

But 'tis wise that e'en the young ones
Listen to a word of warning;
All your day of storm or sunshine
Much depends upon the morning;
That's the time to gather flowers,
For the after life's adorning.

Have you read of great and good men,
Toiling, blessing, shining on,
Till e'en round their solemn death bed
Rays of holy light have shone,
As along the western hill tops,
When the glorious sun is gone!

Would you tread their honoured footsteps!
Would you bless the world like them,
Living when your race is ended,
Treasured in the hearts of men;
Angels smile on such ambition,
Angel voices say, "Amen."

Now's the time to put the seed in,
Now's the time to turn the soil,
Now's the time to nerve the spirit
For the God-like after toil.
He that now lies idly dreaming,
Never will divide the spoil.

Bend the mind while yet 'tis pliant,
Mould the heart while yet 'tis soft;
Now's the time to form the future,
Loving much and praying oft.
He that prayeth not full early,
Never soareth far aloft.

Would you have your sun set golden,
As your youth is full of joy!
Guard your young heart, strictly shunning
Passion's taint and sin's alloy;
Gird your loins up, make yourself a
Truthful, loving, active boy.

—*English Journal of Education.*

RETIREMENT OF SIR A. N. MACNAB FROM PUBLIC LIFE.

With feeling such as must have been experienced by all who are about to be separated from an old and valued friend, we to-day record the retirement from public life of one who for upwards of twenty years has been the acknowledged leader of the conservative party. For nearly thirty years Sir Allan MacNab has occupied a most prominent public position in Canada. During all that time he has served his country faithfully, both in the Council and the field, and now retires into private life only because he feels himself incapacitated through ill health, to perform with justice to his constituents, and satisfaction to himself, the important duties devolving upon him as a member of the Legislature. In thus yielding up the trust reposed in him by the electors of this city, Sir Allan carries with him into his retirement the respect and good will of all. No man ever enjoyed a larger share of the confidence of the people of this country than he has done; for, notwithstanding his thorough party views, and fearless expression of them, he has ever shared the respect of the majority of those from whom he conscientiously differed in opinion.

It may not be out of place here, to give a brief retrospect of Sir Allan's life.

Sir Allan Napier MacNab, Bart., of Dundurn, was born at Niagara, in 1798, and is of Scottish extraction. His grandfather, Major Robert MacNab, of the 42nd Regiment, or Black Watch, was Royal Forester in Scotland, and resided on a small property called Dundurn, at the head of Loch Hearn. His father entered the army in Her Majesty's 71st Regiment, and was subsequently promoted to a Dragoon Regiment: he was attached to the staff of General Simcoe during the Revolutionary War; after its close, he accompanied General Simcoe to this country. He married the youngest daughter of Captain William Napier, Commissioner of the Port of Quebec. When the Americans attacked Toronto, Sir Allan, then a boy at school, was one of a number of boys selected as able to carry a musket; and after the authorities surrendered the city, he retreated with the army to Kingston, when, through the instrumentality of Sir Roger Sheaf, a friend of his father's, he was rated as a midshipman on board of Sir James Yeo's ship, and accompanied the expedition to Sackett's Harbor, Genesee and other places on the American side of the Lake. Finding promotion rather slow, he left the Navy and joined the 100th Regiment under Col. Murray, and was with them when they re-occupied the Niagara frontier. He crossed with the advanced guard at the storming and taking of Fort Niagara. For his conduct in this affair he was honored with an Ensigny in the 49th Regiment. He was with General Lyall at Fort Erie, and crossed the river with him when Black

Rock and Buffalo were burned in retaliation for the destruction of Niagara, a few months previous. After the termination of this campaign, Sir Allan joined his regiment in Montreal, and shortly after marched with them to the attack of Plattsburg. On the morning of the attack, he had the honor of commanding the advanced guard at the Sarane Bridge. At the reduction of the army in 1816 or 1817, he was placed on half pay. He then commenced the study of the law, and during this time was employed as copying clerk and clerk of the Journals in the Legislative Assembly, and when the Parliament of Upper Canada was extinguished by the act of Union, Sir Allan was Speaker. He was subsequently elected Speaker of the united Legislatures. He was called to the Bar in 1825, and commenced the practice of his profession in Hamilton, where he was for many years a most successful practitioner, having all the most important business in the District. He was then appointed Queen's Counsel, the first appointment of the kind in Upper Canada. He was first elected to Parliament in 1829, we believe, along with the Hon. John Wilson, for the County of Wentworth, and after serving in three Parliaments, was returned for the town of Hamilton, in opposition to Mr. Harrison, the Government nominee. He has been opposed successively since then, by Messrs. Tiffany, Freeman and Buchanan.

Sir Allan's zeal and efficiency as a Militia officer during the troubles of 1837-8 are fresh in the memories of all. He did not wait for the insurrection to reach Hamilton, but went with the "Men of Gore" first to Toronto, afterwards to the West, and then to the Frontier, during which time he commanded the Militia. His time and means were liberally given in defence of his country; the speedy termination of the troubles in Upper Canada was due to his activity and zeal. His services were duly appreciated, not only in his native country, but by Her Majesty's Government. He received the thanks of Her Majesty, of Lord Seaton, the two Parliaments of Canada (he being Speaker of the Lower House) and also received the thanks of the Legislatures of the Sister Provinces.

Sir Allan MacNab, though always consistent, proved himself to be more liberal than many of his opponents gave him credit for. It is known to all our readers how ably he battled for the retention of the Clergy Reserves: yet, finding that the country was averse to the continuance of the Reserves, he gracefully yielded to the wishes of the people, and finally effected a settlement of the vexed question. He has been in the House of Assembly for nine successive Parliaments, and was never absent from his place for a week except during the last two sessions, when illness confined him to his house. But now, when he finds himself unable to discharge his duties as heretofore, contrary to the generally expressed wishes of his old friends, he has resigned the trust reposed in him by the electors of this city. Having been born and brought up in Canada, and entering public life while but a very young man, he has been identified with every public improvement for the last 40 years. He became Prime Minister in 1854, and, during his administration, the Clergy Reserves question was set at rest; the Reciprocity Act was passed; the Seigniorial Tenure difficulties were adjusted; and the Militia Act was, we believe, Sir Allan's last measure, the admirable results of which are now generally admitted. Sir Allan was knighted in 1838, and was created a Baronet on his retirement from the office of Premier in 1856. Had he exerted himself as zealously for his own interests as he has for those of the public, there is no doubt that Sir Allan would be one of the wealthiest men in the Province. As we have already said, he carries with him into his retirement the hearty good will and esteem of his many friends; and while they cannot but regret to lose him as their representative in Parliament, they feel that he has taken the only course which a sense of duty to his constituents as well as to himself, seemed to point out. Their only consolation is in the hope of finding a competent successor to Sir Allan, to fill the void his retirement has caused.

Literary and Scientific Intelligence.

— "THE CANADA DIRECTORY for 1857-58: containing names of professional and business men, and of the principal inhabitants in the cities, towns and villages throughout the Province; alphabetical directories of banks, benevolent and religious societies, clergy of all denominations, crown land agents, custom houses and officers of customs, governmental departments and employees, militia, newspapers and periodicals, ports of entry, registrars, post office department, post offices and postmasters, with statements of imports and exports, provincial debt, revenue, expenditure, revenue from canals, trade, population, school acts, tariffs of customs, &c., and railway and steamboat routes throughout Canada, pp. 1544."

This is, without exception, the most important and valuable book of the kind which has ever issued from the Canadian press. Though simply styled a "Directory," it is in truth a most valuable hand book, or guide to the Province of Canada, in its physical, social, educational, municipal and