

operation under provincial charter in June 1833. Many of the most successful men of business in York, regardless of their political connections, were associated with Mr. Allan in this enterprise, of which he was the first Governor or President. In the latter part of 1835 Mr. Allan, with the co-operation of the Board of Trade of Toronto, supported by resolutions passed at public meetings, brought to the attention of the Home Government the desirability of permitting the import of British goods into Upper Canada through the ports of the United States. In time this was duly realized.

The occasion of Mr. Allan's becoming a member of the Executive Council and thus acquiring the title of Honourable, is one of considerable historical importance. In 1836 the British Government, hoping to appease the growing clamour for an Executive Council having the confidence of the general public, nominated to Lieutenant-Governor Head three new members of the Council, Messrs. J. H. Dunn, Robt. Baldwin, and John Rolph. All eyes were immediately turned upon these gentlemen to see what effect they would have on the administrative policy of the government. Governor Head, however, frankly announced to them that he would call upon them only when he found that he was in need of their advice. At that time there was no subject on which the governor considered himself less in need of advice than the executive policy of the administration. Obviously the only course for the new advisers was to resign, which they accordingly did. The Lieutenant-Governor then called to his Council a number of gentlemen of moderate views, namely, R. B. Sullivan, afterwards a prominent figure in the first responsible government cabinet under Lord Sydenham, William Allan, Aug. Baldwin, a relative of Robert Baldwin, and John Elmsley, son of the former Chief Justice. Needless to say the political duties of these gentlemen were light, and at no time thereafter did the Hon. Mr. Allan take a very active part in political affairs. Before the government of united Canada was organized he was over seventy years of age and had largely retired from public life. He was, however, associated with several of the new railroad enterprises which came to the front in the latter 40's and early 50's. His vigorous constitution carried him on to an extended old age, during which he was able to afford his friends, from personal knowledge and experience, interesting reminiscences of the whole history of Toronto from its very infancy. He died at the family residence, Moss Park, July 11th, 1853, in the eighty-third year of his age.