

SIR ALEXANDER CAMPBELL, K.C.M.G.

SKETCHES OF HIS LIFE.

(From The Week, Dec. 15, 1887.)

IN Sir Alexander Campbell, all who know him recognize a man so highly endowed with many of the gifts that go to constitute statesmanship, that they find themselves constantly wondering why he never took a more prominent and commanding position in Canadian politics than he has done. In one sense Sir Alexander's position has been both prominent and commanding. In the sphere in which he has chiefly moved, that of the Senate, his was always the most important and imposing personality, and that not simply by virtue of his office as Leader of the Government or else of the Opposition in the Upper Chamber, but, in an equal degree at least, by force of character and talent. To have represented the Conservative party as long as he did in that Chamber, and to have done it from first to last with distinguished success, not merely from a political point of view, but from an intellectual and moral point of view as well, constitutes a record of which even a man of high ability and considerable ambition might well be proud. Sir Alexander may be said to have approached as near as it has ever been given to any Canadian statesman to approach to the ideal type of a Senator—a man grave and strong, moderate, dignified, firm, sagacious, candid without indiscretion, politic without craft, loyal to his party, but ever mindful of his personal honour, and ever thoughtful of the public weal.

Like many other of Canada's leading statesmen, Sir Alexander Campbell was not born in Canada. He came nearer being born in it, however, than some of his illustrious rivals; for he was only two years old when his father, an English physician,