

Hamilton, Hon. John, Senator, deceased, was the youngest son of the late Hon. Robert Hamilton, at one time a resident of Carlton Island, was born at Queenston, Ontario, in the year 1802. After spending a short time at school there, he was sent to Edinburgh, where he entered the Academy and received a classical training of that order which has made that school famous. At the age of sixteen he came back to Canada to follow business pursuits, and two years afterwards he entered as a clerk the house of DeRiver, Blackwood & Co., wholesale merchants, Montreal. After serving a thorough apprenticeship there, he returned to his home in Queenston, where he entered upon the business of building and running steamboats on his own account. He owned, though he did not build, the *Frontenac*, the first steamer that plied the waters of Lake Ontario. An advertisement of this craft, adorned by a rude wood-cut, appears in the *Chronicle* of 1819. We are there informed that James Mackenzie is the master; that the steamer leaves three times a week for York and Queenston; that the fare is £3 from Kingston to York, and £1 from York to Queenston; that each passenger is allowed sixty pounds of baggage; that gentlemen's servants are not allowed to eat or drink in the cabin; and that an extra charge of five shillings is made for dogs. Mr. Hamilton's energy and enterprise were remarkable. He built the *Queenston*, the *Great Britain*, the *Lord Sydenham* (which was the first large boat that ever ran the rapids), the *Passport*, *Canada*, *Kingston* and *Sovereign*; he chartered the *Gildersleeve*, *Brockville*, *Cobourg*, *Champion*, *Commodore Barry*, *Ottawa*, *New York*, *Northerner*, and many others. For a long time he even made a determined fight against the Grand Trunk Railway, which became a competitor for the carrying trade of Upper Canada. He continued in the business until 1862, when he retired. In January, 1831, he was called to the Legislative Council, and for over half a century he took part continuously and usefully in the upper branch of each successive legislature which has been formed under our constitutional system, earning for himself the title of the Nestor of the Senate. A public career so remarkable could not fail to meet with fitting acknowledgment, and on January 29th, 1881, the fiftieth anniversary of his elevation to the council, he was presented by his colleagues with an address, which is some reflex of their esteem and admiration. Having borne tribute to his services in parliament, the address goes

on to say: "But it has not been in parliament alone that you have served the country. The annals of Canada for the last fifty years will recount the important enterprises of commerce in which you have been engaged. To you, in early days, Upper Canada owed her predominance on Lake Ontario. The organization of the first line of steamers which plied on that lake, and which in good and ill fortune you maintained for five-and-twenty years, the establishment of steam communication between Kingston and Montreal, the courage and perseverance which first directed large steamers to descend the rapids of the St. Lawrence, and the maintenance of lines of stage-coaches for autumn and winter communication between the provinces which are now Ontario and Quebec, all bear testimony to your vigorous and far-reaching enterprise. We rejoice to have an opportunity of recording our appreciation of the value of these and other public services which have marked your career. Your well-spent life, it may be, is drawing to a close, but you are surrounded with 'honour, love, obedience, troops of friends,' and as 'the father of the senate,' your colleagues congratulate you on the occurrence of this interesting anniversary, and heartily wish you a cheerful and happy old age." The speaker of the Senate, Hon. D. L. Macpherson, Sir Alexander Campbell, who read the address, and the other senators came forward and congratulated their colleague individually. The late senator was for seventeen years president of the Commercial Bank; he was at one time president of the St. Andrew's Society, and he was chairman of the Board of Trustees of Queen's College from its incorporation in 1841 until his death. He was very proud of the last-mentioned position. He married in early life Frances Pasia, daughter of David Macpherson, of Inverness, Scotland, by whom he had a large family—John, who is now county attorney at Sault Ste. Marie; Clark, collector of Customs at Kingston, and a brief memoir of whom will be found elsewhere in these pages; Mrs. Paton, of New York; Herchmer George, now dead; David, who practises medicine in Batavia, N. Y.; Mrs. Mackenzie, wife of Dr. Mackenzie, of Hillcroft; Joseph, now dead; Mrs. Foote, of Denver, Colorado; and Samuel, dead. Nature conferred upon Senator Hamilton an external appearance which seemed designed for one of her noblemen. His figure was large and well knit; his countenance was marked by singular dignity and benevolence. Intelligence and refinement shone there, and were character-

istic
Thos
more
acter
and
posit
offen
his q
lic s
foun
hono
1882.
Es
was h
Coun
1821.
Lout
senr.
surve
to Ca
fifth
of the
settle
where
wards
in th
study
and I
study
the la
we m
step-s
course
versity
1852.
into p
H. Br
1860.
fields,
1863 a
was ap
ties of
appoin
appoin
the Co
up to 1
pealed.
trustee
which
remova
He also
1877.
sonry in
Prescot
treasure
mother
1870.
Arch ch
also af
74, Ma