

THE LATE HON. CHAS. J. LABERGE.

By the death of the late Editor of *Le National* Lower Canada has lost one of her brightest stars. One by one the phalaxes of French liberals of 1848 has dwindled away, Papin, Daoust, Lenoir, Eric Dorion, Papineau, and Cassidy have one after another passed from the scene of their struggles and their triumphs, and have now been rejoined by their younger, though equally brilliant colleague.

Mr. Laberge was born in Montreal on the 20th October, 1827. His father was a merchant, but without fortune; and his mother was a sister of Gabriel Franchère, the author of an attractive volume of travels in the North West. Young Laberge entered upon his collegiate course in 1838 at St. Hyacinthe, where he distinguished himself by his intelligence and assiduity, and gave no empty promise of future success in life. On one occasion he received a most flattering, but well deserved compliment from the late Louis Joseph Papineau, who had been requested to present the prizes to the pupils. Laberge was to be "crowned" for a speech he had delivered, and on advancing to receive the honour, he was addressed as follows by Papineau:—"Frankly, sir, I must say that I have never made so good a speech as that you have just delivered: if I have the title of Speaker, you have the talent." While still at St. Hyacinthe young Laberge began to develop his taste for journalism. At the college he founded a journal which he called the *Liberal*, and which he devoted to attacking those of the professors who were unfortunate enough to incur the dislike of the pupils.

On leaving college Mr. Laberge devoted himself to the study of the law, and was admitted to practice in the year 1848. But, like a great many young French Canadians, he was strongly imbued with a taste for political discussion, and he became one of the contributors to *L'Avenir*, the Liberal journal of that day, then under the management of Mr. J. B. E. Dorion, commonly known as *L'Enfant Terrible*. In 1854 Mr. Laberge was elected for Iberville, making one of the nineteen young Rouges who found seats in Parliament. He was the colleague of the Dorions, of Papin, of Daoust, and of others, who during that Parliament represented the party for whom the Liberalism of Lafontaine and Morin was as rank Toryism. Among them all, and they were nearly all men of ability, none stood higher as a Parliamentary speaker than Mr. Laberge. Excepting a slight check in his utterance, the result of some affection of the throat, he was by all odds the most correct and



THE LATE HON. CHARLES JOSEPH LABERGE.

polished speaker in that Parliament. He spoke but seldom, but when he did he always commanded the attention and delighted the ear of the House. In power of satire he was especially forcible, all the more forcible as his keen sense of what was due to the courtesies of a body of gentlemen, always prevented him from being gross or vulgar in the use of this too often dangerous gift. Among friends and opponents alike he was emphatically the favourite of the House.

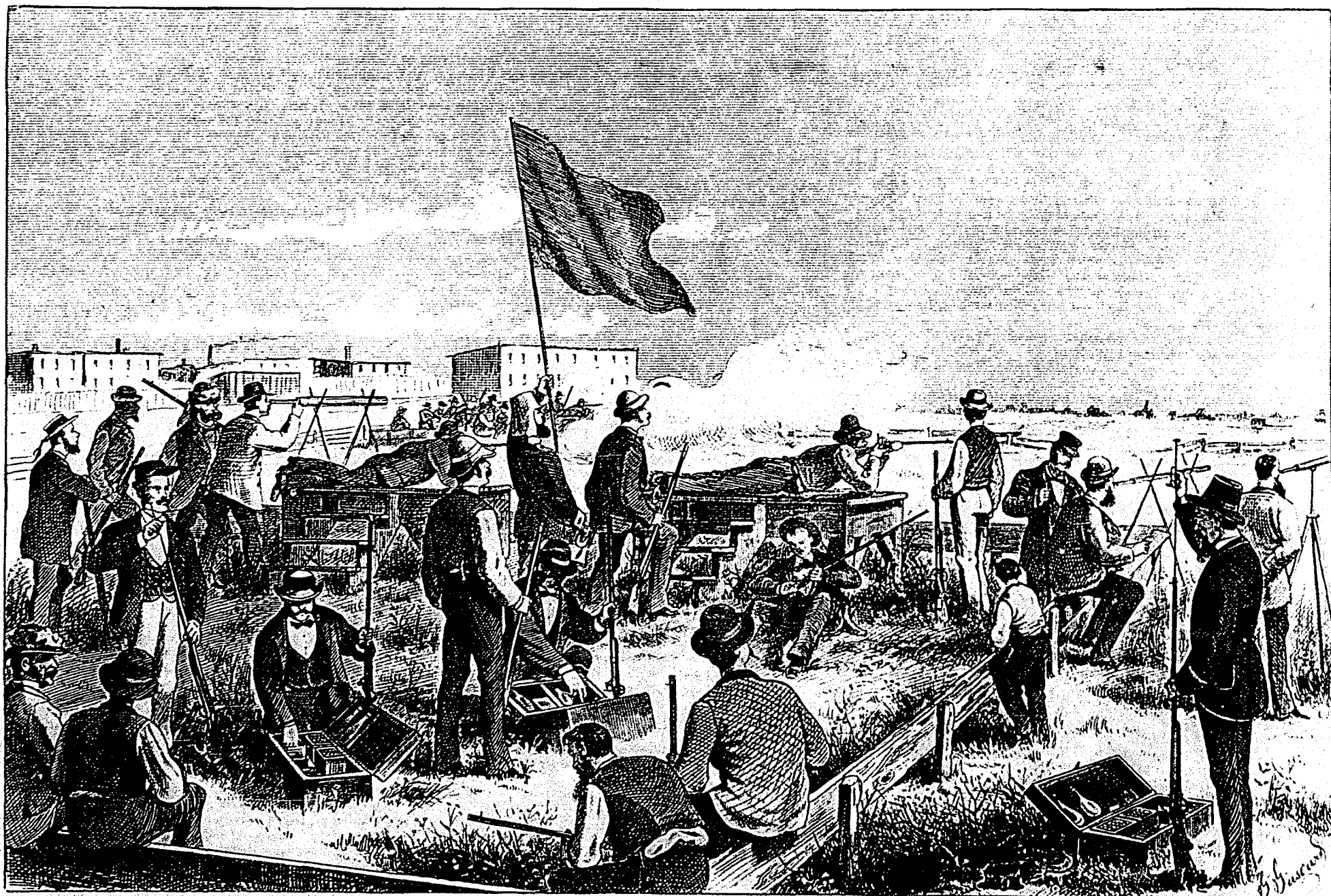
In 1858, on the formation of the short-lived Brown-Dorion administration, he was offered and accepted the office of Solicitor General for Lower Canada. He continued in Parliament, as member for Iberville, until 1862, and during the later years of his Parliamentary career took a more prominent part in the

discussions of the House, although he never became a frequent speaker. He was appointed Assistant Judge for the district of Sorel in 1863, but his position was not confirmed by the new administration. He founded the *Franco Canadien*, published at St. John, and which is now conducted by Mr. Marchand. He also raised a volunteer corps, of which he became Lieut.-Colonel, and in which position he was also succeeded by Mr. Marchand. On the establishment of *Le National* in this city, he was selected as its chief editor and has since occupied that position. Few men had more friends or fewer enemies than Mr. Laberge. Few men have better succeeded in preserving the amenities and courtesies of social life amid all the asperities of political controversy. The press loses in his death one of its most accomplished and scholarly contributors, and hosts of friends mourn the sad event which we are called upon to chronicle, as depriving them of a dear and valued friend.

Mr. Laberge married in 1859 a daughter of the Hon. J. O. Turgeon, member of the Legislative Council, by whom he had five children.

THE POPULATION OF THE WORLD.

A report from the Bureau of Statistics, at Washington, just issued, contains an interesting table of the population of the earth. The aggregate population of the earth is given at 1,391,032,000. Asia being the most populous section and containing 798 millions, while Europe has 300½ millions, Africa 203 millions, America 84½, and Australia and Polynesia 4½ millions. In Europe the leading nations are credited with the following numbers: Russia, 71 millions; the German Empire, 41 millions; France, 36 millions; Austro-Hungary, 36 millions; Great Britain and Ireland, 32 millions; Italy, nearly 27 millions; Spain, 16½ millions; and Turkey nearly 16 millions. The other countries do not exceed five millions each. In Asia, China, which is by far the most populous nation of the earth, is credited with 425 millions; Hindoostan, with 240 millions; Japan, 33 millions; the East India Islands, 30½ millions; Borneo, Siam, and farther India, nearly 26 millions; Turkey, 13½ millions; and Russia, nearly 11 millions. The Australian population is given at 1,674,500, and the Polynesian Islands at 2,763,500. New Guinea and New Zealand being included in the latter. In Africa the chief divisions are West Soudan and the Central African region, with 89 millions; the Central Soudan region,



MONTREAL.—THE PROVINCIAL RIFLE MATCH AT POINT ST. CHARLES: SHOOTING OFF TIES.—DRAWN BY W. GASCARD.