

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 62.—HON. JOSEPH HOWE, P. C., M. P.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE PROVINCES.

If age has weakened the vigour, it has certainly detracted little from the humour of the Hon. Joseph Howe. With a public career longer than the average span of human life, he still preserves a singular freshness and geniality of manner, and a faculty for repartee that makes him a power in Parliament. His course on the question of Confederation has given a tinge of inconsistency to his public life—has, in fact, to the eyes of many people, thrown a shade on its evening, which, we believe, a more minute examination would dispel. A little too much confidence in his own influence led him to believe that he could, when backed by his Province, defeat the delegates in the Imperial Parliament, but he found, as probably he had learned on former occasions, that colonial influence had to give way to Imperial policy. In this plight, and seeing that the Union would certainly be maintained, he went to work to obtain better terms for his Province, in which he was so far successful that a large party in Ontario has since tried, through the Local Legislature of that Province, to invoke Imperial action against similar proceedings. With Mr. Howe's successful negotiations between himself and the Ottawa Cabinet, came the not unreasonable stipulation that he should accept office, and thereby take his full share of the responsibility for the attempted pacification. The course then followed was in exact imitation of that adopted at Quebec in 1864, when the Hon. George Brown entered the Government; ministers wisely refused to assume for the measure a responsibility that all the parties to it did not share. Thus it came that Mr. Howe entered the Cabinet, first as President of the Council in succession to the late Mr. Blair, and latterly as Secretary of State for the Provinces, which office he still holds.

From Mr. Morgan's "Parliamentary Companion" we learn that Mr. Howe's family emigrated from the South of England, and in the days of the "Pilgrim fathers" settled in one of the New England States. His father was a loyalist during the revolutionary war, and at one time conducted the *Massachusetts Gazette and Boston Letter*; but in the triumph of rebellion he removed to Halifax, where his loyal devotion to the Crown was recognised by his being made King's Printer and Postmaster General. Mr. Howe was born in Halifax in 1804, and is now consequently in his 67th year. After the completion of his education he, like his father, devoted himself to newspaper life, and in 1827 became editor of *The Acadian*. His association with the press of Nova Scotia, saving a slight interruption, continued from that date until 1856, when he finally retired from journalism. The papers he conducted during that period were, *The Acadian*, *The Nova Scotian*, and the *Morning Chronicle*. His Parliamentary career commenced as far back as 1836, when he was elected for Halifax County, for which he sat until 1851; from that year to '55 for Cumberland, and hence for Hants until 1863, and from that year until the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty in 1866, he held the Imperial office of Commissioner of Fisheries. During this long public career, Mr. Howe has been frequently in Ministerial office; almost from his first entrance into public life he was the acknowledged leader of the Nova Scotia Reformers; and to him is due, to a very large extent, the concession from the Imperial authorities of "Responsible Government" to the British American Provinces. He was also one of the earliest advocates of British American Union; and though the plan of Confederation did not at first meet his approval, he gave his adhesion to it when he had secured from the Canadian Government an alteration in the financial basis of the Union equal to a capital sum of about two millions of dollars in favour of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Howe has not only been an active public man and prolific newspaper writer, but also a pamphleteer of considerable note. Some of his productions under the last named head, as probably many under the other, will hardly sustain the character of consistency, but they all bear the impress of earnest thought and warm desire for the good of his fellows, and especially for the glory of the little Province of which he is proud to be a representative man. He has also established his title to honourable rank on the roll of British North American poets. In fact he has been, in the fullest sense of the terms, *litterateur*, journalist, politician, statesman, and diplomat; and we believe in the latter capacity only has he achieved the chief failures that mark a career of unusual duration and brilliancy. On questions innumerable, and at various times, he has visited the Province and the Seat of Empire; but when he attempted to thwart the efforts of the Colonial Conference in London, he found his influence totally inadequate to the task. Even this failure he handsomely atoned for by his successful negotiation with the Dominion Government for Nova Scotia's "better terms;" and though, at his present time of life, his most ardent admirers can scarcely hope for him any new achievements, the whole Dominion, and especially Nova Scotia, may be proud of his well-earned laurels, and cannot but recognize in the genial, witty, and eloquent member for Hants, one of the greatest and most patriotic of British Americans.

No. 63.—HON. ALEX. CAMPBELL, Q. C., P. C.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL OF CANADA.

It has probably militated much against the popularity of the Hon. Mr. Campbell that his public life has been confined to the Legislative Council and the Senate, for "charm they ever so wisely" the members of the Upper Chamber have never engaged much of the popular attention. Their duties are, nevertheless, no less important than are those of the members of the more popular branch of the Legislature, and it would seem that their labours deserved all the more appreciation that they do not receive that ready incense of public applause that ever attends the active member of the House of Commons. Mr. Campbell's duties as a Legislative Councillor and Senator have, however, been of an exceptional character. At one time Speaker, a President at another, virtual, and then again actual leader of the Government, his duties have been especially onerous and have brought him something like a corresponding share of public notice; while the departments over which he has presided, have exacted from him the exercise of no little administrative talent. Indeed, some eight or ten years ago, he was invited to assume the post of leader of the Conservative party of Upper Canada, and Mr. John A. Macdonald, at a public dinner in Toronto, virtually resigned in his favour. But Mr. Campbell, thinking, perhaps, that the new honour would hardly compensate for the increase of responsibility, declined the *role*, which, at the time, was one of considerable difficulty and little promise. He continued, however, to occupy a prominent position in the party, and since his entry into public life has shared largely in Ministerial duties.

Mr. Campbell, though of Scotch descent, was born in Yorkshire, England, in the year 1821. When in his infancy his father, Dr. Campbell, removed to Canada and for a time settled at Lachine, and afterwards removed to Kingston. After completing his education, part of which was acquired at the College of St. Hyacinthe in this Province, Mr. Campbell studied law and was called to the Upper Canada Bar in 1843. He completed his professional studies in the office of (now Sir) John A. Macdonald, with whom he subsequently became a partner. A successful practice soon led to the acquisition of a solid competence, and Mr. Campbell served his apprenticeship to public life in the modest capacity of a City Alderman. The office is indeed one of much importance in a local sense, but it is terribly dwarfed when compared with that of a member of Parliament and Minister of the Crown.

The Legislative Council having been made elective in 1856, and the Catarqui division, embracing the city of Kingston and county of Frontenac, having by legal arrangement come in for its turn to elect a member in 1858, Mr. Campbell offered himself in the Liberal Conservative interest, and was returned. In the Council he soon achieved a commanding position. Courteous in manner, and very facile, without being long-winded of speech, he became a favourite with the body, more venerable than venerated, to which he had been elected, and in the early part of 1863 he was chosen to fill the important office of Speaker of the Council, which position he held until the dissolution of Parliament in the summer of that year. During the Ministerial crisis which ensued in March, 1864, Mr. Campbell was invited by the Governor-General to form a Cabinet, but declined the task. He, however, accepted the office of Crown Lands Commissioner in the Ministry then formed by the late Sir E. P. Taché and Sir John A. Macdonald; and over that department Mr. Campbell continued to preside until the Union, when, in the first Dominion Cabinet, he was assigned the Postmaster-Generalship, which he still retains. He, of course, was called to the Senate by the Queen's proclamation, constituting the Provinces into the Dominion of Canada, and since that time has been the leader of the Government in the Upper Chamber, in which capacity his tact and courtesy are alike conspicuous. The department over which he presides is an important one, but Mr. Campbell is apt at business, and during the occasional absence from the capital of Sir John A. Macdonald, he has also temporarily discharged the duties appertaining to the Ministry of Justice.

THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

No. 18.—VANCOUVER'S ISLAND—CLIMATE, &c.,

By the Rev. *Æn. McD. Dawson*, Ottawa.

Captain Vancouver gives a glowing description of the island which he discovered. "The severity of the climate, the innumerable pleasing landscapes, and the abundant fertility that unassisted Nature puts forth, require only to be enriched by the industry of man with villages, mansions, cottages, and other buildings, to render it the most lovely country that can be imagined; while the labours of the inhabitants would be amply rewarded in the bounties which Nature seems ready to bestow on civilization." Since these words were written, seventy years ago, many travellers have visited the island, and colonists, who may now be counted by thousands, have contributed to enrich the land by their industry, and have built not only villages, but towns, as well as mansions, cottages, and various other kinds of buildings that are necessary now in order to meet the manifold demands of trade and agriculture. The interior of the island has not, as yet, been much explored. But neither settlers nor explorers, however rocky and rugged they may have found many parts of the country, have ever called in question the accuracy of Vancouver's

description. The island is mountainous, indeed; but if there be mountains which, by their great height and varied outline, only give beauty and grandeur to its scenery, there are also plains and valleys of remarkable fertility that present other and more pleasing kinds of beauty, and so vary the landscape as to justify the language which describes Vancouver's Island as "the most lovely country that can be imagined."

Captain Vancouver appears to have been more struck by the serenity of the climate than by any other peculiarity of the island which he discovered. In more northern latitudes than Canada, it is a stranger to the extreme cold of the Canadian winter, as well as to the excessive summer-heat which is found to be so oppressive in Canada. The idea too generally prevails that the climate equals in severity that of Canada. Statistics, nevertheless, which are stubborn things, shew how erroneous this impression is, and prove, beyond doubt, that while Canadians are suffering from their scorching summer-heat, which, even in the shade, raises the thermometer to 90° and 95°, sometimes to more than 100°, the favoured inhabitants of Vancouver's Island enjoy an agreeable temperature of 72°. This is eight or ten degrees below the greatest summer-heat which prevails for a few days in southern England. Comparison with the south of England is not inappropriate, as the latitude of Victoria, V. I., is pretty much the same. There are fewer rainy days throughout the year than in the former country, and if the spring be a little later, autumn is much longer, and winter is thus robbed of its length, whilst other causes tend to render it milder than that of the most southerly parts of South Britain. It has been observed that at Victoria, V. I., in the year 1860-61, there were fewer than 118 rainy days, whilst the average number in England is 178. Dr. Rattray, R. N., in a report to the Admiralty, shews the state of the weather from the 1st April, 1860, to the end of March, 1861. This interesting table is as follows:—

Number of fine days.....	187
" wet days.....	17
" showery days.....	101
" foggy days.....	17
" days with strong wind.....	35
" days with thermometer below freezing.....	11
" days in which snow fell.....	12

Dr. Rattray's barometrical observations clearly prove how very favourable the state of the atmosphere is to persons that are liable to pulmonary complaints. These observations give the indications of the barometer for the same year to which the preceding table refers.

They are as follows:—

Maximum.....	39.69
Minimum.....	29.19
Medium.....	39.07
Monthly range.....	1.50
Greatest daily range.....	1.64

Contrast the wonderfully dry atmosphere of October—their wettest month in Vancouver's Island—which may be inferred from this table, with the more humid, positively damp, raw, cutting weather, which prevails throughout England in the beginning of winter. The wind blows so moderately that its mean strength, distributed throughout the year, would hardly amount to a light breeze. High winds are rare, and occur mostly in April, blowing from the south and south-west. The rainy winds are from the south, bringing the moisture as well as the warmth of the South Pacific Ocean. Dr. Rattray has also taken account of those winds, or zephyrs rather, which face the island. From the learned doctor's statements it appears that there were only eighty-three days of the year in which the wind was, in my degree, perceptible. Southerly, mostly south-westerly breezes prevailed on fifty-six of these eighty-three days, which represents 67.47 per cent; northerly, eleven days—13.25 per cent; easterly, six days—7.23 per cent; westerly, six days—7.23 per cent; variable, four days. Another table shews the state of the thermometer from 1st April, 1860, to the end of March, 1861:

	Highest Therm. during the Year.	Lowest Do.	Annual Range of Temperature.
Vancouver's Island,...	72°	23½°	48½°
Canada,.....	102°	36° below zero.	138°
London,.....	80°	22°	64°

The fertilizing rains of March which usher in the Spring are varied by long intervals of clear dry weather. Meanwhile the warm Spring breezes promote vigorous vegetation, and whilst Canada still remains buried under hard and ponderous snow-drifts, the expanding foliage of the trees in all the variety of forest hues, and the bright verdure of the fields present a truly cheering appearance. Add to this the sheltered valleys, the borders of lakes and the banks of streams richly enamelled with innumerable wild flowers luxuriating in the brightest, and, at the same time, the most delicate colours,—*Collinsias*, *Erythroniums*, *Trilliums*, and scarlet lilies,—whilst the tender grasses, the humble fern, and the lordly oak, together with a rich growth of indigenous fruit trees, put forth their leaves and buds of promise,—all hastening to their summer glory,—and you have an idea of the early and powerful advance of Spring in the temperate but genial climate of Vancouver's Island. Later,—in the month of May—nature assumes a still more delightful aspect. New varieties of flowers enliven the scenery—wild roses in boundless pro-