

No. 42.—P. GARNEAU, ESQ., MAYOR OF QUEBEC.

The question of municipal government is one which has a serious interest for the people of Canada, where so many matters of local import are left to the control of the municipal corporations. Indeed the taxing and expending powers of these civic bodies are practically limitless; if they are checked by the act of incorporation, they have only to bamboozle the electors into passing a "money by-law" to give them free access to the pockets of the tax-payers. Hence it has come to pass in Canada, as in other countries, that these small representative bodies who rule in townships, counties, and cities, not unfrequently fall into extravagant habits, or at the best make but a very bad use of the local revenues. Quebec has had its full share of such experiences; the Legislature has been called upon to interfere more than once in its local affairs, and last year an amended charter was obtained which resulted, at the end of the municipal term, in the election of a "reformed" corporation, of which Mr. P. Garneau, an enterprising citizen, was elected Mayor.

Pierre Garneau, Esq., merchant and Mayor of the city of Quebec, was born at Cap Santé on the 8th of May, 1823, and has resided at Quebec since 1839.

From 1852 to 1861 he was a member of the firm of L. & C. Tétu & Co., and since the latter year he has been a partner in the well-known dry goods establishment of Messrs. Tétu & Garneau.

It were well for the ancient Capital, and indeed for any city, did it contain many men of equal enterprise and activity. He has taken a leading part in almost every undertaking which seemed likely to benefit the city of Quebec or to advance the interests at large of his native country. To enumerate a few of them: he has been President of the Quebec Street Railway Company from its commencement in 1862.

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.



PIERRE GARNEAU, Esq.

With a few energetic citizens he united in the formation of the Quebec and Gulf Ports Steamship Company as Director, and filled the President's chair during two years. The difficulties which beset this Company before it had attained its present position rendered a seat at the Board of Direction anything but a sinecure.

He took an active share in the Quebec and Gosford Railway, of which he is one of the Directors. This is one of the first of wooden railways introduced into this Province, and if (as is confidently predicted) it should realise the expectations of its promoters, it will materially contribute to the prosperity of Quebec by opening up a most valuable back country.

Being desirous of introducing manufactures into Quebec, he originated the idea of establishing a rubber factory, and was successful in getting up the "Quebec Rubber Company," having been chairman of the committee appointed to take the initiative in this new and important branch of local industry.

Mr. Garneau has been during ten years a member, and for the last two years Vice-President, of the Quebec Board of Trade.

A statute having been passed in the last session to remodel the Corporation of the city of Quebec, he was elected alderman for St. Peter's Ward (the mercantile ward of Quebec), and unanimously chosen Mayor of the city of Quebec by the City Council. These are honours of some significance at present, the citizens of Quebec having been awakened from their apathy by the persistent exertions of the Citizens' Association.

Mr. Garneau speaks both languages with fluency, and is deservedly popular with his fellow-citizens of either origin in a city in which he has spent enough of his lifetime in prominent positions to have become well known and thoroughly appreciated.

