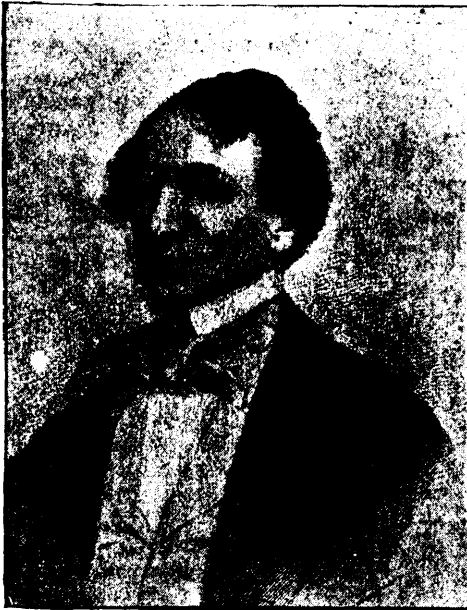


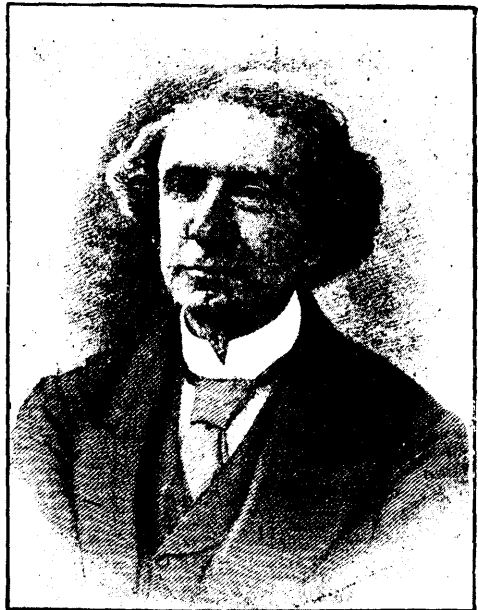


SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD, 1854.

what was coming, had rushed post-haste from Toronto to Rivière du Loup, where Sir John was stopping, to see what defence might be set up. To this trusted friend Sir John declared there was no scandal, and therefore nothing to defend. Relieved by this declaration, the journalist started back at once for Toronto. At Cobourg he got the morning papers with the scandal, and going to his office, wrote, notwithstanding Sir John's statement of his innocence to him two days previous, the only possible defence that can be offered to the affair. This defence was written without further consultation with Sir John, but in consultation with that Hillyard Cameron, who gets such hard knocks in Pope's memoirs. But politics are dotted with these incidents as a blackberry bush is in the height of its fruiting.

I have not much space in this article for a reference to that portion of Sir John Macdonald's career in which he reached, I think, the summit of his political greatness. I refer to the part he played in the negotiation of

the Washington Treaty, as one of the High Commissioners representing Great Britain. Here, Mr. Pope gives us something new and something worthy of a historian, and his manner in handling the subject deserves our highest praise. His account of Sir John's conduct at Washington, his extracts from the correspondence which he wrote at that time, and his narration of the difficulties Sir John encountered in maintaining his position, all go to show the great Canadian as a man of first rank in the conduct of the highest affairs of State. While I consider that Sir John Macdonald's greatest service to Canada was his work on the foundation of Confederation, I believe that history will give him a yet higher position for the work he did in developing that new and wider field of imperial politics, which are just now beginning to burst upon the ken of English-speaking people, and to tempt the ambition of our ablest and most brilliant men. British politics as we know them, the politics of Pitt, of Canning, Disraeli, and of Glad-



SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD, 1890.