

ably so persuasive as to gain adherents. An English writer wrote of him as follows: "Calm, courteous, imperturbable, clear and decisive, he is a master in debate. His weapon is as smooth and decisive as a Damascus scimitar; his dexterity in wielding it, and his quickness in watching the fence of an opponent are extraordinary and admirable." As a presiding officer, he is admirable, maintaining and expediting business without apparent effort, keeping discussion within legitimate bounds, and extricating it out of tangles by his tact and intimate knowledge of the law and rules of debate. Endowed with a great capacity for work, he is not only able to accomplish a great deal himself but as a wise administrator of men as well as affairs, he directs, so as to secure the best results, the energies of those associated with him. Conciliatory to a degree, he would rather win than crush an opponent, and with a wise forbearance he never thinks it beneath his dignity to remove, as far as possible, grievances real or imaginary.

RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN ALEXANDER
MACDONALD, K.C.M.G., D.C.L., LL.D.

Ottawa, Ont.

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MACDONALD, K.C.M.G., D.C.L., LL.D., second son of Hugh Macdonald, originally of Dornoch, Sutherlandshire, Scotland, and Helen Shaw, was born at Glasgow, January 11th, 1815, and died at Earncliffe, Ottawa, June 6th, 1891. For some generations prior to the time of his grandfather, his paternal ancestors had been small farmers in the parish of Dornoch, but they claimed descent from the chiefs of the clan Macdonald, known in Scottish history as Lord of the Isles. Sir John's grandfather was enabled, by means of a sum of money bequeathed him, to begin business as a tradesman in his native parish. He was possessed of considerable shrewdness and business capacity, and as he was the only merchant in the place, he accumulated in time quite a handsome little fortune. His prosperity was so great, in fact, that he was able to send his sons to college at Glasgow, and subsequently to materially assist them in starting in life. Hugh Macdonald was the second son, and when he had completed his collegiate course, he entered on a commercial career as a cotton broker in Glasgow. Here he married Helen Shaw, a daughter of Colonel Shaw, of Inverness-shire, by whom he had five children. John Alexander was the second son, and the only one of the three boys who attained to manhood. In consequence of reverses in business in the old country, Mr. Macdonald decided to emigrate to Canada. The family landed at

Quebec in the summer of 1820 and proceeded direct to Kingston, then the largest and best fortified town in Upper Canada. Here Mr. Macdonald opened a store and continued to reside for four years. At the expiration of this time he removed to Adolphustown, on Quinté Bay, where he engaged in the milling industry. His son, John Alexander, the subject of this sketch, was left in Kingston, however, to receive his schooling. He was then nine years of age, and was a bright lad, of good faculties and excellent disposition. He was placed in attendance at the Royal Grammar School, then under the management of Dr. Wilson, a fellow of Oxford University, and here he received careful training in the various branches of instruction then regarded as the necessary foundation for the professional career which his father had destined him to pursue. After six years of tuition in this school, he was articled in the law office of Mr. George Mackenzie, then a barrister with a large practice in Kingston, and five years subsequently, at the age of twenty-one, he was admitted to the bar, and opened an office for the practice of his profession in his adopted city. As a student, he had been a hard worker, and when he began practice for himself he paid close attention to business. His reputation, too, as a clever student stood him in good stead at the beginning of his professional career. He was not long in acquiring a lucrative business, and he rapidly earned a name as a shrewd and skilful lawyer. The politics of the country were at this time in a very unsettled condition. The rebellion under Wm. Lyon Mackenzie had just been suppressed, and the seditious movement in Canada had been smothered. But there were continual threats of armed invasion from across the United States' border. A secret organization of the Fenian type with a very large membership had established what were termed Hunters' Lodges along the dividing line. The object of this organization was the destruction of British institutions in Canada, and the establishment of a republican form of government. At its lodges the members met for drill, and from here it was that incursions were made into Canadian territory. The organization was composed of a disorganized rabble of cut-throats with here and there a misinformed zealot, whose antagonism to monarchical institutions he had allowed to becloud his judgment. Among other raids which were made by the Hunters during 1838 was one under a Polish refugee, named Von Shultz. He landed with two hundred men near Prescott, and took up a position at Windmill Point in a circular stone building of immense strength. The invaders had imagined that they would be joined here by