

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

While Parliament is sitting it may be interesting to many of our readers to make acquaintance, through our "Portrait Gallery," with some of the most prominent among the private members of the House of Commons who so frequently figure in the debates, and take a leading part in the transaction of the public business of the country. This week we give portraits, and here subjoin brief biographical sketches, of six of these gentlemen, whose past political and Parliamentary career fully entitle them to the prominent place they hold in Canadian politics. Whether on the front Opposition benches or on the right of the Speaker's chair, the position of a private member is necessarily less conspicuous than that of a Minister of the Crown, the only exception being when the Opposition happens to be led by a man of such ability and experience as to raise him far above his compeers. At the present time there is no close organization of parties in Parliament, and, as a consequence, no recognised leader at the head of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition; though several gentlemen, skilled in parliamentary tactics and working harmoniously together on the Speaker's left, make the absence of such a high functionary quite unnoticeable in the ordinary current of parliamentary life. Since the Union, and the relegation of local questions to the Provincial Legislatures, the Parliament of Canada has risen in dignity and importance; and Canadians begin to think and speak of their "House of Commons" with something of the pride with which the old world Briton regards the elective branch of the Imperial Parliament. Confidence in the integrity and ability of the Legislature does much to inspire and keep alive a feeling of patriotism, and may co-exist with party differences of the most pronounced antagonism. Though the Ministry of the day always rules, the Opposition, however weak, may do something—and sometimes the Opposition does a great deal—towards shaping the policy of the country; and while active partisans on both sides may be blindly following their leaders, there is an outside force of independent public opinion, to the judgment of which the contestants must submit their pretensions. Recent revolutions of party in Canada, though more sudden, have certainly not been more complete than in England, and they have taken place here under a change of circumstances far more sudden and radical than any that have occurred in the mother country during the present generation. Thus old names have lost old meanings, and if they survive it must be under new circumstances; in obedience to the exigencies of the hour, the raising of new issues, or taking sides upon some of those at present inchoate propositions as to the future of the country or the direction of its policy. As these new issues arise, or existing speculations take the shape of live practical questions, the members of the House of Commons introduced to our readers this week will be able to bring to their consideration a degree of parliamentary and political experience which ought to guide them to a safe and statesmanlike conclusion.—

No. 11.—SIR ALEXANDER TILLOCH GALT, K. C. M. G., D. C. L., P. C., &c.

Alexander Tilloch Galt is the youngest son of the late Mr. John Galt, well-known in English literature as the author of several works of fiction, who, from 1826 to 1829, was a resident of Canada, and the founder of the now flourishing town of Guelph, in the County of Wellington, Ontario, and in whose honour the town of Galt, in the neighbouring County of Waterloo, was named. "Our" Mr. Galt was born at Chelsea, England, on the 6th of September, 1817, and after completing his educational studies came to Canada, in 1835, in the service of the British American Land Company, in the office of which he continued for more than twenty years, rising from the position of junior clerk to that of Chief Commissioner. Resigning his connection with the Land Company, Mr. Galt became one of the foremost railway men of the Province, and took a leading part in the amalgamating of the various companies which now form the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. In 1849, he was returned to the Legislative Assembly for the County of Sherbrooke, L. C., and in 1853 for the town of Sherbrooke, which he continued to represent in the Canadian Parliament up to and after the Union, having been returned by acclamation at the last general election. Mr. Galt, from his first entry into Parliament, was regarded as a leader among the British party of Lower Canada, and in the reconstruction of the Coalition Cabinet, which took place in 1858, succeeded Mr. Cayley as Minister of Finance. In that year he proposed a series of resolutions in Parliament in favour of the Union of the British North American Provinces, and subsequently in company with the Hon. Messrs. Cartier and Ross visited England as a delegation to press that policy and the building of the Intercolonial Railway on the attention of the Imperial Government. Mr. Galt continued as Minister of Finance in the Cartier-Macdonald Cabinet up to May, 1862, when the Government was thrown out on Colonel Lyson's Militia Bill, and during that time earned his full share of the obloquy then cast by the Opposition party on the "trio of corruptionists"—Galt, Cartier, and John A. So much prominence did he receive in this connection, that though a junior, his name was generally put forward as the senior partner of that now historic firm, whose policy, in the direction of which Mr. Galt had a large share, will yet be recognized as having served and saved the country at a trying period of its history. Mr. Galt returned to office with his old colleagues on the defeat of the J. S. Macdonald-Dorion Government in March, 1864, and the

following June was, with them, a party to the alliance with the Hon. George Brown and his followers and the adoption of the Confederation platform. He was, as a matter of course, a member of the Charlottetown and Quebec Conventions in 1864, and of the Quebec Trade Convention in 1865. He was also a delegate to Washington on the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty in the fall of 1865, when the Hon. Mr. Brown left the Government. In August of 1866 the Legislative Assembly having refused to confer upon the Protestant minority such educational privileges as Mr. Galt believed they ought to enjoy, he resigned his position; but, up to the end of the session, continued to support the general policy of the Government. Though not then a member of the Cabinet, he was one of the three delegates from Lower Canada to attend the Colonial Conference at London in 1866-67, at which the Union Act was framed; and on the 1st of July, 1867, was sworn in as a member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, and appointed Minister of Finance in the Government then formed by Sir John A. Macdonald. He, however, resigned his office in the Cabinet a few days before the meeting of Parliament, in Nov., 1867, because of matters connected with the suspension of the Commercial Bank, his colleagues having declined to go so far as he thought they ought to have done in sustaining it. He was offered the decoration of the Companionship of the Bath on the 1st of July, 1867, but with Mr. Cartier declined the distinction. It is hardly necessary to refresh the memory of the Canadian reader with regard to Mr. Galt's financial measures, his peculiar views respecting the Colonial connection, or his receiving the decoration of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, by which the honour of Knighthood has been conferred upon him, as these have all been the subject of recent discussion in our own pages, and more fully in those of our daily contemporaries. At present he has assumed an attitude of hostility to the Government on several grounds which were fully set forth by himself during the debate on the Address, and need not be enlarged upon here. Sir Alexander Galt is a man of commanding presence, having a clear sonorous voice and a ready and happy command of language, which place him in the foremost rank among the debaters in the House of Commons. There is, too, a geniality in his manner, which, if it does not disarm an opponent, apparently deprives his shafts of all their points, so that in every wordy war in which he has been a combatant he has always carried away the appearance and generally the substance of victory. At present he appears to cultivate an independent position, having no followers and seeking none; and if there is a man in Parliament with the mental calibre to sustain such a position, and still be useful to the country, Sir A. T. Galt is he.

No. 12.—HON. CHARLES TUPPER, C. B., M. D., F. R. C. S. (Edin.)

The member for Cumberland (N. S.) is as well known to the *habitués* of the galleries as "the member for Hauts," and it must be said for both gentlemen that they have done much to make the sturdy Province of Nova Scotia known to the people of the West by their eloquence, their talent, and their pluck. Dr. Tupper is descended from a German family, which, migrating to Guernsey, and thence to the "plantations" of Virginia, when that to be famous "Mother of Presidents" was yet but a small British Colony, afterwards came to Nova Scotia, and there, with other loyalists, settled down when the American revolution had become an accomplished fact. Dr. Tupper is the son of the Rev. Charles Tupper, D. D., of Aylesford, and was born at Amherst, N. S., on the 2nd July 1821. He took the degree of M. D. at Edinburgh (Scotland) in 1843, and the same year obtained the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons of that city. After following a lucrative professional practice in the chief city of his native Province for some years, Dr. Tupper entered the thorny field of politics in 1855, when he was returned for the County of Cumberland, which constituency he has since represented in the local Legislature up to the Union, and then in the House of Commons. He was Provincial Secretary from 1857 to 1860; and from 1863 to 1867. In 1864 he became Premier, which position he held until his Government retired on the coming into force of the Union Act. Dr. Tupper has been on several delegations to England on matters connected with the public affairs of his Province; to Charlottetown and Quebec in 1864 on the Union Question; to the Colonial conference in London, 1865-67; and again on behalf of the Canadian Government he visited England in 1868 to be ready to answer any questions from the Colonial office in reply to the representations of the Anti-Confederate delegation then representing Nova Scotia, and headed by the Hon. Mr. Howe. Dr. Tupper was the leader of the Nova Scotia Conservatives; but during his term of office he introduced many important measures of social and political reform. He was, of course, the leader of the Union party on the fusion of the Conservatives and Reformers, which finally led to the adoption of the Confederation policy by the Legislature of Nova Scotia; and received, on the 1st July 1867, along with several other members of the London conference, the decoration of the Companionship of the Bath. On that occasion, too, Dr. Tupper, in order to contribute to the smooth working of Confederation, waived his claim to a place in the Dominion Government; or rather, with the late Mr. McGee, refused the proffered post, in order that all the new elements might be brought into harmonious working order. He has still pursued the same patriotic course, aiding the Hon. Mr. Howe in securing the sanction of the Nova Scotians to the Union, on the basis of the new financial arrangements adopted at the last session of Parliament. Dr. Tupper possesses singular force and quickness of perception; he speaks in torrents of words with a clear, ringing utterance; and though generally too rapid to be always consecutive in his ideas, is, nevertheless, exceedingly able in argument, and well deserves to be classed among the best orators in the House. He has acquired a new source of popularity, especially in the West, by his vigorous advocacy of what he has, happily for his cause, called a "national policy," but which, saving some features that all will readily approve, is simply protection with a little mystery and a good deal of Anti-Americanism put on. The circumstances are, however, peculiar, and if some concessions in the direction to which he points could be made to bear all the fruits he predicts for them in the revival of Nova Scotian and the expansion of Inter-colonial trade, they would certainly be cheaply made.

No. 13.—HON. ANTOINE AIMÉ DORION, Q. C.

Mr. Dorion is as near an approach to a hereditary legislator as we have in Canada. His grandfather and father, in their day, held seats in the Legislature of Lower Canada, and his brother, in his life-time, was a member of the Legislative

Assembly. He is the son of the late P. A. Dorion, and was born at *St. Anne de la Pérade*, on the 17th of January, 1818. In 1842 he was admitted to the Lower Canada Bar, and in 1863 created Queen's Counsel. He was first returned for Montreal in 1854, and sat for that constituency until 1861. In 1862 he was returned for Hochelaga, which he has since continued to represent, though at the last general election he had a pretty hard brush for his seat, being returned by the small majority of 23 out of 2,600 votes—his election is still in contestation by the opposing candidate, M. Lanouette. M. Dorion was the Lower Canada leader of the Brown-Dorion Cabinet of August 1863, and entered office in May, 1862, as Provincial Secretary in the Macdonald-Sicotte Government. This position he resigned in the following January, being dissatisfied with his colleagues regarding the Intercolonial Railway, the construction of which they were then supposed to favour. When that government was remodelled, in May, 1863, Mr. Dorion succeeded Mr. Sicotte as Attorney-General and Lower Canada leader, which position he held until the defeat of the Cabinet in March of the following year; since that time he has been steadily in opposition to the Government, and supposed to lean somewhat towards the attitude of an "irreconcilable." His gentlemanly manner and fluent and elegant diction soon marked him out as the foremost man of the party whose sympathies he shared, and he is now, as he has been for years, the acknowledged leader of the Lower Canada *Ronges*. Except for a certain peevishness or sourness indicated in his voice, as well as in his countenance, Mr. Dorion is a speaker to whom it is a pleasure to listen; he is close and methodical in the arrangement of his matter, and—for Parliament—exceptionally choice in the selection of his language. He does not, however, pay so close an attention to Parliamentary affairs as his personal and political friend, Mr. Holton; and though unlike the latter, he makes no scruple of telling his own opinions, he is seldom heard, or if heard, certainly not to much advantage, except on two subjects, *i. e.*, legal questions, on which, from his high position at the bar, he is one of the authorities of the House; and the external trade and political relations of the country, whereon he is not to be commended as a reliable guide. He has devoted special attention to the subject of the election law, and has been an earnest advocate of two changes in the existing mode—that there should be only one day's polling; and that all the elections should be held on the same day;—the former point is to be conceded in the Government bill now before Parliament.

No. 14.—HON. L. H. HOLTON, J. P.

Luther Hamilton Holton was born in the County of Leeds, Upper Canada, in 1817, and belongs to what may be called an old Canadian family. At an early age he removed to Montreal, in those days almost the only place of business in the country, and, entering into mercantile life, soon acquired a leading position among the business men of the City. At one time he was largely interested in the forwarding business and subsequently became a prominent railway contractor in connection with some portions of the Grand Trunk line. He first entered Parliament in 1854 as one of the representatives of Montreal; but at the general election of 1857 he lost his seat. In Sept. 1862, he offered himself as a candidate for the representation of the Victoria Division in the Legislative Council and was returned, if we mistake not, without opposition. In May of the following year, he resigned his seat in the Upper House and was subsequently returned to the assembly for the County of Hochelaga, which he thence continued to represent until the Union; and at the last general election was returned to the House of Commons by a majority of about two to one, though considerable, but very ineffectual, efforts were made by his political opponents to defeat him. Mr. Holton has always been a strongly pronounced Liberal; and so highly was he held in the estimation of his party that, though without a seat of Parliament, the Hon. George Brown invited him to take office during the few warm days in August of 1858 when that gentleman had the honour of being Premier of Canada. That Cabinet is known in history as the "two days' ministry" but according to official records its duration dates from the 2nd to the 6th of August. Mr. Holton during these few days held the office of Commissioner of Public Works, but it may be supposed that he had but a little opportunity for making himself acquainted with the routine of his department. In the *replacings* of the Sandfield Macdonald Government which took place in May 1863, Mr. Holton was assigned the office of Minister of Finance, hence his descent from the Upper to the Lower Chamber at that time. There is not much to be said for him in this position, for though big with a budget for many weeks, he never submitted it to Parliament, and the ministry of which he was a member was turned out of office in March 1864 by one of those close party votes peculiar to the time. From that date he has acted as an independent member of the Opposition, and in this capacity has fairly won his parliamentary laurels. If there is an opposition leader, Mr. Holton is undoubtedly the man. No one is more skilled than he—very few as much—in the rules of parliamentary practice, and he is almost invariably in his place, from which he watches the Ministers with a sharp eagle eye, keeping them rigidly to the lines of "parliamentary precedent." With a strong *physique*, a sonorous voice and a well trained mind, Mr. Holton is a terse and logical speaker, always pleasant to listen to, always to the point and never obscure except on the single particular of his own thoughts or convictions on "the merits of the question." These he generally keeps to himself with a reticence that is quite provoking; he gets up to speak "without intending to make a speech," and like a drill sergeant, at the head of an awkward squad he schools ministers and members alike to a due observance of the parliamentary chalk-line. Except on the Treasury benches there is not a member who contributes more to the formal and regular progress of business in parliament than Mr. Holton, and in the personal esteem of his compeers (for his politics are much of a mystery) there is not a member of the House of Commons who stands higher.

15.—ALEXANDER MCKENZIE, ESQ.

Mr. McKenzie, by name, nature and appearance is emphatically a Scotsman. He was born at Dunkeld, Perthshire, in 1822, and though his early years were spent in his native land has been long enough in Canada to make his way in the country and to become a thorough Canadian. Rising by his own energy and genius to a position of influence in the locality in which he settled, he was first elected to parliament in 1861, for the County of Lambton, as an ardent Clear Grit, and has since continued to sit for that constituency, the efforts to defeat him at the last general election having proved utterly ineffectual, though backed by the strongest influences his oppo-