

PROMINENT CANADIANS.—XV.

HON. HENRI GUSTAVE JOLY.

THE subject of our sketch was born in Paris, France, in 1829, and is now therefore fifty-nine years of age. His father, Gaspard Pierre Gustave Joly, was also a native of old France, but having intermarried with M^{lle} Julie Christine, daughter of Hon. Chartier de Lotbiniere, and heiress of the ancient seignory of the same name, took up his residence at the manor house of his wife's family in Lower Canada. Three children were the fruits of the union—a daughter who married an officer of the British army, the future Premier of Quebec, and his younger brother, Edmond, who entered the British army, became lieutenant in the 32nd, and after five years' service in India returned home on furlough. The Mutiny broke out, and the 32nd were besieged by the insurgents in Lucknow when young Joly was on his return voyage. He landed at Calcutta and, in spite of remonstrances from Lord Elgin, set off alone for the scene of action, escaped a thousand perils, joined Sir Henry Havelock's army at Cawnpore, and shared in the march to Lucknow. He was wounded by a bullet while gallantly pushing his way through the streets of the latter place to the Residency, garrisoned by his regiment, the 32nd, and died a few days afterwards, expressing the utmost satisfaction at having been able to assist in rescuing his comrades.

The younger brother's bravery and devotion to duty are equalled in his brother's career, though displayed in a different field. He was educated in Paris, called to the bar of Lower Canada in 1855, was elected for the county of Lotbiniere in 1861, and continued to represent it till Confederation, when he was elected by acclamation simultaneously to the House of Commons and the Quebec Assembly. He retired from the former in 1874 to take the leadership of the Opposition in the smaller body, and continued his task with vigour and assiduity until 1878, when M. Letellier de St. Just having been appointed by the Liberal Government of Mr. Mackenzie to the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, dismissed his Conservative advisers, and called on M. Joly to form a ministry. The propriety of M. Letellier's action was questioned by many Liberals, and strongly condemned by Conservatives. He committed no breach of the constitution, but the dismissal of advisers of the Crown having a majority in both houses is very unusual, and one which would have been deeply resented by Liberals had the blow been directed against themselves. In M. Letellier's action M. Joly had no part, and he would have erred had he refused to form a ministry when called upon. He found able and willing colleagues, and inaugurated a policy of economy, retrenchment, and reform, which, unfortunately, he was not permitted to carry out. Defeated in the House of Assembly, he dissolved it, and was sustained by a small majority in the new Legislature. Shortly afterwards, however, Mr. Mackenzie's Government at Ottawa were defeated at the general election, M. Letellier was dismissed from office, the majority of M. Joly speedily became a minority, and his resignation followed.

In Opposition M. Joly continued to perform the duties of Leader with his usual vigour and assiduity; but at the last general election when the Liberals of Quebec were aided by a section of Conservatives, known as Castors, on the common ground of the execution of Riel, the Liberal leader refused to join in the movement. His decision did him honour. Once guilty of cold-blooded murder and of rebellion, Riel had been pardoned; a second time, impelled by mercenary motives, he headed an *émeute* which caused the death of more than two hundred persons. To convert such an one into a hero, and make his apotheosis the test of a general election, was not to M. Joly's taste. He declined a re-nomination and still continues in retirement.

A serious obstacle to M. Joly's success as a politician in his own Province is the fact that he is a Protestant, not merely in name, but from conviction. An English Protestant in Quebec may take a leading part in politics, though not the first, but a French *évangélique* is overweighted in the race. Some time or other Franco-Canadians will burst their bonds, and ignore distinctions of race and religion in society, in business and in public affairs, but the time is not yet. It is probable that as a member of the House of Commons M. Joly would find a better field of action than the Quebec Legislature offers to him. He would certainly be welcomed there by all who value honour and independence in public men. In the meantime he is far from idle. He is an enthusiastic agriculturist, and as a forester he is unsurpassed in Canada. As President of the Society to Promote the Replanting of Quebec Woods, of the Society of Agriculture in Lotbiniere, and in many other ways, he is aiding the progress of his own Province and the Dominion at large

SAVILLE.

PARIS LETTER.

For several days the journals heralded the sale, at the Hotel Drouot, of the studies, drawings, water-colours, and sketches, together with all the objects, faiences, books, tapestries, and costumes found in the *atelier* of the much regretted master, François Bonvin. The misery of the father, who died of starvation, is the legacy of the daughter, and the proceeds of this sale were to relieve her from the destitution in which she was discovered. Much competition, then, was expected; but what happened? At the hour of sale, the halls of the Hotel des Ventes were invaded by a reckless mob of the demi-monde, bent on obtaining souvenirs of Marie Regnault, the victim of Pranzini, which were offered for sale opposite the compartment containing the works of Bonvin. The result of this unwholesome tumult was that amateurs and would-be purchasers could not approach the pictures, and some thirty canvasses were sold to lucky speculators, realizing in all, only 8,150 francs! It is a scandalous affair, that in Paris, the home of art, the works of so unique a master should produce such a paltry sum. But what must be said of the city, the only one I know of, where such a disgraceful scene would be permitted, when in the corridors of the vast sale room, dissolute women struggled with each other, some even having their garments torn, to secure mementoes on some of which is still the stain of blood. I doubt if the Insurrection of Women exceeded this in fury.

An important manuscript has been transferred from France to Germany. It is the *Manuscrit de Manesse*, which has been in the *Bibliothèque Nationale* since the time of Louis XIV. It is an invaluable acquisition to Germany, being a collection of all the German lyric poets of the middle ages. The compilation was made by a patrician of Zurich named Rodger Manesse. It contains one hundred and forty lyrics, and many superb miniatures, representing each poet with his escutcheon. Before the Thirty Years' War, the MS. belonged to the *Bibliothèque d'Heidelberg*, but on the capture of that place, the entire library was conveyed to the Pope, who sold the MS. to the Elector of Palatinate, and it came to France with the Princess Palatine. This *Manuscrit de Manesse* was one of the rare gems in a collection of eighty thousand, and as the *Bibliothèque Nationale* has no right to dispose of any work, unless it be a duplicate, the Minister of Public Instruction will likely be held responsible for it.

There has been a scandal at the *Beaux Arts*, resulting in the suspension of work for two weeks. A *nouveau* arrived one day, a hunchback, but his deformity did not protect him from the customary "hazing." He resented the incivilities, or rather brutalities, of the seniors, and when they approached with the intention of putting him in the cage, he drew a knife and inflicted an ugly wound on the head of one of his assailants. A riot ensued, of which the director became cognizant, and an order was sent closing the schools for fourteen days.

France is truly a paternal government. To all foreigners she extends the liberties of her educational system, but to her sons alone does she award prizes. For instance, though all may study in the art studios, only Frenchmen may receive the *Prix de Rome*. So when the competition opens for the composition of a "Marche Solennelle" for military music, to be played at the Exposition of 1889, only those to the manor born may enter. There will be awarded two prizes of 3,000 and 1,000 francs, and two honourable mentions of 300 francs each.

Yesterday was the last day for receiving pictures intended for exhibition at the coming Salon. On the anniversary of this day, from time immemorial, the students assemble before the Palais de l'Industrie, and greet, with shouts and groans, the passing pictures. Nor is sound alone their sole expression. Odoriferous missiles make indiscriminate assaults. In fact, the usual ending is a *row*, and yesterday being no exception to the rule, five joyous spirits were lodged in prison. Many pictures coming for this exhibition by slow freight have been delayed by the heavy falls of snow interfering with traffic. The sculptors have yet a month in which to complete their work. M.M. Bougereau, Bonnat, Buson, Cabanel, de Viollefroy, Humbert, Guillomet, and Tony Robert-Fleury comprise the jury for judging the pictures. There are half a dozen pictures by De Neuville and Detaille on exhibition at the military club, Avenue de l'Opera, probably to increase the already growing fund for the De Neuville monument. They are well worth seeing, those toy battle pictures, for they are clever in the extreme. There is an impetuosity and rush in De Neuville's painting that is perfectly irresistible, but he seems to have painted all things at all times under the same conditions of light. His sentry is always immaculately clad; his soldier, trim, erect, alert, dashing; rather as the French soldier thinks he is than as he seems to others. Detaille more happily catches the wearied, jaded character of both man and horse, and is, therefore, to be thought the more admirable painter. There is a theatrical touch, however, in all the pictures, which rather conveys a story than gives true values of colour. I have not yet visited the Salon of the "Independents," whom one suspects to have been persistently refused at the yearly Salon.

C. A. M.

It is difficult, from a mere glance at the dates, to grasp the whole range of the Emperor William's public life; but one fact concerning its early portion, which is of especial interest to English readers, will serve to illustrate it. In 1814, after the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte, which temporarily relegated him to Elba, Prince William of Prussia visited England, and he was a guest at Guildhall on the occasion of the historic banquet given by the Corporation of London to the allied Sovereigns. Another guest at that banquet was Warren Hastings. Within the span of these two lives how much has been embraced, and how differently would the history of two continents have had to be written had they not existed!