

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 54.—CHARLES JOSEPH COURSOL,

JUDGE OF SESSIONS AND POLICE COMMISSIONER.

FEW, if any, French Canadians out of Parliamentary life have achieved more distinction than Mr. Coursol, and hence it is that the mention of his name for the important office of Mayor of Montreal is hailed everywhere, and by all classes, with the greatest satisfaction. With admirable taste he refused to permit himself to be put in nomination until the present worthy incumbent positively declined a renomination, and shortly after that announcement was authoritatively made, Mr. Coursol's friends presented him with a requisition nearly fifty feet long, and containing many thousands of names of the rate-payers of the city. It is not expected that any opposition will be offered to his election; but if there were it would undoubtedly prove fruitless. He is, therefore, fairly looked as Mayor for the coming year, and, did not his position already rank him among our public men whose name and fame are fair objects of criticism, that fact would entitle us to the privilege of introducing him to our readers.

Mr. Coursol has already found a place in Fennings Taylor's "Sketches" to Notman's portraits, and to that authority we are indebted for the following facts in his career. Charles Joseph Coursol was born at Malden, in the County of Essex, Upper Canada, in 1820. His father, Mr. J. Coursol, was an officer in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, and, as we learn, "an intrepid explorer of the remote wilds of America." His mother was a daughter of Mr. Joseph Quesnel, a gentleman who was one of the pioneers of Canadian literature. At an early age he was left an orphan, and was adopted by his maternal uncle, the Hon. F. A. Quesnel, who at his death left Mr. Coursol sole legatee of his vast estates. Mr. Coursol was thus rendered independent in means, and his magnificent domain at the west end of St. Antoine Street, extending up to Dorchester, is one of the finest among the very many fine estates in Montreal. But, though independent in means, he was by no means disposed to waste his life in idleness. After a creditable career at college he studied law and was called to the bar of Lower Canada in 1841, and shortly afterwards married a daughter of the distinguished and patriotic Canadian statesman, the late Sir E. P. Taché. At the period referred to political excitement ran very high in Canada, and Mr. Coursol was among the most active and the boldest of local politicians, and gave most substantial aid to his party—the Lafontaine Reformers of those days who are now all or very nearly all ranged in the ranks of the progressive Liberal Conservative party of Quebec, with Sir George E. Cartier at its head. In 1848 Mr. Coursol was appointed joint Coroner for Montreal, and represented St. Antoine Ward for several years in the City Council. As a lawyer his ability and energy soon gave him high rank, and in the Council he distinguished himself as an advocate of progress and sanitary reform. During the "Trent" difficulty he raised a regiment—the *Chasseurs Canadiens*—and a few years later, in 1866, he marched at their head to the front to repel the Fenian invaders. Mr. Coursol has been frequently honoured with the confidence of the Government by being appointed to many important commissions, his clear head, undaunted courage, legal acumen and general ability qualifying him in a preeminent degree for the discharge of duties of a judicial character. The exhibition of these qualities doubtless pointed him out to the Government as a fitting person to fill the important office of Judge of the Sessions of the Peace, and Chairman of the Quarter Sessions of the District, which office he now holds. He is also associated with G. McMicken, Esq., as Police Commissioner under the Dominion Act. In the latter capacity it need scarcely be stated that Mr. Coursol has duties of a very confidential character to discharge in connection with the Secret Service of the country, conducted under the direction of the Department of Justice at Ottawa.

The event which gave Judge Coursol's name a continental as well as a European notoriety was the "St. Albans raid" on the 19th of October, 1864. At that date—during the Rebellion in the United States—it may be remembered the banks at St. Albans, in the State of Vermont, lost over \$200,000, seized and taken away by a party of Confederate soldiers, under the command of Lieut. Bennett H. Young, of the Confederate Army. The party, after being fired upon by some of the inhabitants of St. Albans, retreated towards the Canada frontier, and finally sought refuge amongst the Canadian farmers and villagers. Immediately upon receipt of the information that the banks had been robbed by plunderers who had sought refuge in our borders, the Canadian Government instructed Judge Coursol to take prompt measures for the apprehension of the so-called thieves. He went out to St. Johns and succeeded in arresting, without warrants,

sixteen or seventeen men on whose persons and in whose baggage large quantities of American Bank and National notes were found. They were at first confined in the St. Johns gaol, but were afterwards removed to prison in Montreal. The United States Government made a demand for their extradition, under the Ashburton Treaty, as robbers. Messrs. Rose, Q. C., and Devlin appeared for the United States, Messrs. Johnson, Q. C., and E. Carter, Q. C., for the Canadian Government, and Messrs. Abbott, Q. C., Ladame, Q. C., and W. H. Kerr for the Raiders. Having been arrested under Judge Coursol's warrant, in St. John's, the examination took place before him. After the prosecution had closed one case, (the others being exactly of the same nature, and one deciding all) the prisoners applied for time to produce their defence, being obliged to send therefor to Richmond, Va. Judge Coursol, notwithstanding the strenuous opposition of the counsel for the United States and Canada, granted one month. On the 1st December, 1864, the prisoners were again brought before him, the month having expired. Having been unable, owing to the blockade established, to obtain proof of their being Confederate soldiers and acting in the discharge of their duty, their Counsel determined on excepting to the jurisdiction of Judge Coursol. And Mr. Kerr, on the opening of the Court, objected thereto, on the ground that the arrest was made under a Colonial Statute, directly, by Judge Coursol's warrant, whilst, in fact, the Imperial Statute, which required the Governor-General's warrant to issue in the first instance ere Judge Coursol could act, was in force, and that the arrests were, therefore, illegal. Counsel were heard on the objection, and Judge Coursol retired to deliberate. Being asked if he would adjourn until the next day, he informed Mr. Carter that he had no objection thereto, if application were made by the Counsel for the United States. No application was made, and at 3 p.m. Judge Coursol gave his judgment, holding that he had no jurisdiction, and discharged the Raiders. This judgment was afterwards reviewed in the *London Times*, and other English papers. The *London Review* of the 7th January, 1865, thus maintains the legality of the decision: "The Imperial Act was not suspended, as it ought to have been by a distinct order of the Queen in Council, and, under these circumstances, Judge Coursol could not, without flying in the face of all the legal principles, hold that Lieut. Young and his companions were legally arrested on a warrant granted by a judge, and not by the Governor-General."

We have gone into the particulars of this case at some length, not only because it is a *cause célèbre*, but because the Judge's conduct in the premises was made the matter of much discussion, and by many considered to have been erroneous or contrary to the spirit of the law. The opinion of Lord (then Sir Hugh) Cairns and Mr. Francis Reilly was taken on the case, and these eminent jurists sustained the belligerent character of the "raid," and consequently placed it beyond the operation of the treaty, thus substantially confirming the action of Judge Coursol, which was still further sustained by the passage of an Imperial Order in Council on the 4th of February, 1865, suspending the operation of the Imperial Statute in Canada, the force of which had rendered the arrests illegal. We believe the opinion in Canadian legal circles at the time also fully endorsed Judge Coursol's decision.

Our illustration is from a photograph by Notman, and it will be seen that both in *physique* and physiognomy there are plainly marked those distinguishing characteristics which have elevated Mr. Coursol to his present honourable position in the community, and which are soon to carry him still higher in the walks of public life.

SYDNEY, CAPE BRETON, NOVA SCOTIA.

Sydney, the capital town and formerly the seat of independent government of the island of Cape Breton, is situated on a fertile peninsula jutting out into one of the finest harbours in the world, which consists of some twenty square miles of perfectly land-locked water, deep and free from rocks and other dangers throughout. It is the appointed rendezvous of the French fleet in N. A. waters, and a port of frequent call for British ships of war.

The place derives its chief importance from being the centre of the vast coal region which extends along the E. seaboard from Morien Bay to the Bras d'Or.

Previous to the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, a large number of collieries were in successful operation, in several instances having a shipping capacity of twelve hundred per day, but the exclusion policy of "Brother Jonathan" has acted like a weight on the coal industry, throwing large numbers out of employment and diminishing largely the aggregate of shipments.

The enterprising company operating at Bridgeport, however, have, in spite of the general depression, constructed, and have now in operation, a first-class railway from their works to Sydney harbour—twelve miles distant, and are shipping largely for the Dominion market, as well as to some extent to the Western States. Their coal area is one of the most valuable on the coast, and with their present paramount facilities for shipment awaits only the renewal of reciprocity with our neighbours to become a leading colliery among the many on the island.

The other shipping places on this noble harbour are those of

Victoria Point, near that already mentioned, and that of the General Mining Association of London, the smoke from whose works may be seen in the distance of the sketch, beyond which rise St. Anne's mountains, terminating in Cape Enfumé to the right.

THE RUNAWAYS OVERTAKEN.

A picture that speaks for itself, although the accessories of the scene appear strange to us. The couple in the corner, so different in appearance and dress from the other occupants of the room—the fainting girl, the half-proud, half-indignant young husband, whose place should be rather at the school-desk than by the side of a bride, so young does he seem—it needs no telling that these are a runaway pair, and that the old lady who has just entered is a mother come to seek her stolen daughter. It is the old story over again, but in a foreign land. A handsome youth, a romantic girl, heartless parents—vows exchanged by moonlight by silly boys and girls, indignant mamma, and, finally, an elopement. Lucky the pair, though certainly they will not be led to believe it, who, like the two in our illustration, are caught before they have time to execute their foolish design. Elopements, as Lola Montez used to say, are very much like runaway horses, they are pretty sure to come to grief at last. For the first week, or perhaps in some cases where the tastes and habits of the two runaways have a point or two in common—a thing, by the way, very rarely to be met with—all goes well: the novelty and excitement serve to pull the two through. But the novelty wears off, the excitement dies away, the inclinations of the two, neither of whom in nine cases out of ten is at all conversant with the tastes and idiosyncrasies of the other, clash; a first quarrel is followed by a second, the second by a third, and the third by a host of others each more bitter than its predecessor, until the final smash comes, and the two see and understand at last, when it is too late, the irrevocable folly they have committed. Then a sort of understanding is patched up—a domestic amnesty—the one takes to drinking and gambling, the other to flirting and fooling. Then comes the end, the only end that could terminate two such lives—neglect on the one side, infidelity on the other, and at last the scene closes with ruin—perhaps murder and suicide.

OSHAWA WESLEYAN CHURCH.

The Church, opened about two years since, is situated on the corner of Simcoe and Bagot Streets. The exterior is a main building 80x52 with a tower in front, and a wing on the west side 66x33, built of white brick and Ohio cut-stone, in the "Early Decorated" style. The tower, in front, is external to the Church. Its windows have cut-stone mouldings, with carved terminals. It is ornamented with belts of cut-stone, and at each offset, the buttresses have cut-stone copings. Above the tower, the steeple rises to a total height of 150 feet from the ground. The steeple has eight lower windows, ornamented with blue and gold iron finials. It is further ornamented with bands of cut-stone. At its base, resting upon the corners of the tower, are four ornamented pinnacles crowned with carved work. The Church walls rise 27 feet, and are finished with brick cornices. It is lighted by thirteen large tracery windows, filled by glass quarries set in lead. The Church is entered by three large doors in the front, and the wing by two doors—one on each side the main building. The main door leads into a vestibule, from which two doors open into the Church and two others to the gallery and basement. The ceiling is 36 feet from the floor. The ornamented timbers of the roof show below, dividing it by ribs and principals into panels. The centre panels are enriched by ornamented plaster pendants, concealing apertures for ventilation. From the principals hang pendants finished with carved bosses; the walls are finished with rough stucco, and blocked off. Over the vestibule is placed a gallery capable of seating a hundred persons. The two aisles of the church are broad. The pews are in four tiers, the two central rows being divided in alternate long and short pews. The pulpit is in Gothic style, and a beautiful specimen of workmanship. Above the pulpit is a large arched recess, with moulded ribs, fitted up for the choir, and, if necessary, is capable of seating forty persons. The Church is lighted with mammoth lamps fixed upon oak standards. The Church will hold between seven and eight hundred, and was erected at a cost of about sixteen thousand dollars, and is presided over by the Rev. Dr. Jeffers, formerly editor of the *Christian Guardian*. The architects were Messrs. Gaudry and Langley, of Toronto. Our engraving is from a photograph taken by Mr. A. Barrett.

THE WAR ILLUSTRATIONS.

On our first page we give an illustration of a scene that was only too common in Metz during the first few days after the capitulation. News of the surrender of the great eastern fortress having spread throughout the neighbouring country the city was speedily occupied by another army, nearly as numerous and far more welcome than that of the Prussians, namely an army of outlaws who came pouring in from every direction in the hope of making "a pot of money" by retailing questionable provisions to the starved inhabitants. Many among these, however, and more especially among the soldiery, lacked the means to buy the wherewithal to satisfy their hunger, and these, therefore, had recourse to a system of petty pilfering, which brought about many such scenes as that so graphically depicted in our illustration. The *modus operandi* of the pilferers was very simple and one which may be seen successfully put in operation in any of the market-places on the continent. Two or three of the soldiers would group around a booth, one would buy some little thing—a herring or a couple of eggs, and while the stall-keeper was occupied with the purchaser the others would deftly purloin some article of greater value, a ham or a cheese, which would be passed on from hand to hand until it was far from the place where it was stolen. In our illustration the stall-keeper seems to suspect one of her customers of dishonesty, and has accordingly laid violent hands upon him, in the hope of detecting the theft. Her suspicions certainly seem to be well grounded, but at the same time there appears to be but little hope of her recovering her property, for while she and her assistants are engaged with the culprit, the stolen goods are fast travelling away in the opposite direction.

Our other illustration of the war shows a number of wounded German soldiers on their way to the home-hospital.