

INTRODUCTORY.

Attacking, as I am, so distinguished a man as Professor Goldwin Smith, I had better, perhaps, give some account of myself. Especially is this so as the Professor is an old man. I am not young myself, but age and passing years have operated differently with me than with the Professor in whom the dry-rot of years seems to have extinguished patriotism, whereas with me they have simply intensified my love for the Empire.

Born in March, 1840, at Perth, County Lanark, Ontario, Canada, I attended Common and Grammar schools there till 1854, when I went "behind the counter" in my father's "store," where, for about eight years, I acted as merchant's clerk and kept my father's Revenue books, for he was Collector of Inland Revenue for many years, part of the time for the United Counties of Lanark and Renfrew, then for Lanark after the separation. Entering the law office of the late William M. Shaw, I graduated as Barrister-at-Law in 1868. During that time I was "out" against the Fenians in 1866 and 1870, in the former year from 8th March till 27th November. The Law Society allowed all students on frontier duty then their time as if served.

I practised law for about twelve years in Perth; then owing to ill health I went to the Northwest, where I remained for five years. Returning to Ontario, I resumed the practice of my profession here and have continued this to date.

Entering the Volunteer Force at the time of the Trent affair, I remained connected with it (save for a short time)