

city, etc., but he soon quashed the "tempest in a teapot" effectually, and in a manner that some of his contemporaries very likely still remember.

The subject of this memoir, commenced his political life as a Baldwin Reformer, which he continued to be until that party was broken up, and its leader, the late Hon. Robert Baldwin, driven from public life by the crisis which converted what was left of that party into what is now known as the Grits. When that occurred, many, and among them the late Hon. Robert Spence and the subject of this memoir, left that party and became and ever after remained supporters of Sir John Macdonald. While Mr. Spence remained in public life, the subject of this sketch was continued by Sir John's administration as one of its crown prosecutors, and as such was engaged in the conviction and dispersion of the notorious Townsend gang, the first aggregation of dangerous tramps known in Canada. Some of that gang were shot while resisting or evading arrest, two were hanged at Cayuga, and one imprisoned for life in the penitentiary for the robbery and murder of Mr. Nelles. In those days the stream of justice was not impeded or diverted by the influence of party partisans, nor by the mawkish skim milk and water sentimentality from which we at a later date have suffered so much, and the consequence was that for several years after those executions that species of crime was unknown in Upper Canada. When Hon. Mr. Mowat's administration came into power, although politically opposed to that ministry, Mr. Martin's name appeared at the head of the long list of Queen's Counsel for Ontario, then published.

Mr. Martin was married in 1858 to Miss Cunningham, of Donegal, Ireland, by whom he has a family of four sons and four daughters.

GEORGE B. SMITH,

TORONTO.

AMONG the younger wholesale houses in Toronto which are yearly growing in importance, and which, judging by their constantly increasing trade, are rivalling the old established firms in pushing business with energy, foresight and success, the importing dry goods house of Messrs. G. B. Smith and Henderson is deserving of mention in a work which treats of self-made men. George Byron Smith, the senior member, very justly ranks in this class of citizens. He is a native of Ontario, and was born in the village of Newtonville, county of Durham, on the 7th of March, 1839. His paternal grandfather came from the State of New York many years ago and settled near Cobourg, Ont., where was born the father of our subject, N. C. Smith. The latter was for some time engaged in tilling the soil, but after his removal to Newtonville his business was that of general merchandising. The maiden name of the mother of G. B.