

be extensively read. Like the Despatches and Correspondence of Wellington, it serves to show to what a pitch of elevation in the State, the exercise of energy and decision of character joined to high moral principle and cultivated mind, can raise the man who is blessed with the possession of these qualities. From Metcalfe's first landing in India, almost a boy, till worn out by a cruel disease, and the arduous labours of a long and useful career, he quietly breathed his last, in his native England, we watch his progress with unflagging interest and delight. Scarcely a page but reveals some trace of his noble nature—be it courage—it is shewn when though a civilian, he went forward among the first to the storming of an Indian Fortress—or when despite the frown and discountenance of his superiors, he unravelled and denounced the gigantic commercial conspiracy which lorded over the east so long; or be it benevolence—his princely hospitality—his numerous good deeds are everywhere abundantly revealed; or be it his diplomatic skill, his different Treaties with the native princes and his masterly Indian Reports, are all evidences that he possessed that quality in an eminent degree.

The latter portion of the second volume is devoted to Lord Metcalfe's administration of the government of Canada. Parties in the Province differ, as a matter of course, in their estimate of the value to be put upon his Lordship's services, but none can deny the strict integrity that governed his conduct throughout the very trying period of his Government. This portion of the Editor's labour is the least successfully performed,—the materials for the Indian history appear to have been abundant and trustworthy, but the comments on Canadian politics and public men must have been based on very defective or partial information. The following sketches of Mr. Hincks, and Mr. Lafontaine are fairly enough given, but men of all shades of politics will we are sure indignantly deny that the portrait of Mr. Baldwin bears any resemblance to the original.

"The Inspector-General of Accounts, or Chief Finance-Minister, was Mr. Hincks. He was in many respects a remarkable man. The son of an eminent Irish divine, he had settled in Canada many years before, and had devoted himself to literary pursuits. The literature which he cultivated was the literature of politics. He became editor and proprietor of a leading Liberal journal, the *Toronto Examiner*. The ability with which he conducted the paper rendered it a formidable political organ. From this condition of colonial

journalist, the influence of which in troubled times is not to be estimated by the social position it confers, he was elevated to high official rank by Sir Charles Bagot. Even the most strenuous of his opponents admitted his fitness for the office he held. He was an excellent accountant and financier. It was represented to Sir Charles Metcalfe that he was by far the best man of business in the Council—clear-headed, methodical, persevering, and industrious. But as a partisan he was vehement and unscrupulous; with a tongue that cut like a sword, and no discretion to keep it in order.

The two foremost men in the Council remain yet to be noticed—Mr. Lafontaine and Mr. Baldwin, the Attorneys General for Lower and Upper Canada. The former was a French Canadian and the leader of his party in the Colonial Legislature, as he had been, since Papineau's retirement, the leader of his people before they had been permitted to take part in the Councils of the State. All his better qualities were natural to him; his worse were the growth of circumstances. Cradled, as he and his people had been, in wrong, smarting for long years under the oppressive exclusiveness of the dominant race, he had become mistrustful and suspicious; and the doubts which were continually floating in his mind, had naturally engendered there indecision and infirmity of purpose. But he had many fine characteristics, which no evil circumstances could impair. He was a just and an honorable man. His motives were above all suspicion. Warmly attached to his country, earnestly seeking the happiness of his people, he occupied a high position rather by the force of his moral than his intellectual qualities. He was trusted and respected rather than admired. As the leader of an important and an united party he occupied a large space in the eyes of the public; and without any particular fitness for such prominent action, was now about to take a conspicuous part in the great events which were rapidly developing themselves.

A far abler and more energetic man was Mr. Robert Baldwin—the son of a gentleman of Toronto, of American descent, who had formerly been a member of what was called the "Family Compact." The elder Baldwin had quarrelled with his party, and with the characteristic bitterness of a renegade, had brought up his son in extremest hatred of his old associates, and had instilled into him the most liberal opinions. Robert Baldwin was an apt pupil; and there was much in the circumstances by which he was surrounded—in the atrocious misgovernment of his country, in the oppressive exclusiveness of a dominant faction, and in the political convulsions which it had engendered—to rivet him in the extreme opinions which he had imbibed in his youth. So he grew up to be an enthusiast—almost a fanatic. He was thoroughly in earnest; thoroughly conscientious; but he was to the last degree uncompromising and intolerant. He seemed to delight in strife. The might of mildness he laughed to scorn. It was said of him, that he was not satisfied with a victory unless it was gained by violence—that concessions were valueless to him unless he wrenched them with a strong hand from his opponent. Of an unbounded arrogance and self-conceit, he made no allowances for others, and sought none for himself. There was a sort of sublime egotism about him—a magnificent self-esteem, which caused him to look upon himself as a patriot, whilst he was serving his own ends by the promotion of his ambition, the gratification of his vanity or his spite. His strong passions and his uncompromising spirit made him a mischievous party-leader and a dangerous opponent. His influence was very great. He was not a mean man; he was above corruption; and there were many who accepted his estimate of himself, and believed him to be the only pure patriot in the country. During the illness of Sir Charles Bagot he had usurped the

Government. The activity of Sir Charles Metcalfe, who did everything for himself and exerted himself to keep every one in his proper place, was extremely distasteful to him. He did not understand the character of the man who had been sent to govern them; and it would have been strange, indeed, if one so blinded by passion and self-esteem, and so intolerant of opposition, had not soon wrought himself into a state of furious antagonism to the Governor-General.

The manner in which Metcalfe was raised to the Peerage is not generally known. We quote the correspondence which took place on the occasion.

SIR ROBERT PEEL TO SIR CHARLES METCALFE.
"WHITEHALL, December 1, 1843.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have great satisfaction in submitting to her Majesty my advice that, as a public mark of her Majesty's cordial approbation of the judgment, ability, and fidelity with which you have discharged the important trust confided to you by her Majesty, the distinction of the Peerage should be conferred upon you.

"I would say more if I did not feel assured that the most gratifying communication which I can make to you is the simple transmission of a copy of the letter which her Majesty was pleased to write to me, signifying her Majesty's hearty approval of the proposal which it was my gratifying duty to make to her Majesty.

"I have the honor to be,

"My dear Sir, with sincere esteem,

"Most faithfully yours,

"ROBERT PEEL."

SIR ROBERT PEEL TO THE QUEEN.

"WHITEHALL, November 30, 1844.

"Sir Robert Peel, with his humble duty to your Majesty, begs leave to submit for your Majesty's favorable consideration the claim of Sir Charles Metcalfe for some distinguished mark of your Majesty's approbation.

"Lord Stanley is strongly impressed with the belief that such a proof of your Majesty's confidence and favor would greatly strengthen him in the execution of his arduous task were it announced at the eventful crisis of the opening of the Canadian Legislature, which will assemble early in December.

"Sir C. Metcalfe has persevered in the discharge of his public duties amidst every difficulty that factious combination could offer to him, and under the pressure of severe and depressing bodily suffering.

"Sir Robert Peel humbly recommends to your Majesty that, for the purpose of marking your Majesty's cordial approbation of the services of a most able and faithful officer of the Crown, of aiding him in the discharge of a most important public trust, and of giving confidence and animation to the Canadian friends and supporters of Sir Charles Metcalfe, and of connexion with the mother country, Sir Charles Metcalfe should receive the honor of an English Barony, and that your Majesty's gracious commands in this respect should be notified to him by the next mail, if your Majesty be pleased to approve of his elevation to the Peerage."

THE QUEEN TO SIR ROBERT PEEL.

"WINDSOR CASTLE, November 30, 1844.

"The Queen hastens to answer Sir Robert Peel's letter of this morning relative to Sir Charles Metcalfe. The Queen most highly approves Sir Robert Peel's suggestion that Sir Charles Metcalfe should be raised to the Peerage; for he has shown such a desire to do his duty in the midst of so many difficulties, and such extreme disinterestedness, that he richly deserves this mark of the Queen's entire approbation and favor."

Lord Metcalfe as is well known to our readers did not long enjoy his well won honour. The rapid progress of the cruel dis-