

THE

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PERSONAL SKETCHES; OR, REMINISCENCES OF PUBLIC
MEN IN CANADA.

LORD SYDENHAM.

Of the six exalted personages who have, since the union of the Provinces, filled the vice-royal chair in Canada, four have been called to their great account; "Sydenham," "Bagot," "Metcalf," "Elgin." What memories do these names evoke? How deeply must they feel who have, as ministers of the Crown, been brought into connection with such men. The peculiar circumstances under which each was called to fill the high and arduous office of training a by no means easily governed people to a new state of political existence, to reconcile hereditary differences, and exercise their functions amid party strife still keeping themselves free from party, is subject for the historian's pen when the time shall have arrived so that a fearless hand may write that history; and a curious history it will be if truthful.

With the union old systems were abolished, men were called on to assume rôles diametrically opposite to those they had previously played on the political arena, thought had a wider range, the cleverest men in each section of the united province were brought into collision, and well might Canada or any other country feel proud of the array of talent which met Lord Sydenham, when, trembling for the issue of his experiment, he summoned the first united Parliament. It is true that high-handed measures had been resorted to, to secure the return of members favourable to his Lordship's views—few will forget the Toronto election of 1841, and the last act of the Commission farce. We have wonderfully improved our election tactics, as Quebec, Saguenay, and Russell can attest; yet in that very Parliament selected with so much care Lord Sydenham found him-