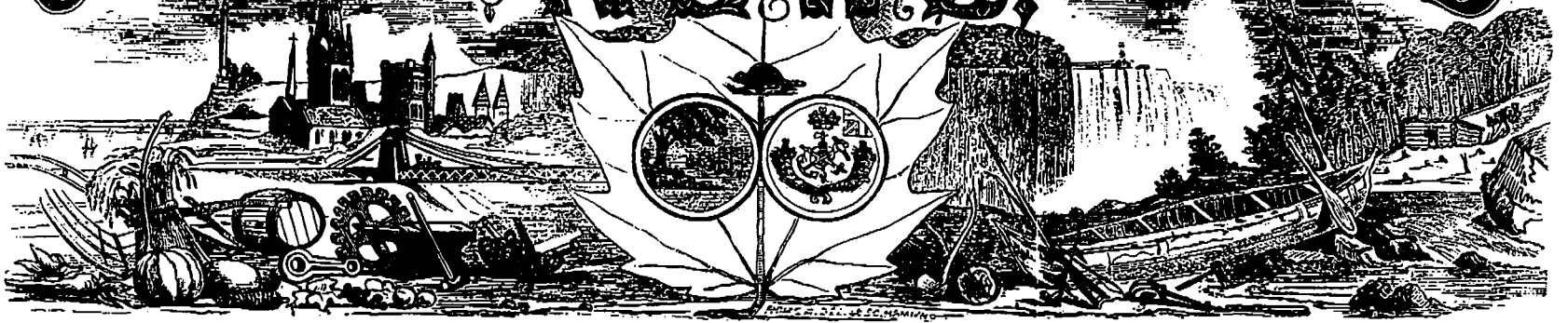


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THE SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF CANADA.

The Honorable ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, Speaker of the Legislative Council, was born at Hedon, Yorkshire, England, on the 9th of March, 1822. His father was a medical gentleman, who emigrated to Canada in 1824, and settled in Montreal. There he practised his profession for a period of eight years. In 1836 he removed with his family to Upper Canada, and settled in Kingston.

Alexander, the subject of this memoir, was then a lad aged 14 years. He was sent to the Granwar School under the head mastership of Mr. George Baxter, whose proficiency as a classical scholar and successful teacher, was well known in Kingston. After the usual course of study, and having passed a very creditable examination, he was admitted as a law student, and articled to the late Henry Cassady, Esq., barrister-at-law, who enjoyed a very extensive practice and stood deservedly high in his profession. On the death of Mr. Cassady in 1839, young Campbell was articled to the Hon. John A. Macdonald, late Attorney General, Canada West, and being admitted to the bar in 1843, then formed a copartnership with Mr. Macdonald, which continued up to 1848, when a separation took place. Mr. Campbell's position at the bar was then thoroughly established. His reputation as a nisi prius lawyer, as a special pleader, and in Chambers, was second to none at the Kingston bar, and excelled by few in the Province.

His political career may be said to have commenced in January, 1858, when he offered himself as a candidate to represent the Electoral Division of Catarqui in the Legislative Council. His address to the electors appeared in the Kingston News, and was the subject of the following editorial remarks:

'We are glad of the opportunity thus afforded us of congratulating the Division upon



HON. ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF CANADA.

the prospect of sending to the Upper House a gentleman whose acquirements, natural ability, and general unexceptionable deportment, with the credit to their judgment and good sense in selecting him, and who will, if elected, add to the dignity and usefulness of the House. Mr. Campbell's political principles are known to the great body of the people in the Division, although he has not exhibited himself as a stump orator on every available occasion, in order to acquire vulgar notoriety, as is frequently the case

with those who seek popularity among the masses. As a Conservative of 'broad principles,' as a professional man of unsullied honor, as a private gentleman of unblemished character, his popularity with the people among whom he has lived and acted, is but the natural result of his upright and consistent conduct.'

The election took place in the fall of 1858, and Mr. Campbell was elected by the large majority of 1100. He took his seat in the Legislative Council in the session of 1859,

and by his sound judgment, legal knowledge, administrative abilities and debating powers, very soon acquired great influence. In the session of 1863 he was unanimously elected Speaker, a post which he fills with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the Council, as has been frequently expressed by honorable gentlemen on both sides. The dissolution of parliament, which followed the defeat of the Sandfield Macdonald-Scotte ministry, in May, 1863, creates a vacancy as well in the Speakership of the Legislative Council as in that of the House of Assembly. Mr. Campbell will therefore only have enjoyed the honor of the chair for one short session, and when Parliament meets, in a few days, must give way to some gentleman from Lower Canada.

Mr. Campbell is a man of great talent and ability, a fluent speaker and good debater. He stands high in the estimation of the Conservative party, and is destined to occupy a prominent position, if not the lead, in some future government. His political career has been free from inconsistencies, and his adhesion to any ministry must prove a tower of strength.

QUALIFICATION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS.—By the Provincial Act of 1854, 'respecting the Legislative Council,' it is provided that 'no person shall be eligible, or shall sit or vote as a Legislative Councillor, unless he is a British subject by birth or naturalization, resident in Canada, of the full age of thirty years; and is legally or equitably

seized as of freehold, for his own use and benefit of land or tenements held in free and common soccage,—or seized or possessed for his own use and benefit, of land or tenements held in fief, franc-alleu, or roture in this Province—of the value of eight thousand dollars over and above all debts, charges and dues,—nor unless his residence, or his lands or tenements, as aforesaid, to the value aforesaid, are within the limits of the Electoral Division for which he seeks to be or has been elected.'