

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.
DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

[FROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOTMAN.]



HON. JOHN CARLING.
M. P. for London, Ont.



HON. JOHN J. C. ABBOTT, Q. C., D. C. L.
M. P. for Argenteuil, Que.

No. 26.—HON. JOHN CARLING.

The genial countenance of honest John Carling is well-known throughout Canada. During the thirteen years he has been a member of Parliament, he has never known what it was to have a sharp election contest before his constituents, or a doubtful relationship with his party in the House. It is rather in committee than on the floor of Parliament that Mr. Carling has been distinguished as a member; in fact he has been called the "John A. Macdonald" of the Committee-room—a title which conveys a great deal of meaning, and is, withal, very flattering to the portly member for London. Mr. Carling's father was an Englishman, a native of Yorkshire, a county famous for the shrewdness of its inhabitants; he emigrated to Canada and settled in the County of Middlesex, Upper Canada, in 1819. Mr. Carling was born in the Township of London in 1828, and is therefore among the youngest of our Ministers of State. That his whole life has been spent in the midst of those whose confidence he has enjoyed for so many years is a high tribute to his personal character; but not greater than the country generally readily acknowledges that he deserves. He is a partner with his brother in an extensive brewery which has long been carried on in the "Forest City;" and was first returned to Parliament for the city of London at the general election of 1857. Since that time he has uninterruptedly represented London in the Legislative Assembly, and then in the House of Commons of Canada; and at the last general election was returned for the same constituency to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, being one of the few gentlemen in the Western Province holding a seat in both Legislatures. On the 27th of March, 1862, he took office as Receiver-General in the Cartier-Macdonald Cabinet, but that Cabinet being defeated in May following he resigned with his colleagues; and his next official position was in the Local Government of Ontario, in which, on the formation of the first Cabinet by the Hon. J. S. Macdonald, in July, 1867, Mr. Carling was offered and accepted the office of Commissioner of Public Works and Agriculture. The department of emigration is also under his control; and into each of the three branches under his care he has thrown a wondrous amount of vitality. In addition to local public buildings which have been or are being erected in Ontario, a most comprehensive scheme of draining swamp lands has been adopted, which will confer great benefits upon the Province. The Agricultural Society has been thoroughly overhauled and rendered some-



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what more useful as well as less expensive. Immigration has been encouraged to a degree in the one Province of Ontario, that was never reached by the whole of British America before. In connection with this policy the free land grant system, the exempted homestead and other excellent provisions for the protection and encouragement of settlers have placed Ontario in the front rank as a competitor for the surplus population of the old world, while Mr. Carling has taken most effective measures to disseminate a full knowledge of all these attractions among the people of Great Britain and Ireland. It is but right to add that his department takes ample

care of the emigrant when he arrives in Canada, and watches over his safety till he reaches his place of destination. As an administrator in the Local Government, Mr. Carling has been very successful; and he has the somewhat exceptional privilege of enjoying to the fullest extent the confidence of his political friends, while at the same time he excites but little opposition from his opponents. In his own constituency he is safe from attack; in Parliament or the Legislative Assembly he never provokes assault, so that he may be regarded as one of the most useful and least abused Ministers within the Dominion.

No. 27.—HON. JOHN J. C. ABBOTT,
Q. C., D. C. L.

Mr. Abbott has the honour of representing his native county in Parliament, having been born at St. Andrews, Argenteuil, on the 12th of March, 1821. He is the eldest son of the late Rev. Joseph Abbott, Anglican Rector of St. Andrews, and completed his education at the University of McGill College in this city, where he now holds the positions of Dean of the Faculty of Law and Professor of Commercial Law. He was called to the bar of Lower Canada in 1847, and created Queen's Counsel in 1862. He was first elected to Parliament in 1857, but only took his seat in the Assembly after a long and vexatious contest before a committee of the House; and has since continued to sit for the same constituency. He was Solicitor-General and a member of the Executive Council in the Macdonald-Sicotte Government. To him the country is mainly indebted for the Insolvent Act of 1864 and the amended Act of 1869. Notwithstanding the change of Cabinets which took place in 1864, Mr. Abbott's bill was generally approved by both sides, and was consequently taken up by the Ministry succeeding that of which he had been a member. Other measures for the improvement of the law also owe their paternity to him. He does not very often take part in the debates; but when he does it is with great fluency, as well as clearness and elegance of diction. During the present session he has had charge of the bill to extend the charter of the Canada Central Railway, and he appears to have very up-bill work in getting it through the House of Commons, the two local Premiers exerting themselves to the utmost to secure its defeat. We hope this bill may be added to the list of beneficial acts which have been safely piloted through the Legislature by Mr. Abbott. It contemplates the promotion of a public work which would be of great benefit to the whole country, and at a cost which is