

## THE FIRST CANADIAN CARDINAL.

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OF the great Canadian families which can trace their ancestry many generations back, there is none of greater prominence than that of the Taschereaus. For two centuries at least, they have held important positions in Canada. Their contributions to the Church, the Bench, the Bar, and to Statesmanship, have been extensive. The Canadian branch of the family dates

ly or mentally, and he had not been in this country a month before he was able to take his part and share of work, with the best of his companions. He was the founder of the long line of descendants which bear his name. In 1736, he was granted the seigniory on the banks of the River Chaudière, and held the post of marine treasurer.

Elzéar Alexandre Taschereau, the sub-



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its origin from Thomas Jacques Taschereau, of Lorraine, who left his home in the seventeenth century, to try his fortunes in the new country, which at that time was engrossing the attention of the noblemen and gentlemen of old France. For one of his adventurous disposition, Quebec offered attractions which he could not resist. Though carefully nurtured in his native land, the rigor of a northern climate, amid wild surroundings, and rude society, had no terrors for him. He was no weakling, physical-

ject of this sketch, was born at Ste. Marie de la Beauce, on the 17th of February, 1820. His father was Jean Thomas Taschereau, in his lifetime a judge of the King's Bench. His mother was Marie Panet, daughter of Jean Antoine Panet, speaker of the first Legislative Assembly of Canada. At the age of eight years, young Taschereau was sent to the Quebec seminary, where he proved a diligent scholar, and won many prizes for classics, of which he was very fond. He was destined for the church,