

THE LATE WILLIAM WORKMAN.

The late Mr. William Workman was descended from an English family which settled in Ireland in the time of Cromwell. His lineal ancestor, the Rev. William Workman, is mentioned in "Neale's History of the Puritans" as having been lecturer at St. Stephen's Church, Gloucester, in the time of Charles the First, and is described as a man of great piety, wisdom and moderation. Having come under the displeasure of Archbishop Hand for expressing opinions at variance with those of that prelate, he was deposed and forced to open a private school in order to support his family. But persecution still followed him, and he died of a broken heart. It is not surprising that the sons of such a man should have been found in the ranks of the Parliamentary army. One of them, another William, who commanded a company, was among those who met the charge of Prince Rupert on the field of Naseby. In the year 1648 he went, with Cromwell, to Ireland, where, on his retirement from military life, he received a grant of land as a reward for his services. But his troubles were not yet over, and, after a career of strange vicissitudes, he fell a victim, with many others, to the appalling privations of the siege of Derry. Of his two sons, one settled at Monymore, in the County of Antrim, where, for more than a century, successive generations of Workmans were destined to see the light. Joseph Workman, the father of Mr. William Workman, was the last of the family who occupied the ancient homestead. He left it to come to this continent, and, having spent three years in the United States, returned to Ireland and settled near the town of Lisburn, where his nine children were born. He was, however, destined again to cross the Atlantic, he and his family ultimately making Canada their home. Benjamin, the eldest son, arrived in Montreal in 1819, where for twenty years he conducted a school at which some of Canada's most distinguished men were pupils. He also founded a newspaper, the *Courant*, which he published for five years. Mr. William Workman did not come to Canada until 1829, arriving in Montreal on the 7th of May in that year. In 1825 he received an appointment on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, which he held for three years. On his arrival in Montreal, he went with his parents, and saw them settled on a farm near New Glasgow. Returning to Montreal on the 24th June, he joined his brother Benjamin, and became sub-editor of the *Canadian Courant*. Shortly afterwards he took a

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY,

No. 294.

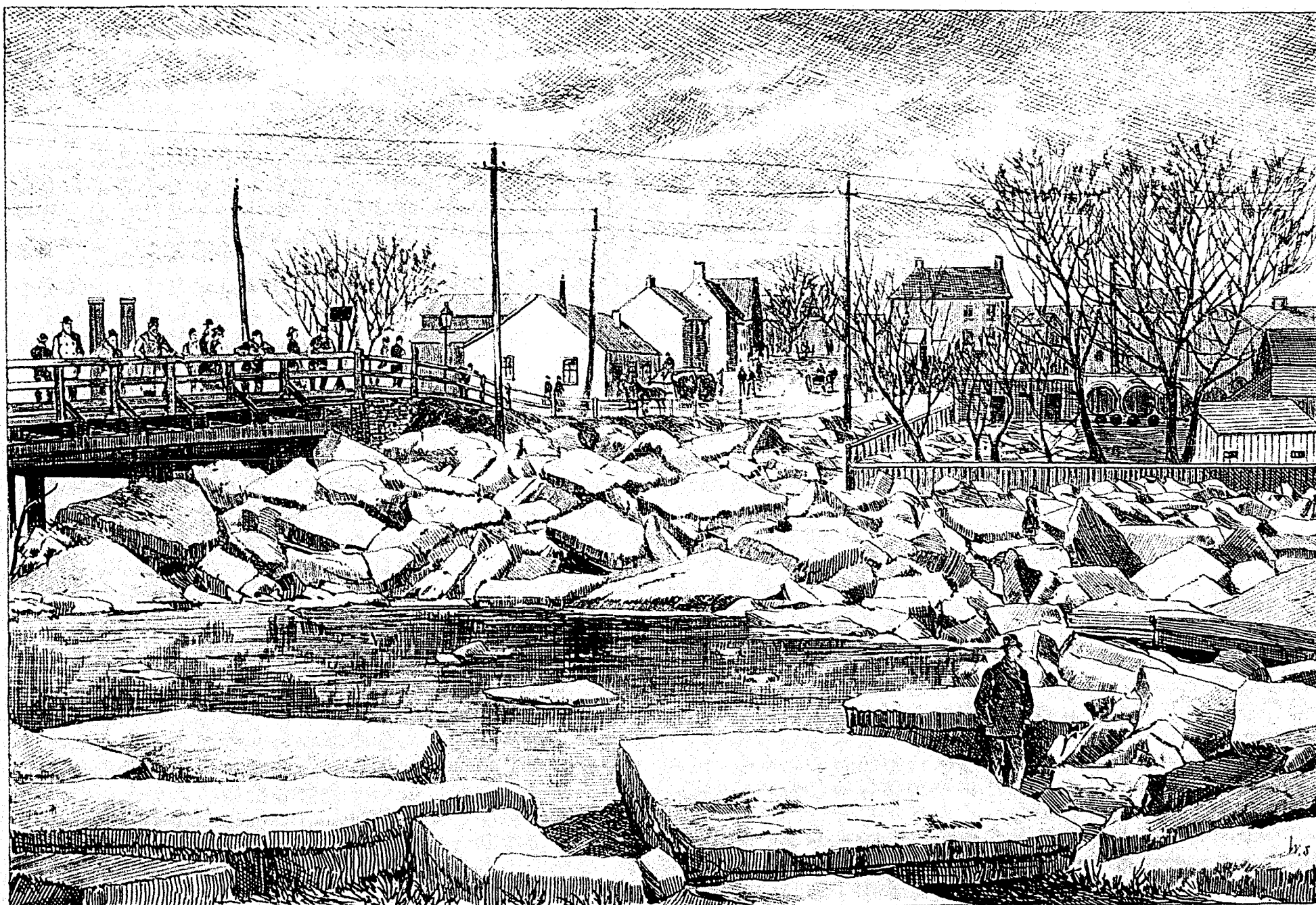


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position in the house of J. H. M. Frothingham. After some time he engaged in business, and in 1836 his capacity and energy had gained him a partnership in the extensive hardware establishment which still bears his name. He continued a member of the firm for nearly thirty years, and to him it owed not a little of its prosperity and reputation. During those years he declined to serve in public life. He was twice elected Alderman, and once Mayor, but declined on each occasion to act. In 1846, after a year's exertion, he succeeded in establishing the City and District Savings Bank, and became its first President. In 1857 the Directors of this Bank made him a presentation of plate, accompanied by a resolution of thanks, which was passed at a special meeting held on the 31st January, 1857.

In 1876, Mr. Workman retired from the directorate of the Bank altogether, and upon that occasion a resolution was adopted requesting that Mr. Workman would sit for his portrait that it might be placed in the Board room.

In 1849, Mr. Workman became President of the City Bank, at a time when the stock stood at forty-six, and when the bank was in bad credit. He remained at the head of that institution for twenty-four years when he resigned, and Sir Francis Hincks was appointed. Nor did the integrity and ability, which won him such commanding places in commerce and finance, fail to procure for him the recognition of his fellow-citizens in other walks of life. His public spirit, his enterprise, his wide charity and freedom from any trammels of bigotry, were universally acknowledged, and his aid and influence were sought for many objects of public and social interest. He was President of the St. Patrick's Society when it was composed of Protestants and Catholics alike. He was one of the organizers of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, of which he was for many years the President. He held the same post of honour with regard to the Protestant House of Industry and Refuge, the Montreal Dispensary and the Western Hospital. It was his lot, moreover, as the Chief Magistrate of Canada's chief city, to welcome and entertain the son of our beloved Queen, to whom no subject in the Empire was more loyal than he was. But that was only an incident, though a happy one, of his Mayoralty. In 1863 and the two following years, during which he held that office, he discharged the duties with the same assiduity and ability which he brought to bear on everything to which he put his hand. Nor were his fellow-citizens unappreciative of his services. Twice he was honoured with a public



TORONTO.—ICE-JAM ON THE DON.