

## DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

(CONTINUED FROM No. 21.)

WHEN on the occasion of a change of government the "gentleman charged by His Excellency" with the difficult task of forming a Ministry looks around among the benches of the House of Commons to find suitable material for his Cabinet, his choice is sometimes influenced as much by considerations of availability as of ability—for if an hon. member is not pretty sure of re-election, it would be worse than useless to ask him to take office. Security of re-election is in fact the real seasoning of the Ministerial timber, without which it is never safe to work it into the Cabinet. Thus it happens that many able men, because of inconstant or unmanageable constituencies, are frequently compelled to content themselves with the humbler position of a private member, when men of inferior talent and less capacity to serve the public become Ministers, mainly because they are certain to command a renewal of the confidence of their constituents. There can be little doubt that much of the success of several distinguished public men has been due to the fidelity by which they have been thus sustained; but it may be said that such fidelity has only been secured by distinguished merit. No doubt there is some truth in this, though it is certain that many able public men have been deprived of the opportunity of displaying their statesmanship mainly from the want of a reliable constituency. The young politician may derive a wholesome lesson from these reflections, and our readers discover that other qualifications besides ability are necessary to convert a member into a Minister, though ability will never fail to earn for its possessor a fair share of distinction in the House of Commons.

No. 18.—HON. JOHN HILLYARD CAMERON, Q.C., D.C.L.

Mr. Cameron is one of the oldest members of Parliament, having represented the antique borough of Cornwall more than a quarter of a century ago. He is still, however, in the prime of life, and enters with as much freshness and vigour into the transaction of public business as men who are twenty years his junior. He is the son of the late Angus Cameron, of Glenewis, Scotland, who was an officer in the 78th, or Cameron Highlanders. Mr. Cameron's mother was an English lady, the daughter of Mr. Hillyard, of St. Ives, Huntingdonshire. He was born at Beaucaire, Languedoc, France, on the 14th April, 1817; and when eight years old removed to Canada with his parents, his father's regiment having been ordered to this country in 1825. Young Cameron was sent to Upper Canada College in 1831, and after completing his studies there, he was articled to one of the leading barristers of Toronto, having determined to enter the legal profession. During the rebellion of '37-'38 he put in six months of active service in defence of Queen and country, and has since always taken a prompt part in militia matters, at present holding the rank of Lieut.-Col. in that force. In 1833 he was admitted to the Upper Canada bar, and in 1845 created Queen's Counsel. In 1844 he was appointed Reporter to the Court of Queen's Bench; and is the author of several works on legal matters, embracing digests of cases, rules of court, &c., &c. Mr. Cameron is also Treasurer of the Law Society; Chancellor of the University of Trinity College; and since 1859 has been Grand Master of the Orange Association of British North America. He has also been pre-eminently distinguished as the lay champion of the Church of England, from which, with other circumstances affecting his early political associations, he has been regarded more as an independent High Church Tory than as a Conservative; though, in fact, his political views are exceedingly liberal, and in some particulars verge closely on Radicalism. Since all questions affecting the relations of the Church with the State, in respect of property and privileges, have been settled, though not altogether in the way to meet Mr. Cameron's views, he has acted in general accord with the Liberal-Conservative party; and the differences formerly existing among them, growing out of Collegiate and Clergy Reserves questions, are now almost forgotten; and, no doubt, entirely forgiven.

At the general election in 1844 Mr. Cameron was returned to the Legislative Assembly for Cornwall, which he represented until 1851, when he retired for a time from politics. He entered the next Parliament at the general election in 1854, as member for Toronto, and sat till the dissolution in 1857. In 1859 he unsuccessfully opposed the Hon. Mr. Brown's re-election for Toronto; and at the general election in 1861 he was returned for the county of Peel, which constituency he has since uninterruptedly represented. His career of ministerial life has been brief, and took place a long time ago. On the 1st July 1846 he was appointed Solicitor-General in the then Conservative Government, and the following year was appointed to a seat in the Executive Council. At the general election in 1848 the Reformers carried the constituencies; and in March of that year, Mr. Cameron with his colleagues resigned on an adverse vote of the Assembly. His parliamentary career has been characterized by many important services rendered by him to the cause of sound legislation. He is a man of extraordinary legal attainments, of great quickness and wide grasp of intellect. As a speaker he is clear, logical, and forcible; in fact, a finished orator, with little show of eloquence; appealing, at least on parliamentary questions, to the head rather than the heart, and discussing every point with a breadth of comprehension, and an absence of that dallying with small points which so often mars the political harangues of able and eloquent lawyers. At the bar of Upper Canada, the Hon. J. H. Cameron is *primus inter pares*, and to the credit of the members be it said, none are more ready than they to accord him this high distinction.

No. 19.—HON. ALBERT J. SMITH, Q. C.

The Hon. Mr. Smith, since his entering the House of Commons, has not figured in the debates to such an extent as his prominent position would seem to entitle him; but figuring in debates does not always mean distinction; it not unfrequently implies a not very attesting notoriety. Mr. Smith is a native of the county he represents in Parliament—the County

of Westmoreland, New Brunswick; and was born in 1822. Having gone through his educational course and studied law, he was called to the New Brunswick Bar in February, 1847, and five years later entered the Legislative Assembly, of which he continued to be a member up to the time of the Union, when he offered himself as a candidate for the House of Commons, and was returned by a majority of five to one. The Hon. Mr. Smith was a member of the Executive Council from 1856 to 1863, during part of which time he held the office of Attorney-General. In 1865 he was a delegate to England on the public affairs of his Province; and in January, 1866, represented New Brunswick at Washington, when Messrs. Galt and Howland represented Canada, and Mr. Henry Nova Scotia, on the abortive mission for the renewal of Reciprocity.

Mr. Smith opposed the Quebec scheme of Confederation, and at the general election which was held in New Brunswick in 1865, the Union Government then in power was defeated. A new government was formed adverse to Confederation, of which the Hon. Mr. Smith was Premier and Attorney-General. This government resigned in April, 1866, and a subsequent appeal to the constituencies having resulted in a verdict in favour of Union, Mr. Smith has since contented himself with accepting the situation without approving of it, with the intention of making the best of what he evidently yet thinks was a "bad bargain." Before the fusion or disruption of parties on Confederation he was a Conservative. He has not sought to identify himself with any party in Canada, and though generally voting with the Opposition he never fails to support such of the few Government measures as happen to meet with his approval. Coming into the House of Commons with a want of sympathy for the new order of things—with a conviction that it would place his Province at a disadvantage, and that to try now to upset the arrangement would be useless—his course is rather to watch and wait than to hastily commit himself to alliances that might hereafter prove entangling; but the brief share he has taken in Parliamentary debates has been watched with interest by both sides in Parliament, as all are sensible of the great influence which the leading men of the Maritime Provinces must hereafter exert on the public affairs of the Dominion.

No. 20.—HON. GEORGE IRVINE, Q. C., M. A.

Mr. Irvine is a native of the city of Quebec, where he was born on the 16th of November, 1826. His grandfather, the Hon. James Irvine, was for many years a member of the Legislature and Executive Council of Lower Canada, and his father, Lieut.-Colonel Irvine, is well-known as the Principal *Ardeur* Camp to the Governor-General. After completing his studies, Mr. Irvine devoted himself to the profession of the law, and was called to the bar of Lower Canada in 1848. In 1857 he was created Queen's Counsel. He is Professor of Commercial Law in Morrin College, Quebec; in which city the firm of which he is a member enjoys an extensive practice. He first entered political life at the general election in 1863, when he was returned for the County of Megantic, and has since continued to represent that constituency in the Legislative Assembly, and afterwards in the House of Commons, up to the present time. At the last general election, he, in common with many other Lower Canada members, offered himself for the Local and Canadian Legislatures, and was returned for each by a large majority. On the formation of the first Provincial Government for Quebec by the Hon. Mr. Chauveau, in July, 1867, Mr. Irvine was offered and accepted the Solicitor-Generalship, with a seat in the Executive Council, being one of the representatives in the Cabinet of the British element of the population. The three sessions thus far held have been exceedingly smooth for the Cabinet of which Mr. Irvine is a member; and in all probability the next one will glide through in the same pleasant manner. In the House of Commons, as in the Legislative Assembly before it, Mr. Irvine has always acted with the Conservative party; and while seldom putting himself forward among the leading speakers in the House, has always, when he did take a prominent part, acquitted himself in a manner creditable alike to his acknowledged legal acquirements and his ripe judgment on questions of public policy. There is doubtless great delicacy of judgment required on the part of those who are chosen as the special representatives of a minority among classes whose habits of thought are so diverse as those of Lower Canada; and that they should succeed in maintaining both the good-will of the majority and the confidence of their own constituents is indeed a high tribute to their ability. In this important particular Mr. Irvine has been, so far, eminently successful.

No. 21.—JOSEPH RYMAL ESQ.

Mr. Rymal is a true son of the soil. An agriculturist from his youth up he has all the "professional pride" which belongs to that high feeling, plain speaking, sturdy independent class of the community. In politics he is a Reformer among Reformers, but no leader whips him into line or drives him an inch from his own preconceived notion of the straight path. When nearly all the Reformers of the West followed the Hon. George Brown in his coalition with the Ministry in 1864, Mr. Rymal stood true to his Anti-Tory instincts and voted the opposition ticket squarely throughout the remainder of that parliament. And were the opposition leaders to desert tomorrow the member for South Wentworth would stand undaunted, even if alone, by the old party guns; perhaps his very desolation would produce no worse effect than to inspire him with an additional store of those racy and original hard hits which he occasionally discharges at the heels, or the head, of the political reprobate. He was born in Wentworth county, Upper Canada, on the 17th Nov. 1821. His father, Mr. Jacob Rymal, was a member of the Upper Canada Legislature and belonged to the extreme school of politicians, of which the late Wm. Lyon McKenzie was at one time the chosen leader. Mr. Joseph Rymal inherits at least the traditional hatred for "Tories" which especially distinguished that school, and he also displays a large amount of the honesty with which it has been credited. When the Reformers or "ClearGrits" made a move against the increase of the members' indemnity, or some clap-trap motion for its reduction, Mr. Rymal voted against it, and plainly told his constituents when he went back for a renewal of their confidence that if they did not think him worth the amount let them send some one who was. He was first returned to parliament for the South Riding of his native county at the general election in 1857, and has since continued to sit for it, always winning his election after a keen contest and generally by small majorities. The solemn dignity of his speeches to the electors offers a most amusing contrast to the witty and sarcastic rejoinders with which he replies to the attacks of an opponent, and when he speaks in parliament, it

is almost invariably in a vein of keen and sometimes broad humour. Naturally an orator, he confines the display of this talent to rare occasions; but were the Commons worn out by a long night's sitting and every other speaker cried down, Mr. Rymal has only to take the floor to command immediate and profound attention. The reason for this deference to the sturdy broad chested joke loving member is that he never bores the House; never speaks but when he has something to say worth listening to; and never says it but when he says it well. In more respects than one "Joe," as he is familiarly called, is an exemplary member of Parliament.

## CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

## THE SENATE.

Tuesday, April 5.—In answer to Hon. Mr. REESOR, Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL stated that there was no foundation for the rumour that there was a division in the Cabinet on the North-West question. Several bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned.

Wednesday, April 6.—Hon. Mr. HAZEN asked if any steps had been taken for the protection of the fisheries in the lower parts of the Bay of Fundy. Hon. Mr. MITCHELL replied that a vessel would be placed there for that purpose. A debate arose with reference to the rule of the House respecting discussion on notices of motion and question. Several bills having been advanced a stage the House adjourned.

Thursday, April 7.—In answer to Hon. Mr. LEBELLIER DE ST. JEAN, Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said that the Government were actively engaged in taking steps to restore order in the North-West, and that the Dominion and Imperial Governments were earnestly in accord. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of the Census Bill, and explained the details of the measure. After some remarks from Hon. Mr. LEBELLIER DE ST. JEAN and Hon. Mr. DICKIE, the bill was read a second time. Several other bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned.

Friday, April 8.—On motion of Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL, the bill from the Commons respecting Banks and Banking was read a first time. Several private bills were then advanced a stage. Hon. Mr. LEBELLIER DE ST. JEAN called attention to reports of alleged danger to the Red River delegates who were passing through the country, arising from the existing strong feeling on the subject of the murder of Scott. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL did not think there was any danger, as the delegates could not be held responsible for the murder. The House then adjourned.

Monday, April 11.—Hon. Mr. RYAN moved for copies of correspondence relating to the withdrawal of the Imperial troops from the Dominion; and also relating to the transfer of any fortified places in the Dominion to the Dominion Government. Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said that there were circumstances which would prevent the Government from giving the correspondence; it was uncertain what arrangement would be finally come to, and moreover it would be unwise to publish any information as to the number of troops to be kept in the country in the face of a rumour of a Fenian raid. The motion was allowed to stand over. On motion of Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL, the Dominion Notes Issue regulation and amendment bill was read a second time; and the House then went into committee on the Census Bill. Committee rose and reported, and the bill was read a third time and passed. Several bills were read a second time, and the House then adjourned.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, April 5.—SIR FRANCIS HICKES moved the third reading of the bill respecting Banks and Banking. An amendment, moved by Mr. GOODE, to refer the bill back to committee, to amend its provisions so as to fix the maximum rate of interest on discounts by banks on loans at 7 per cent. per annum, was lost—yeas, 49; nays, 82.—and the bill was then read a third time and passed. SIR FRANCIS HICKES moved the third reading of the bill respecting Dominion Notes. MR. BOWWELL moved that the bill be referred back to committee, to provide that no notes be issued of smaller denomination than a dollar. SIR FRANCIS HICKES replied that it was impossible for the Government to know how much silver would be required, and the fractional currency was issued only as a temporary substitute for silver until the requisite amount could be coined. The currency would only be in one denomination, twenty-five cents, and would be just as good and just as easily redeemable as Dominion notes. MR. MACKENZIE believed that if notice had been given earlier of the intention of the Government to issue a fractional currency, the House would have been overwhelmed with petitions against it. He believed it would prove a great nuisance. SIR GEORGE E. CARTER argued that it could not be said that this provision had been thrust suddenly upon the House, as the Finance Minister had stated early in the Session that he considered that he had power to issue fractional currency under the provisions of the Dominion Note Act. Hon. Mr. HOLTON wanted to know why, if the Government believed a fractional currency would remedy the silver nuisance, they had not introduced it before. MR. WORKMAN said the proposition to reduce by proclamation the value of the dollar to 80 cents, when it was intrinsically worth 93 or 94 cents, was absurd. MR. DEFENSE thought no one could deny but that the proposed currency system was preferable to the existing state of things. MR. CARTER objected to the fractional currency as being more liable to forgery than larger denominations. After some further remarks the amendment was lost—yeas, 33; nays, 195. The bill was then read a third time and passed. SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the third reading of the bill to amend the Act respecting Lighthouses, Buoys and Beacons. (from the Senate.) Hon. Mr. HOLTON said it was not in the province of the Senate to originate measures such as this, viz., providing for the expenditure of moneys. SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD replied that the bill did not give power to expend a cent of money without a vote. MR. SPEAKER ruled that the objection of the hon. member for Chateauguay could not be sustained. After some personal passages between Hon. Mr. SASFIELD MACDONALD and MR. MACKENZIE, the bill was read a third time and passed. SIR FRANCIS HICKES moved the House into committee on the resolutions respecting the rate of interest, and proceeded to explain his position at some length, stating that it had been thought best for the sake of uniformity to effect a compromise. MR. MACKENZIE and Hon. Mr. HOLTON attacked the position of the Finance Minister. Some amendments were moved but were lost on being put to vote, and the committee rose and reported the resolutions without amendment. The House then adjourned.

Wednesday, April 6.—MR. MORRISON (Niagara) moved for a Committee to inquire into the state of Brock's monument.