

## THOMAS CHANDLER HALIBURTON.

THOMAS Chandler Haliburton, son of Justice W. H. O. Haliburton, was born at Windsor, N. S., Dec. 17th, 1796. He was educated at the Windsor Grammar School, and subsequently at Kings College, where he was graduated in 1815. He was called to the bar in 1820; and sat as member of the House of Assembly for Annapolis from 1826 to 1829. From the latter date onward for twelve years, he was Chief Justice of the Inferior Courts of Common Pleas for the middle division of Nova Scotia. Afterwards he became Judge of the Supreme Court, but resigned that office and took up his residence in England in 1856. Two years later, at Oxford, the honorary degree of D. C. L. was conferred upon him. From 1859 to 1865, he sat in the British House of Commons, as member for Launceston; and in August 27th, of the last named year, he died at Isleworth on the Thames.

Such is a short sketch of the life of Nova Scotia's—perhaps Canada's—greatest man of letters. Haliburton was a voluminous writer; and in order to do anything like justice to him it would require a very much greater space than is possible to obtain in a college paper. We must, therefore, content ourselves with giving a list of his works, but confining our remarks to merely a very few. A History of Nova Scotia was his first important production; it is, owing to Haliburton's carelessness in research, thoroughly unreliable; and the author himself pronounced it the "most important account of unimportant things that he had ever seen." His other principal works are: *The Clockmaker*, *The Attachè*, *Wise Saws*, *Nature and Human Nature*, *The Letter Bag of the Great Western*, *Bubbles of Canada*, *The Old Judge*, or *Life in a Colony*, and *the Season Ticket*. Nearly all of these works touch more or less upon politics. Haliburton was a Conservative, in the literal meaning of the term, to the back bone. He opposed all integral change and had little respect for those who did not. He makes his "Old Judge," say, that in religion he is a Churchman, and in politics a Conservative, as is almost every gentleman in these colonies. Our author was a strong believer in Imperial Federation. In "*Wise Laws*" he says:

"It shouldn't be England and her colonies, but they should be integral parts of the great whole,—all counties of Great Britain. There should be no taxes on colonial produce, and the colonies should not be allowed to tax British manufactures. All should pass free, as from one town to another in England: the whole of it one vast home market, from Hong Kong to Labrador."

As an historian, Haliburton as already stated, is not reliable, for the reasons that he was not by any means painstaking in his authorities, and considerably astray by his sympathies and pre-