

which the business grew. In nine years the demands of his trade were such that he removed his stock to larger premises on Wellington-street, and devoted his attention to the wholesale trade. From that time until the day of his death there was a steady advance in his business. The number of failures in this line of trade shows what care and ability are required of those who achieve success in it. The firm of John Macdonald not only grew in success but its name became known throughout the length and breadth of the country for its conservative yet enterprising methods. New premises were taken, and these were added to by new buildings, until at length the firm found itself in its present fine establishment, with a frontage of a hundred feet on Front-street, and the same on Wellington-street, and six stories high. There was no man in the Province of Ontario more deserving of the name of "merchant prince" than the head of this firm when it had attained its great success. It is not by his success in business, however, that John Macdonald is best remembered, for his career in relation to various public movements is his most lasting monument. Mr. Macdonald was a man of strong religious feeling. He was converted under the preaching of a Methodist, and that church became his religious home. In early life he intended devoting himself to the ministry, and had actually entered upon his studies, but the break-down of his health compelled him to abandon his plans. He became one of the foremost local preachers of his denomination, however, and in his time addressed hundreds of meetings of all kinds. His Christianity was of the practical kind, and led him to take an interest in philanthropic work in the church, and outside of it as well. He took a leading and active part in the Temperance movement, and the Young Men's Christian Association. At the united conventions of these associations for Ontario and Quebec, he was twice elected president. He was one of the visitors of Victoria College, Cobourg; a Senator of Toronto University, and was one of the leaders of the movement to federate these institutions. He was for years a member of the Executive Committee of the General Conference, and treasurer of the Missionary Society. The account of the labors he performed for religious education and philanthropic work, would of itself fill a volume, while his contributions to the same objects were greater and more numerous than his fellow citizens will ever know. A touching incident led to one of the most important of his gifts. His daughter, Amy, suffered much from a painful illness, which at length cut short her life. While on her death-bed she asked her father to give to some hospital for the cure of pain and sickness the money which he had intended for her. A gift of \$40,000 to the

Park Hospital was the result. Mr. Macdonald carried his character and his opinions into political life, in which also he became a conspicuous figure. He had always been a strong supporter of the Liberal party, and when that party called upon him to lead them in the campaign in West Toronto, for the Legislative Assembly of old Canada, he consented. He defeated his opponent, Hon. John Beverly Robinson, by over four hundred votes. Confederation was accomplished before the next general election. Mr. Macdonald then offered himself for the House of Commons of the new Dominion, but was unsuccessful. In 1875, on a vacancy occurring in the new constituency of Centre Toronto, Mr. Macdonald was nominated and was returned by acclamation. He had declared himself as an independent supporter of the Mackenzie Government, and his election was a tribute to his high character as a man, and an evidence of the high esteem in which he was held by his fellow citizens. In the House he was the advocate of every measure tending to the religious and moral elevation of the country. It was through his instrumentality that the rule was made of opening the proceedings of the House with prayer, a custom which still prevails. At the general elections, held in the year 1878, however, he was one of the many Liberals who went down before the demand of the people for a protective tariff. He did not reappear in the House of Commons, but in 1887 he was called to the Senate, this appointment being one of the most popular ever made by the Government of Sir John Macdonald. No member of the Upper House was more conscientious in the discharge of his duties, or brought to the consideration of public questions a more candid mind. During his late years, Senator Macdonald travelled much for the benefit of his health, which showed much impairment. He was a keen observer, and he used the knowledge he gained for the benefit of the public, writing voluminously for the press upon what he saw. His letters were of great interest and attracted wide attention. Mr. Macdonald died on the 4th day of February, 1890, at "Oaklands," the beautiful home in which he had spent his prosperous years. He left a family of five sons and five daughters. Among the public bequests in his will were the following: To Victoria University in the Queen's Park, \$25,000; Home for Incurables, \$1,000; Macdonald Scholarship, Toronto University, (capitalization of a yearly grant) \$2,000; Toronto General Hospital, Amy Macdonald's sick relief fund, \$4,000; Wycliffe College, \$1,000; Martinique and Gauduloupe Mission, \$2,000; Park Hospital (including grant previously made), \$100,000.