

DEATH OF THE HON. F. G. MARCHAND

IN the death of the Hon. Félix Gabriel Marchand, which occurred on the 25th of September, French Canada loses one of her leading littérateurs, the Royal Society of Canada one of its past-presidents and the province of Quebec its prime minister. Mr. Marchand was sixty-eight years of age and had been a member of the provincial legislature ever since Confederation, (1867). He was a Doctor of Laws of Laval University, was for sometime editor of *Le Temps* of Montreal, founded and edited for some years *Le Franco-Canadien* of St. Johns, and was an Officer of Public Instruction of the French Republic. His principal claim to literary distinction rested upon his dramatic writings, chief amongst which are *Fatenville*, a comedy (1869); *Erreur n'est pas Compte*, a vaudeville (1872); *Un bonheur en attire un autre*, a comedy, (1884); and *Les Faux Brillants*, a comedy (1885). Some of these were very well received in France. Last year Beauchemin of Montreal published a collected edition of his works,—an 8vo of 375 pages,—under the title of *Mélanges Poétiques et Littéraires*. The compiler, Mr. A. D. DeCelles, Librarian of the Parliament Library (Ottawa), tells this capital story of Mr. Marchand's wit: He had been speaking at some length in the midst of a tedious debate, when Mr. Blanchet, the Speaker of the House, feeling fatigued, had beckoned Mr. Houde, the patriarch of the Chamber, to relieve him in the chair. The change was unnoticed for a moment by Mr. Marchand, who was reading a quotation at the time. When he turned again towards the chair and the transformation struck him, he paused a moment and exclaimed, "I was not aware, Mr. Speaker, of having spoken so long. When I took the floor you were a young man with a black beard, while now I have before me a venerable, grey-bearded old gentleman." And Father Houde gruffly responded, "We grow old quickly in listening to such debates."

The remains of the deceased were interred at Quebec on Saturday the 29th September, and were accorded a public funeral. *North American Notes and Queries* tenders its sympathy to the Mr. Honourable Marchand's afflicted widow and family.