

As death has removed Mr. Ryland from amongst us, a short memoir of him taken from a Quebec paper, (*Mercury*, 25th February, 1834.) may not be amiss, that his position and status in the country may be understood. Born and educated in England, the late Honorable Herman Witsius Ryland first entered public life in the year 1781, going out that year to New York as Assistant Deputy Pay Master General, to the King's forces in British North America. Soon after his arrival there he was sent into the enemy's territory, where he remained as Acting Pay Master General to the forces, captured with Lord Cornwallis and General Burgoyne, till the end of the war. On the evacuation of New York by the British forces, he returned with the Commander in Chief, Sir Guy Carleton, to England.

In 1793, the same General officer, then Lord Dorchester, and Governor in Chief of British North America, brought Mr. Ryland out to this country as his confidential Secretary. In this capacity he continued to serve under several successive Governors of Lower Canada, during a period of twenty years, and resigned under the administration of Sir George Prevost. The confidential and important office of Clerk of the Executive Council, which for several years he had held, previous to his resignation of the Secretaryship, he retained until his decease, which took place at his residence at Beauport, near Quebec, on 20th July, 1838. Though a strong party man, Mr. Ryland was a benevolent and kind neighbour, even to those of opposite and hostile politics, and accordingly he was much esteemed in the parish where he resided, by the French Canadian inhabitants, with whom he lived on terms of intimacy and friendship. He had been, in acknowledgment of his services, honored with a seat in the Legislative Council, and moreover was gratified with a pension from the Crown.