

Miss Monjean, his grandmother a Miss Brodeur. He who was to be, in the future, the representative of the British crown in his native province, was quite young when the insurrection of 1837 and 1838 broke out. Mr. Louis Adolphe Robitaille was then one of the most zealous amongst those who were called the patriots. He was even compromised and arrested in his own house, in his alarmed family's midst, during these troubles; he recovered his liberty only after the pacification of the province. The early years of the Hon. Theodore Robitaille were years of anxiety, and although then quite young he has kept these events in ineffaceable recollection. His family at all times have paid its debt to the country. One of his grand-uncles, the Rev. M. Robitaille, was a chaplain in the active militia during the war of 1812. Another of his grand-uncles, the Rev. M. Louis Brodeur, after having devoted several years of his life to the missions; became curé of St. Roch des Aulnets, and was one of the most generous protectors and benefactors of the seminary of Ste. Anne's in its infancy, which was established by the Rev. M. Painchaud. His honor made his classical studies at Ste. Thérèse, where he obtained brilliant successes. During a visit which he made to this institution a short time after his elevation to the post of lieutenant-governor, he received quite an ovation and the warmest reception of the directors and pupils proved to him how Ste. Thérèse is happy to count amongst its children the first dignitary of the province. After his classical studies, the Hon. Theodore Robitaille decided to embrace the medical profession; he commenced his professional studies at the Laval university, which at that time had just been founded, and terminated them at McGill college, Montreal, of which institution he is one of the graduates. In 1858 he went to practise as doctor at New Carlisle, in the county of Bonaventure, for which county he was subsequently elected in the year 1860 as member of parliament for the united provinces of Lower and Upper Canada; he represented this county constantly until his appointment as lieutenant-governor, in 1879.

In 1867, he married Marie Josephine Emma Quesnel, daughter of P. A. Quesnel, and granddaughter of the Hon. F. A. Quesnel, who played such a remarkable and prominent character in all the brilliant political fights of Canada.

In 1871 he was elected member of the House of Assembly, Quebec, continuing to represent the county in the parliament of the Dominion. He retained the local mandate until 1873, when he was obliged to resign on being called to form part of the Federal ministry, as receiver-general; he was accordingly sworn in as privy councilor on the 29th of January, 1873, and retained his portfolio in the administration of Sir John A. Macdonald until the following November, when he followed the fortunes of his chief, and resigned with his colleagues on the question of the Pacific railroad.

In 1878, when the Conservative party came back to power, with an immense majority, the Hon. Theodore Robitaille did not form part of the new cabinet, as he was reserved for a higher dignity. Accordingly, on the 25th of July, 1879, when the issue of the momentous drama which