but there was a due proportion of rain and sunshine. The crops thrived well, and the harvest was abundant. The merchants took heart and imported largely, and the result was that the Finance Minister was soon able to report a surplus. He consolidated the public debt of Canada and obtained a loan in England. Upon the formation of the Taché-Macdonald government in March, 1864, he again became Minister of Finance. Mr. Galt had for many years been favourable to a scheme of Federal union for the provinces, and had gone to England, accompanied by Sir George Cartier and Sir John Rose, to urge the scheme upon the Imperial government. When the movement for Confederation was inaugurated, he rolled up his sleeves and worked loyally till the close. He attended both the Charlottetown and Quebec conferences, and was in London in 1867, when the final terms of union were decided upon. In 1866 he went to Washington, and represented the Canadian government in an endeavour to obtain a renewal of reciprocity with the United States. Some time afterwards he differed from his colleagues on their educational policy, and resigned. In the first Dominion government, under Sir John Macdonald, he was Minister of Finance. He did not retain this position long, but resigned and took a

seat as a private member. He strenuously opposed Sir John Macdonald's mission to Washington in 1871, but voted with the government, when the treaty, in the making of which Sir John was one of the commissioners, came before the House of Commons for ratification. He opposed the pledge to build the Pacific Railway in ten years, but during the session following he voted for this same pledge. In 1869 he was created a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. In 1872 he once more entered private life. In 1880 he was appointed High Commissioner for Canada, to the Court of St. James, at a salary of \$10,000 a year, and a residence, but it seems that the position was never very congenial to him, and he resigned the post in 1883, when Sir Charles Tupper was appointed to succeed him. Since Sir Alexander's return to Canada he has been in private life, but his splendid intellectual powers are yet in their full strength, and it would be a great pity if the services of one so eminent should be lost to the country.

Windatt, Richard, Bowmanville, the gentleman selected for this biographical notice was born at Cornwall, England, on the 10th of July, 1821. His father was Andrew Windatt, and he married Elizabeth Davy, of which union comes Richard Windatt. These parents arrived in Canada in 1835, and took up their abode in Darlington. Shortly after getting settled, Andrew Windatt established himself in business in Bowmanville. Our subject received his education partly in England, and subsequently in Bowmanville. Having completed his studies, he went upon a farm for some years, as so many young men in these days were obliged to do on first coming to the country. But farming in this fashion was not an attractive occupation to our subject, so he very soon set himself to learn the trade of a cooper, which calling he believed promised good remuneration. He continued at this trade for some years, and retired, to be shortly afterwards appointed town clerk of Bowmanville. This position he has retained ever since the date of his acceptance of the office in 1857. At the time of the Fenian raids he became a member of the Home Guards, obtaining first an ensign's and afterwards a lieutenant's commission. Mr. Windatt was, in 1883, appointed clerk for the township of Darlington, and still holds the office. He has always been interested in the progress of education, and has been a member of the Bowmanville School Board for the

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