

and well built, with his head well set between a pair of massive shoulders, nature seemed to equip him for command not only in the camp, but in the Cabinet as well.

The entry of Mr. Masson into public life began early in 1867. The union of the different provinces of Canada had just been proclaimed. With a parliament at Ottawa and another at Quebec, Cartier was not slow to perceive that he would need the services of new allies to enable him to cope with the difficulties of his position. He selected Mr. Masson as one of his auxiliaries and induced him to accept the seat for Terrebonne which was offered to him by the electors. At the same time, he prevailed upon M. Chauveau, then Superintendent of Education for Quebec, to organize a government for the province.

In the elections which took place in 1867, Terrebonne returned Messrs. Masson and Chapleau, both destined to become Federal Ministers, both to be appointed later on Lieutenant-Governors, thus giving color to the tradition that this county is ever to be represented by the most eminent men of the country.

Mr. Masson soon signalized himself in the House and was always consulted by Cartier whenever any important movement or measure was contemplated. He was held in the highest esteem by everybody. His magnetic personality, lofty bearing, and grand intellect made him a power in the eyes of the members from one end of the Dominion to the other. It is such men as this that are best fitted, under our complex political and social conditions, to render their country the best services. Racial and religious commotions sometimes arise, which have to be met and smoothed over.

What deep-rooted prejudices, harbored by the people of Ontario, have been dissipated, when intercourse with French-Canadians, showed how intelligent the latter were, how cosmopolite in their views. And no single individual did more to bring about a friendly feeling between the French and English than the worthy subject of this sketch. No doubt, troubles have arisen that he could not lay, such as the vexed question of the New-Brunswick schools; but the fault cannot be laid at his door. In 1871, consequently, despite his cordial relations with Cartier, he did not hesitate to throw off his allegiance to chief and party, when the school agitation was first taken up. For five years he championed this cause with all the