

FORTIN, *Hon. PIERRE, M.D. (Gaspé.)* 3RD MEM.

S. of the late M. Fortin of Laprairie, by Julie Duvernay. Descended from a family of Normandy, on father's side, and from a family of Brittany, France, on mother's side. B. at Vercheres, P.Q. Dec. 1823. Received his classical education at Montreal Seminary; studied medicine at McGill College, where he took his degree of M.D. 1845. Unmarried. Served as a surgeon at Quarantine, Grosse Isle, during 1847 (fever year) and 1848. Aided in 1849 in forming a special mounted constabulary force for quelling disturbances of the peace in Montreal and adjoining districts, a troop of which was placed under his command. Was Stipendiary Magistrate for the protection of the fisheries in the Lower River and Gulf of St. Lawrence (from 1852 until the Union, when he resigned) and as such, commanded, first, the armed steamer *Doris*, and afterwards the armed schooner *La Canadienne*, built specially for the service, in which latter vessel he was wrecked in Nov. 1861, during a violent storm on the North Coast. A dir. of the Isolated Risk Insurance Co. Was a mem. of Ex. Council and Commissioner of Crown Lands from Feb. 1873, until 7 Sept. 1874, when he resigned. Elected Speaker, 4 Nov. 1875, but resigned in 1876, in consequence of his election being protested. While Speaker he founded the Marine Library of the P.Q. and procured several hundred books relating to shipping, &c. and over 500 marine charts from all parts of the world. Also enlarged the exchanges between the Quebec library and libraries of the U.S. and also England and France. Was one of the founders of the Geographical Society of Quebec, and was its first Presdt. Was from 1867 to 1874, Chairman of the Special Committee of the Commons, on Navigation and Fisheries. Sat for Gaspé in House of Commons from g.c. 1867, until g.e. 1874, when he retired in order to confine himself to Local House, for which he was first returned at g.e. 1867; re-elected by acclamation at g.e. 1871, again returned at g.e. 1875, unseated on petition, and re-elected 1877. Did not offer for re-election at last g.e. for P.Q. in consequence of the electors of the Magdalen Islands, where he had obtained a large majority, being deprived of their votes, the dates of the nomination and polling being so fixed that the Returning Officer claimed navigation was not open at the Islands and did not try to have the proclamation posted there. Elected for present seat at last g.e. by a majority of 797. This is his eighth election in twelve years. A Conservative. "In favor of a system of nautical education with a view to perfecting the scientific instruc-