

HON. GEORGE BROWN.

To view impartially the acts of a prominent public man, while he is still taking an active part in political affairs, is perhaps an impossibility. Nay, we doubt much, whether any of those who acted with him, or those who opposed him, are qualified for the undertaking. Man is the creature of influences as well as the creature of circumstances, and he cannot flee the one, or retard the operations of the other. We at least lay no claim to such isolation, and will therefore simply content ourselves with the relation of a few facts in the stirring life of the eminent individual who forms the subject of this brief sketch; and whose portrait we this week present to our readers. The less necessary is it for us to do more; since his public life is so familiar to all who have given the least attention to Canadian public affairs.

The Hon. George Brown was born in Edinburgh, the Capital of Scotland, in the year 1821, and educated in the celebrated High School of that city. The incidents in his early career we need not stay to narrate. In the year 1839, his father, the late Mr. Peter Brown, accompanied by his eldest son George, and the other members of his family, emigrated to America and took up his residence in the city of New York. Being a man of considerable talent, energy, and general information, he at once embarked in literary pursuits; his first undertaking being the publication of a weekly newspaper called the *British Chronicle*, designed to advocate British interests in the United States.

In the year 1843, shortly after the celebrated disruption in the Presbyterian Church, he was invited by the Leaders of the Free Church party to come to Canada and conduct a paper advocating the principles of that body. He accordingly removed to Toronto, and commenced the publication of the *Banner* newspaper. He soon perceived, however, that a newspaper more purely political was needed in the interest of the Reform Party, of which he was an earnest and energetic supporter. In the Spring of the following year, therefore, *THE GLOBE*, now the most influential and widely circulated daily paper in British America, was established. It appeared at first as a weekly edition, about half the size of the present sheet. It had not a few difficulties and competitors to contend against. The *Colonist*, *Patriot*, and *Herald* had been established for some time, enjoyed large circulations, and were pos-

essed of great influence; but one by one they have dropped out of existence in the struggle for popularity; and the *Globe* has been left without a rival in circulation and in influence; the only approach to it being that of the *LEADER*, a newspaper conducted with similar enterprise and talent.

The subject of our notice at once took a leading part in conducting and editing the paper; and it is but little to say that to his untiring, energy and ability, it owes whatever of value and influence it now commands.

In 1851 the representation in Parliament of the County of Haldimand became vacant, owing to the death of its then re-

presentative, Mr. D. Thompson, and Mr. G. Brown was invited by a number of his friends and admirers to contest the Constituency, which, however, after a severe struggle he failed to secure. That he was not successful need not be wondered at, when we reflect, that his opponent was none other than the celebrated Wm. Lyon Mackenzie. In the fall of the same year Mr. Brown was elected M. P. P. for the County of Kent, and continued to represent that Constituency until the general election of 1854; when he was elected for the neighboring County of Lambton. He soon took a prominent position in the House; into the business and debates of which he threw himself, with that wonderful energy and talent that characterises him in all his undertakings, and he speedily became a power in Parliament, and in the country. To show the manner in which he was appreciated by his fellow citizens, he was—at the general Parliamentary election of 1857—returned by two of our foremost constituencies,—the City of Toronto and the County of Oxford, for the former of which he chose to sit. In July of the year following, on the resignation of the McDonald-Cartier Ministry, the Governor General, Sir E. Head, invited Mr.

City of Toronto in Parliament until the general election of 1861, when, owing to a variety of combinations and circumstances, which must be fresh in the minds of our readers, he was defeated.

Previous to the last election, he was seized with a severe and dangerous illness, which obliged him for months to abstain from all business. This illness was doubtless caused by his untiring exertions in public affairs, and perhaps, it was well for him that his defeat in Toronto, when he could at the same time have obtained his choice of seats for various western constituencies, enabled him to retire for a time from public life. In order that his health, which during the previous winter had been improving slowly, might be fully restored, he sailed in the Spring of last year on a six month's tour to Britain and the Continent, and while in his native Scotland met with his estimable lady, the partner, we trust, of his future joys and triumphs, and to whom, doubtless, he owed some of that enthusiastic welcome with which his many friends greeted him on his return to Toronto a few days ago. Mr. Brown's great characteristic is the wonderful energy and determination with which he conducts whatever he attempts; his industry is equally great, and all who have heard him speak on any of the exciting topics of the day, could not but be struck with the impassioned earnestness pervading all he said and did. His eloquence is not generally considered to be of the highest order, but what it lacks in refinement, it makes up in power, and few there are, who, having listened to him either in the 'House' or on 'the Stump'; but upon whom he has left this impression; there stands a man, who, if he lives, is destined to make his mark, not only on his own age, but upon posterity.

LEFT HANDED COMPLIMENT. — When Mr. Whiteside finished his five hours oration on Kars, Lord Palmerston replied that the hon. gentleman's speech was highly creditable to his physical power.



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Brown to form a government. He had but little difficulty in bringing together a Ministry composed of men of undoubted talent, and who, it was generally thought, would have commanded the confidence of the country, but Parliament then sitting thought otherwise, and passed a vote of want of confidence in them, before they had been in office over two days, or had an opportunity of maturing their measures, which, of course, led to the immediate resignation of Mr. Brown and his Ministry.

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The *Shipping Gazette* says the *Ariadne* has been ordered to join Admiral Milne's squadron at Bermuda. This movement looks like a concentration of the disposal force of Milne's squadron in the localities in which the recently reported outrages on British shipping by Federal cruisers have been perpetrated with a knowledge that there is no force at hand capable of protecting British vessels. The *Gazette* thinks that even Wilkes will hardly venture upon further violation of neutral territory.

A new and interesting tale, with illustrations, will be commenced in our next number.