

PROMINENT CANADIANS—XL.

SKETCHES of the following prominent Canadians have already appeared in THE WEEK: Hon. Oliver Mowat, Sir Daniel Wilson, Principal Grant, Sir John A. Macdonald, K.C.B., Louis Honoré Fréchette, LL.D., Sir J. William Dawson, Sir Alexander Campbell, K.C.M.G., Hon. William Stevens Fielding, Hon. Alexander MacKenzie, Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley, C.B., K.C.M.G., Alexander McLachlan, Hon. J. A. Chappleau, Sir Richard Cartwright, K.C.M.G., Sandford Fleming, C.E., LL.D., C.M.G., Hon. H. G. Joly, Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, Sir William Buell Richards, Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, M.P., Hon. Honoré Mercier, Q.C., Hon. William Macdougall, C.B., Rev. Principal MacVicar, D.D., LL.D., Prof. Charles G. D. Roberts, M.A., George Paxton Young, M.A., Hon. Auguste Real Angers, Principal Caven, D.D., William Ralph Meredith, LL.D., Q.C., M.P., Sir William Pearce Howland, C.B., K.C.M.G., Senator the Hon. John Macdonald, the Hon. John Hawkins Hagarty, D.C.L., Chief Justice of Ontario, Lieut.-Col. George T. Denison, Sir Antoine Aimé Dorion, His Grace Archbishop O'Brien, Charles Mair, F.R.S.C., Chief Justice Allen, Sir John Thompson, K.C.M.G., Archibald Lampman, John Cook, D.D., LL.D., Grant Allen, Rev. Doctor Dewar, and Chief Justice Sullivan.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ADAMS GEORGE ARCHIBALD, D.C.L.,
K.C.M.G., ETC., ETC.

AMONG the eminent men who have adorned public life in Nova Scotia, Sir Adams Archibald deservedly takes high rank. A sketch of his career will interest the readers of THE WEEK; and such a sketch is now specially fitting, as Sir Adams has definitely bidden farewell to the political arena, to the profound regret of many friends in the fine constituency of Colchester, which never but once in forty years declined to elect him to Parliament.

Adams G. Archibald was born at Truro, Nova Scotia, May 18, 1814. His father was Samuel Archibald, Esq. His paternal grandfather was James Archibald, Judge of Common Pleas for Colchester; and his mother's father was Matthew Archibald, long the member for Truro in the Nova Scotia Legislature. The Archibald family was of Scotch origin, but had for two generations settled in the north of Ireland. In 1761 four brothers of the name, who had been for some years in Londonderry, in the then Province of New Hampshire, came to Nova Scotia and settled at what is now Truro. The father of these four brothers is the common ancestor of the far-spreading Archibald family throughout the Dominion and the United States—a family now thousands strong and adorned with many men of ability and standing.

Mr. Archibald was educated at Pictou, under Dr. Thomas McCulloch. After leaving college he for a time studied medicine in Halifax. He, however, changed his mind, and betook himself with ardour to the study of law, being articled to the late William Sutherland, Recorder for Halifax. In January, 1838, he was admitted an Attorney of Nova Scotia, and in the following June an attorney of Prince Edward Island. In January, 1839, he was admitted a barrister of Nova Scotia. In that year he opened an office at Truro, and his business sagacity, legal acumen, sound judgment, unswerving integrity, suave manner, unflinching kindness of heart and prompt and faithful attention to all matters committed to him, speedily won for him the confidence of the whole community. The legal business of the entire country was in effect in his hands. In 1842 he was appointed Registrar, and sometime afterwards Judge of the Court of Probate for Colchester. He, for a number of years, carefully eschewed politics, it being his wise resolve to put himself, ere entering the political arena, in a position which would make the changes incident to public life of comparative indifference to him so far as personal profit or loss was concerned.

In 1850 Mr. Archibald was strongly urged to become a candidate for Colchester. He declined, but in 1857 he was elected for that county by a large majority, and from that date till Confederation (1867) he sat as a representative of Colchester. From his first entrance into the House he was recognized as one of the leaders of the Liberal party. He at once took the leading part in the improvement of municipal legislation, with the defects of which he had become familiar from long practice in the country. Many of the statutes now in force in Nova Scotia were either the work of his hands or were largely modified by his exertions. He viewed the statute law with the eye of a man of affairs, who at the same time had the aim and the outlook of a statesman. No man in public life ever tried more loyally to divest public discussion as much as possible of all bitterness and rancour, and this enabled him all the more successfully to carry through the measures on which he set his heart. All parties respected him when party-feeling was extremely bitter, as unfortunately it often has been in his native Province.

In 1856 he was appointed Solicitor-General in the Government headed by Hon. William Young (afterwards Sir William Young, Chief Justice), and he held this office till the Liberals were defeated in 1857. This defeat was caused by "unpleasantness" between the Liberals and their Roman Catholic supporters. When the Liberals returned to power in 1860 he was appointed Attorney-General, and held that office till 1863, when the Government resigned, owing to their defeat at the general election of that year. The Conservative party, led by Hon. J. W. Johnston and Dr. Tupper, had, in 1859, passed an Act making the suffrage universal. This Act was generally felt to be injurious to the best interests of the Province. Mr. Archibald introduced a Bill basing the franchise on a property qualification. After a sharp discussion it passed the House of Assembly; but in the Legislative Council parties were very evenly balanced. If the members voted according to their party connections the Bill would be defeated; but Mr. Pineo, a Conserva-

tive, supported the Bill, and it passed by his vote. Mr. Pineo, however, was led to support an amendment to the Bill, suspending the operation of the Act until after the general election, which was to take place within a few weeks. Thus amended, the Bill was sent back to the Assembly. The Government knew the aim of this amendment. They knew that every voter whom Mr. Archibald's Bill would disfranchise would certainly support the Conservative party; but rather than lose the Bill they accepted it as changed under the influence of their antagonists. The Bill became law. The elections of 1863 were held under the old Universal Suffrage Franchise; the Government of Mr. Archibald was defeated by the votes of the persons whom the Legislature had declared by an Act upon the statute book to be unfit for the franchise! But the new Government, approving in their hearts of the disfranchising Act of Mr. Archibald, allowed it to stand; and it stands, with but few modifications, to this day. I do not know another instance of any country going back from a universal manhood franchise to one based upon property qualification. The change in Nova Scotia was certainly sanctioned by the best public opinion. The opposition to it has consisted mainly of the floating population of the towns. Universal education should precede universal suffrage.

In 1860 Mr. Archibald proposed a resolution stating the basis on which public education ought to be placed. This resolution received the unanimous support of the House, but parties could not agree upon the provisions of the Bill, subsequently introduced, and the matter had to drop. When, in 1864, Dr. Tupper introduced a Bill making primary education universal and to be supported by taxation, Mr. Archibald, as leader of the Opposition, gave his most cordial aid in perfecting the measure. He was many years chairman of the Committee on Education in the House, and was ever found the earnest advocate and firm supporter of every "forward movement." When, once and again, proposals were made in favour of permitting "separate schools," Mr. Archibald firmly opposed any measure looking in that direction. Hence it is that, to this day, "separate schools" have no legal existence in Nova Scotia.

We sometimes moralize on the unscrupulous selfishness of party leaders and party men. Perhaps there is ground for such remarks. But there were noteworthy instances in the career of Mr. Archibald that indicate very clearly his determination to place the interests of the country before the interest of party. The opposition to the School Bill introduced by Dr. Tupper was fierce and violent. Had Mr. Archibald seen fit to accept the aid of disaffected Conservatives, he could easily have overthrown the Government. But, in that case, the School Bill would have been defeated. To his credit be it told that he did not yield for a moment to the temptation. He regarded the School Bill as for the best interests of the Province, and he gave to it his cordial and able support.

Another question in which Mr. Archibald showed his power to rise above partisanship was the settlement of the mines and minerals of Nova Scotia. In 1826 King George IV. had granted to the Duke of York a monopoly of all the mines and minerals of Nova Scotia—not only coal, but gold, silver, copper, iron—all ores and minerals. The Liberal party had always protested against this grant as not only impolitic, but as unconstitutional, and had passed in the House of Assembly after address to the Crown complaining of it and calling for its cancellation, or the very material restriction of its limits. William Young (afterwards Sir William) led this movement for years, and when in England in 1854 wrote to the "General Mining Association" (which held the lease under the Duke's monopoly) a letter dated July 30, in which he stated that the disposition of the House of Assembly was not to disturb the company in their enjoyment of the coal mines they had opened, but to allow them to extend the area of their operations to any reasonable limit. The Assembly in 1855 approved of the views expressed in this letter, and became pledged to a compromise of this kind. Mr. Archibald succeeded in the Assembly to the place Mr. Young had long held—the chairmanship of the Committee on Mines—and prepared and submitted to the House a number of resolutions and addresses on the subject.

In 1857 Mr. Johnston was at the head of the Conservative Government. It was determined to send a commission to England to deal with the Duke of York's monopoly. Mr. Johnston, in order to show that the House was a unit on the matter, proposed that Mr. Archibald should represent the Liberals. Mr. A., with the consent of his friends, accepted the position, and in the summer of 1857 Mr. Johnston and he proceeded to England, where they happily succeeded in making an agreement which has afforded complete satisfaction to the Province and to all parties interested. The whole story of the Duke, the lease and the mines was very graphically told by Mr. Archibald in a speech in September, 1855, before the American Mining Engineers.

When the agreement came before the House for confirmation, a strong effort was made to divide on party lines. Mr. Young, though the agreement was based on his own letter of 1854, led a keen opposition to the measure. In an eloquent speech he urged delay, and concluded with the sentence: "If the question from the Chair, that the Bill do pass, be carried in the affirmative, the members who do the deed will live to repent the infatuation and blindness of the hour." But Mr. Archibald was unmoved by the eloquence of the leader of his party. He voted for the Bill—being the only Liberal who did so. He has a

right to be proud of the independent action then taken, for time has amply justified every word he then spoke and the course he pursued. Not one of the evils predicted by the opponents of the measure has come to pass; and not one of the advantages predicted by Mr. Archibald has failed. There is not to-day in all Nova Scotia a person who ventures to disapprove of the terms on which a long and harmful conflict was brought to a close. In 1858 our coal mines yielded 226,000 tons. In 1891 they yielded over 2,000,000 tons. We have gold mines yielding over \$120,000 a year; iron mines, copper mines—all in operation as a result of the settlement of 1857.

Mr. Archibald took an active part in the Confederation of the British Provinces—in laying the foundations of our Dominion; and in this case also he showed himself superior to all narrow partisanship. When Dr. Tupper, in 1864, moved a resolution authorizing a delegation to Charlottetown to discuss the union of the Maritime Provinces, the resolution was seconded by Mr. Archibald, who at that early stage indicated the necessity for a wider union. The meeting at Charlottetown led to the famous conference at Quebec where the basis of our Confederation was formulated. Mr. Archibald was a member of these two conventions; he was also one of the delegates to London who assisted the House of Commons and the law officers of the Crown in arranging the details of the Union Act of 1867. In order to meet anticipated opposition he remained at the post of duty till the Act had actually become law. He wrote much and spoke often in vindication of the measure from which he always anticipated the best results for British America and for the Empire.

When Mr. Archibald returned to Nova Scotia he found the public mind much inflamed against the Union. Great pains had been taken by men who ought to have known better to rouse suspicion, prejudice and alarm. Mr. Archibald accepted the position of Secretary of State in the Government formed for the Dominion, and he appealed to the electors of Colchester for a seat in the House of Commons. For the first and only time the electors of Colchester declined to respond to his appeal. So strongly indeed did the anti-union tide run that only one of the nineteen seats for Nova Scotia returned a unionist; Cumberland by a narrow majority elected Dr. Tupper. Mr. Archibald resigned his place in the Cabinet and returned to his home at Truro.

In 1868-9 occurred the episode of the "better terms" negotiations by means of which Hon. Joseph Howe and A. W. MacLellan, two leading antagonists of Confederation, were reconciled to the new order of things; Mr. Howe was appointed to the office in the Cabinet vacated by Mr. Archibald, and Mr. MacLellan was made a Senator with the Chairmanship of the Intercolonial Railway Commission. Mr. MacLellan's seat in the House of Commons thus became vacant, and Mr. Archibald was triumphantly elected by a majority very much larger than that by which he had been defeated little more than a year before. Many "Anti confederates" cordially supported him on the ground that whether union was right or wrong, his advocacy of it had been thoroughly consistent and unselfish. He took his seat in the House of Commons in the session of 1869. In that session a Bill for the establishment of the Province of Manitoba passed Parliament; an Act somewhat similar had been passed the previous year, but its provisions caused great dissatisfaction in the Province. Mr. Macdougall had been appointed Governor and had attempted to reach Manitoba by way of Minnesota. At the border he was met by French half-breeds under Riel, who rendered it impossible for him to proceed. He accordingly returned to Ottawa, and Manitoba became the scene of a wretched "rebellion."

When the new Bill had become law, and it was thought inadvisable under the existing state of feeling for Mr. Macdougall to venture again to Manitoba, the position of Lieut.-Governor was offered to Mr. Archibald. During that session Sir George E. Cartier was leader of the Government and of the House, Sir John Macdonald being disabled by protracted illness. It was Mr. Cartier who offered the position to Mr. Archibald and who pressed it upon his acceptance. Mr. Archibald hesitated, mainly on the ground that his ambition lay in the direction of his profession; he did not care to place himself out of the line of a judicial appointment should such come in his way. Ample assurances were given him that the Governorship would not interfere with his legitimate ambition; and under these circumstances he consented to go to Manitoba for a year so as to organize the Province and set its political institutions in operation. In August, 1870, he left on the long and not very luxurious journey to the North-West, bearing two commissions, one as Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba and the other as Lieut.-Governor of the North-West. Part of the way, from Toronto to Fort William at the head of Lake Superior, he was accompanied by Lord Lisgar and the Lieut.-Governor of Ontario; from Fort William he proceeded by canoe up the Kaministiquia, thence partly by land and partly by water down to the mouth of the Winnipeg River; thence up to Fort Garry, mainly in the track of Lord Wolseley (then Colonel Wolseley), who arrived at Fort Garry about ten days before him.

Lieut.-Governor Archibald rendered invaluable service in Manitoba. By his kindness, his calm, judicial temper, his strict impartiality, his patience and courtesy, he won the confidence of all parties. His intimate practical acquaintance with municipal law qualified him in a peculiar manner for organizing civil Government in the new Province of Manitoba; he had to begin at the begin-