

The debts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have principally been incurred in the construction of railways, about \$4,500,000 having been expended in each Province for that object. With the improvements that are now contemplated in railway extension in those Provinces, there is little doubt that the disparity between them and Canada will soon disappear. Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland have small debts; but they have no railway facilities like the other Provinces.

In the prominence which is being given to the commerce and resources of British America, and to the question of the intercolonial union, we have the most valued and important fruits of the coalition formed last June for the settlement of our constitutional difficulties. That discussion must tend to show how really valuable are the resources of British North America, and how strong a bond of common interest they possess. We believe it will tend so greatly to accelerate the question of the union of British America as to remove altogether the necessity of the lesser scheme of a federal union of the Canadas. For clearly if the greater question seems ripe for immediate action, as we have every hope that it will, then would it be the very poorest of statesmanship to disturb our present constitution until the entire Provinces can become united under one central Government, having local legislators for the management of local affairs. Everything augurs well for the prospect of immediate union; and we hope the auguries will not turn out to have been deceptive.—*Peterborough Review*.

3. CENTENARY NUMBER OF THE QUEBEC "GAZETTE."

The *Quebec Gazette*, on the 21st inst., attained its hundredth year, being the oldest living paper or publication in Canada, if not on this continent. To commemorate this event in a manner suitable to the occasion, the centenary edition comes out with many new and appropriate additions. An exact copy of the first number of the *Gazette* with the prospectus accompanies the number issued precisely one hundred years afterwards, and a fair opinion can be obtained of the *status* of the press at this early period of Canadian history, by the old copy now before us. A look at it would carry one in imagination one hundred years back—to the times when the American colonies were still loyal to the mother country, and when Canada just merged from French to British rule. A perusal of it conveys the same sensations. The quaint old type and singular advertisements bring to mind all the improvements and changes made in the conduct of a newspaper since then. The British Parliament were just then debating the advisability of imposing the famous Stamp Act on her North American dependencies. An extract from a letter written in Virginia tells of the alarming depredations of Indians; while among the advertisements we see rewards offered for runaway slaves, reminding us that the curse of slavery once polluted the now free air of Canada. In addition to this the *Gazette* is profusely illustrated with correct views of different prominent places in the city as it now stands, and the views reflect great credit on the publishers. The publishers being desirous of affording the newspapers of Canada an opportunity to put on record some account of their history, several papers were requested to send the publishers of the *Gazette* a short sketch of their history, offering to publish the same in the centenary number. Of those sent, the *Gazette* publishes several, the names of which we give: the *Montreal Gazette*, started 1778; *Quebec Mercury*, 1805; *Montreal Herald*, 1811; *Brockville Recorder*, 1820; *Daily British Whig*, 1834; *Perth Courier*, 1834; *Guelph Advertiser*, 1845; *Montreal Witness*, 1845-6; *Hamilton Spectator*, 1846; the *Inquirer*, 1854; *Ottawa Citizen*, 1855. The *Quebec Gazette*, itself, of course, was started June 21st, 1764—we wish it another hundred years' existence.—*Perth Courier*.

VII. Biographical Sketches.

No. 39.—W. S. CONGER, Esq., M. P. P.

It is with the deepest regret that we have to announce the death of W. S. Conger, Esq., representative of the County of Peterborough in the Provincial Parliament. Mr. Conger first commenced the active duties of life in business in Cobourg, some thirty-five years ago. Of an active and energetic temperament, and an earnest reformer, he was selected, thus early in life, as the standard bearer of his party in the contest of 1834 and 1836, contesting the Newcastle District, but without success. When the more violent spirits of the reform party succeeded in rousing the people to rebellion, Mr. Conger took up arms in defence of the Crown. With a company which he organized and equipped mainly at his own expense, he proceeded under orders to the frontier, where hostilities were anticipated.—After the close of the rebellion, he continued in business in Cobourg until 1842, when he accepted at the hands of his political leader,

the venerated Robert Baldwin, the Office of Sheriff of the United Counties of Peterboro' and Victoria. This office he filled with the greatest satisfaction to the public until 1856, when, a vacancy occurring in the representation of the County, by the acceptance of office by Mr. Langton, the then representative, he was solicited to enter Parliament, and gave up the Shrievalty for that purpose. He then contested the county with Frederick Ferguson, Esq., and after one of the hardest fought political battles that has ever occurred in Upper Canada since the Union, he was returned by a majority of 298. He sat in Parliament for the two remaining sessions of that Parliament, and in 1857-8 was defeated by Thomas Short, Esquire. In 1861 he again contested the County with Col. Haultain, but again without success, being defeated by a very narrow majority. In the election of 1863 he was chosen by acclamation, his old political opponents joining in the work of placing him again in the Legislature. He succeeded, however, in procuring the appointment of a Committee on his favourite scheme of a Trent Canal. His last official act was the presentation of the report of his Committee, to his earnest desire to complete which he sacrificed in a great degree his chances of recovery. Years ago he conceived the idea of promoting the settlement of the country lying in rear of this county, and while the Hon. Mr. Price was Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands, elaborated a scheme for the purchase by the Counties of the Crown Lands in rear of them at a nominal price—a scheme which, had it been accepted and properly worked out, would have tended greatly to the advantage of the County. Failing in this, he never ceased to urge upon the Government the opening up for settlement of the Townships north of Peterborough and Victoria, and when the vacancy occurred in the representation of the County in 1856, the hope of being able more successfully to effect this object was the ruling motive in inducing him to give up a lucrative office for the trouble and uncertainty of public life. He had the gratification of seeing that object accomplished, and before his death found no less than half a dozen representatives in the Counties Council from the section which, on his entrance into public life eight years ago, was a wilderness unsurveyed and unsettled.

This is the monument Mr. Conger has left behind him to attest to his friends how well he has done his duty in life, and as an evidence to others of what may be accomplished by earnest and persevering effort. The settlement of the Country was the day dream of his existence, and few men have realized more the object of their wishes. This was at once the aim and the extent of the "ambition" which many attribute to him. It was an ambition to have his name in some way connected with the progress of his native Country—nothing more, nothing less. An ambition without one single grain of the alloy of sordid self seeking.—*Peterboro' Review*.

No. 40.—WILLIAM B. JARVIS, Esq.

The second generation of the old U. E. loyalist families is rapidly passing away from amongst us. There are some still remaining, but the list is not a long one. Yesterday morning one of the best known of the survivors, Mr. ex-Sheriff Jarvis, passed away to his rest. His death was not unexpected. For the past twelve months it has been well known to the very many who missed the familiar form of the "old Sheriff" that he was in declining health. Hopes were plentifully indulged in that he might recover, but it had been decreed to the contrary. About five weeks ago alarming symptoms appeared, since which time he gradually declined, and yesterday morning at half-past six o'clock, expired after severe suffering. The immediate cause of his death was a tumour in the lungs.

The parents of the deceased were U. E. loyalists, who, at the termination of the revolutionary war, left the United States, and settled in Fredericton, the capital of New Brunswick. There Mr. Jarvis was born, on the 4th of May, 1799. He was consequently a little over 65 years of age at the time of his death. His family removed to Toronto in 1809, where they settled, and became possessors of considerable landed property. The deceased was the youngest of three brothers. He was educated by the present Bishop of Toronto, and had for his school-mates many men whose names subsequently became famous in the history of the constitutional struggles waged, until responsible government was gained. When about 16 or 17 years of age he received an appointment as clerk in the office of the then Provincial Secretary, Mr. Duncan Cameron, which situation he retained until he was appointed Sheriff in 1827 for the Home Division. He was several times elected member for Toronto, and was always identified with the Tory party. After the rebellion he resigned his seat in the House in favor of the present Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, the Hon. Mr. Draper. In 1856 he also resigned the office of Sheriff, and was succeeded therein by his nephew, Mr. F. W. Jarvis. Having lived for many years in comparative political inactivity, he was in 1863 induced to contest North York with the present member, Mr. Wells, but was unsuccess-