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## The Volunteer Review,

AND

## MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1873.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and in the corner the words "Printer's copy" written; and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

THE great loss Canada has sustained in the death of Sir GEO. E. CARTIER, Bart., can be clearly understood by the unanimity with which the Press of every shade of political principle deploras that event, and it undoubtedly is a consolation to the many personal friends of the *great statesman* to know that the people for whom he labored so long and persistently thoroughly appreciated his integrity, courage, honesty and loyalty, and are as one man in mourning the irreparable injury this event has inflicted on the British North American Empire which he did so much to consolidate.

It is at all times a difficult task to write a biographical notice of an individual who has occupied a pre-eminently high position in the estimation of the world, but when to that is added the fact that for a period of sixteen years the whole affairs of a great nation cen-

tered as it were around him and that he was the motive power to a very considerable extent in all events which has led to the Union of the British North American colonies, which placed those scattered Provinces in the third rank of the nations of the world, and laid the foundation of the Union of the British Empire, the task assumes proportions beyond the power of any writer of his own period, and it must be referred to the care of the future analytical annotator of that history on which his name is so enduringly engraved, to do full justice to the late Canadian Minister of Militia and Defence; all we can do is to touch on the main incidents of his public career, any one of which would immortalize an inferior statesman; to write a full history of his life it would be necessary to write the Annals of Canada for a period of thirty six years, during which the most important political developments and events this continent has witnessed were in progress and occurring.

GEORGE ETIENNE CARTIER, was, the son of a leading merchant of the Richelieu district, in the Province of Lower Canada (now Quebec), his family claimed descent from the brother of JACQUES CARTIER, of St. Malo, the celebrated seaman who discovered Canada in 1534, he was born at St. Antoine on the 6th September, 1814; the parish which is on the banks of the Richelieu in the county of Vercheres, has always been since first settled the residence of the CARTIER family, he received his education at the College of Sulpice in the City of Montreal, and having chosen the law as his profession was called to the bar in 1835, and commenced practice in that city, deliberately encountering the competition of the ablest members of the Lower Canada Bar. It was at a period of great political agitation his native province was governed by an irresponsible oligarchy, and his compatriots, comprising fully four fifths of the population were carefully excluded from power, mocked by an Assembly elected by the people, and an Executive Council, nominated by the Governor General, it was little wonder that grievances should have multiplied till they were unbearable, or that resistance should be forced on a people whose just remonstrances were allowed to pass unheeded.

The late LOUIS JOSEPH PAPINEAU was then the representative man of Lower Canada, the leader of an oppressed people, and whatever blame may arise for subsequent events, it must be borne by him alone, the people were right—their leaders were wrong. With all the ardor of that patriotism, and the power of that talent which distinguished him, through after life, Sir G. E. CARTIER threw himself into the struggle, by pen, speech and example, he pleaded the cause of the oppressed, but there is no evidence whatever to prove that he was at all implicated in the insane appeal to arms made by Dr. NELSON, and Mr. T. S. BROWN, although in the excitement consequent thereon, he

deemed it advisable to withdraw to the United States for a short period: Four years later, he had the satisfaction of witnessing the true remedy, which PAPINEAU and his coagitators, English and French, had overlooked—responsible Government, conceded—and in 1848 he was elected as member of the House of Assembly, for his native county of Vercheres, of which his grandfather was the first representative. His parliamentary career has been singularly consistent. A French Canadian Conservative he soon became the leader of that party in the House, and as a natural consequence, allied himself with the other great representative Canadian statesman, his friend, and sorrowing survivor, Sir J. A. MACDONALD. In February, 1856, he took office under the TACHE-McNAB administration as Provincial Secretary, having previously, once or twice, refused to accept any appointment, and as Premier or Joint Premier, he has held the reins of power, with a trifling exception, up till his death.

Amongst the noteworthy acts which distinguished this long administration may be enumerated. The abolition of the Seigneurial Tenure. The codification of the laws of Lower Canada. The settlement of the question as to the permanent capital of Canada. The confederation of the British North American Provinces. The annexation of the North West Territories, and British Columbia. The building of the Intercolonial railway, and the inception of the Canada Pacific railway. And last, but by no means least, *The Militia Bill* of 1868, which at once provided an army for the newly created Dominion, changed the whole current of Imperial Colonial policy, raised his native land to the rank of a third class power at one bound, and under his administration, if spared, would have given his dearly loved country the most effective and least expensive military force the world has yet seen.

Our gracious sovereign, to mark her appreciation of his great services, created him a Baronet of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in August, 1868, and in 1872 he received the Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Isabella la Catolica of Spain.

After very considerable suffering from a painful disease he left Canada, in September 1872, for the purpose of profiting by English medical advice, and to within a week of his death, every symptom appeared favourable for a continuance of a life so truly valuable to his country; but a relapse occurred on the eve of his proposed return to Canada, and he died at six o'clock, on the morning of Tuesday, 20th May, in London.

Sir G. E. CARTIER was married in 1840 to Hortense, daughter of E. D. FABRE, Esq., of Montreal, and leaves besides Lady CARTIER, two daughters, Margaret Josephine, and Maria Hortense.

The place which this great statesman has occupied in the body politic will require a long time to fill. Under our institutions