



DRAWN BY G. M. MANLY.

THE OLD HOPE GATE, QUEBEC.

found by assigning local questions to provincial legislatures and preserving the existing union in respect to measures common to all. It was agreed to attempt to bring the lower provinces within the same measure, and thus give to Canada the maritime element which France had to a certain extent secured, in the previous century, by the fortification of Louisbourg as a winter port. Old Canada was entirely dependent on a foreign country for several months of the year, not only for access to the ocean, but even for access to the Mother Country.

Union sentiment was stronger by the sea than in inland Canada. But though Howe had sown the seed, he had been alienated by the limited outlook and bitter squabbles of the politicians of the upper provinces, and the tide was running in favor simply of a legislative union of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The three Legislatures had passed resolutions in

favor of it, and had appointed delegates to consider the terms. These were in session in Charlottetown, when they received an invitation to permit Canada to send a deputation to their conference. The invitation was cordially responded to. The result was a resolution that the common interests demanded the wider union, and that representatives should meet in Quebec to draw up a plan. A conference assembled accordingly in Quebec on the 10th of October, which in eighteen days sketched out the constitution of Canada. No written constitution can be permanent, and time has already pointed out some defects in ours. Reverting to the principle of nomination for the Upper House was perhaps the greatest mistake. It was made, according to Mr. Galt, because, "the representatives of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick declared that the opinion of the people was against the elective principle," and in spite of the warning of Canadian experience which showed that, "under the nominative system, the legislative council had fallen into public discredit."

Delays occurred, but at length a proclamation, appointing the union to come into operation on July 1st, 1867, was agreed to by the Queen-in-Council, and John A. Macdonald was authorized by Lord Monck to form an administration. He succeeded, but his Government, for different reasons, lacked the names of George Brown, Joseph Howe, Charles Tupper, and D'Arcy McGee.

Extremely simple were the proceedings connected with the birth of the new Dominion. The oaths were administered to Lord Monck in the Executive Council Chamber, Ottawa, in the presence of forty or fifty persons; and thereafter His Excellency reviewed nineteen companies of volunteers and two companies of the Rifle Brigade, in the Parliament House Square. In the afternoon the Privy Council was duly sworn in, and Canada entered on her new career with larger powers, though without the full responsibilities of national life, which Howe believed should be assumed by her, as her duty and privilege.

In no city was the birthday of the Dominion celebrated with such rejoicings as