

to render Mr. Mackenzie incapable of sitting in the Assembly. His re-election could not, however, be prevented; and as often as he was expelled (five times) he was re-elected; once when he was absent in England. At last it was attempted to punish the constituency which had persisted in re-electing the expelled member, and the Assembly refused to issue a writ for a new election. These arbitrary proceedings of the Assembly finally evoked the decided condemnation of the Imperial Government. The period during which the County of York was left without a representative, from this cause, extended from 1831 to 1834. On one occasion the re-election of Mr. Mackenzie was followed by a demonstration of menacing character against the Assembly. A large escort conducted him to the Assembly to take his seat. Strangers were ordered to be excluded from the galleries, but the doors of the Assembly were burst open, and the order of exclusion set at defiance by the people.

In May, 1832, Mr. Mackenzie proceeded to England, bearing a petition of grievances to the Imperial Government, said to have been signed by 19,000 persons. He remained there for a period of eighteen months, and obtained a patient hearing at the Colonial Office, and the result of his interviews with Lord Goderich was a long and elaborate dispatch from that nobleman, laying down for the guidance of the Canadian Government principles that would effect great reforms and get rid of many of the grievances complained of. His exertions procured the removal of some of the officials who held the first places in the Government, and caused instructions to be sent to the Lieutenant Governor to appoint one member at least of the popular party to a Governmental office. To himself a most tempting offer was made by the Colonial Secretary. The Post Office in Upper Canada, then under Imperial control, yielded about \$60,000 a year, and the whole of the revenue went into the pocket of the Postmaster. Lord Goderich proposed to divide this office, and give Mr. Mackenzie half the spoils. The latter replied that if he accepted the offer he certainly should benefit himself individually, but that the abuse of which he was sent to complain would still be continued. He therefore declined to accept the offer. It was at the instance of the Colonial Secretary that Mr. Mackenzie's stay was protracted to eighteen months in England, in order that an opportunity might be afforded to discuss the various questions on which the popular party in Upper Canada had complained to the Imperial Government. Perhaps it was his success on this occasion that caused Mr. Mackenzie to the close of his life to believe that our political movements could be best influenced by the application of a leverage power in Downing-street; an error which arose from his not making due allowance for the change which our system of Government has undergone. He had been anxious to make a second journey to England, and he was firmly convinced that if he were there he could produce changes as great as those which resulted from his previous visit. His idea of course included the being armed with a monster petition from the people. On his return from England, Mr. Mackenzie received an abundance of thanks; but he thought himself entitled to be re-imbursed the expense of the journey.

From first to last, Mr. Mackenzie was elected to the Legislature of Upper and of United Canada fourteen or fifteen times, and was defeated once. This was in the election of 1836.

The first Mayor of Toronto—chosen in 1836—he was also one of the first magistrates ever elected in Upper Canada. Before the passing of the charter under which he became Mayor of Toronto, elective magistrates were unknown in the Province.

Of the insurrection in which Mr. Mackenzie bore so prominent a part, in 1837 and 1838, it is impossible within the limits of our space to treat. He has always said that he was led into it by the urgent entreaties of the Lower Canadians, and he has left behind him documents in which he frankly confesses the error of the part he played, and expresses regret for the course he was induced to take. But even the rebellion, with all its evils, was not without its incidental advantages. It awakened the attention of the Imperial Government to the monstrous abuses of the oligarchical system which had previously existed, and brought about a beneficial change sooner than it could otherwise have occurred. Few men have paid more dearly for an error than Mr. Mackenzie did in this case. His life was spared, it is true; but if the whole story could be told, it is very doubtful whether one person in a hundred would consider life desirable upon such conditions. Under the Van Buren administration he was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment for a breach of the neutrality laws of the United States, and he was actually kept in close confinement for twelve months at Rochester.

Ruined by the confiscation and sale of his property in Canada, and unable to use his exertions for the benefit of his family, he was made to taste the bitter draughts of poverty. His aged mother, who had attained her ninetieth year, died while he was debilitated by intermittent fever in prison; and it was only by resorting to a legal stratagem, and through the intervention of the father of "Grace Greenwood," that he was permitted to see her at all before she

expired. While in Monroe County prison at Rochester, Mr. Mackenzie was shot at through the window. This is only one of the many attempts that at various times were made upon his life, and where they were so numerous it is surprising that he escaped. Mr. Mackenzie never took root in the United States. He was not at home there; he was an exile. He found foreigners looked upon with suspicion, and excluded from nearly all the offices in the gift of the Federal Government. He was long anxious to return to Canada before the issuing of the amnesty which enabled him to do so. He had a suspicion, whether well founded or not, that some even among his old colleagues and associates were anxious to prevent his return. This notion was probably not without its influence upon his course after he entered public life in Canada. He published a journal both at New York and Rochester, entitled *Mackenzie's Gazette*, and he was for a considerable time connected with the *Tribune*. The amount of labor that he performed, as correspondent of that journal, was prodigious; quite enough to have given occupation to almost any other three men. He burned the midnight oil and prematurely consumed his own vitality.

After his return to Canada in 1850 he offered as a candidate for the first constituency—Haldimand—that became vacant. He opposed and beat Mr. Brown, who ran on the Government interest. He continued to hold his seat in the Legislative Assembly till 1853, when he resigned. He attached himself to no party, and though he was generally in the Opposition, he attended no Opposition caucuses, and entered into no party engagements.

It is now all but universally conceded that, however erroneous his views, Mr. Mackenzie did everything from a thoroughly honest motive, and in the belief that it was best for the country. He was no trading politician or office-seeker, and the best test of his political virtue is that he resisted the most alluring temptations when he thought their acceptance would be contrary to the interests of the public. His most intimate friends best know the value he set upon political honesty, and how deep and utter was his detestation of a tendency to dishonesty or corruption.

A few years ago a public subscription was set on foot to provide funds for the purchase of a "Mackenzie homestead." The net visible result was chiefly expressed in a house which cost, we believe, £950, though owing to some misunderstanding, some £1,500 of what was subscribed, was never collected.

Mr. Mackenzie married, in 1822, Isabel Baxter, sister of Mr. George Baxter, at Kingston, who, when master of the Royal Grammar School of that place, educated many of the men who have since held some of the most prominent positions in public life. In his darkest fortunes she was always at his side; whether amidst the chill snows of Navy Island or in the drear gloom of the Rochester prison. Mr. Mackenzie leaves seven children; only two of whom are married.

For some months past Mr. Mackenzie had been perceptibly failing in health, though perhaps no one who had watched him most closely was aware six weeks ago of the extent to which the disease had gone. For several months he had been suffering under an almost entire loss of hearing, and his complaint of pains in the head was frequent—symptoms of the incipency of that organic disease of the brain of which he ultimately died. His great ambition appears to have been to bequeath a name which should be free from the suspicion of corruption or selfishness; and in that we think it will be generally admitted he has succeeded.

The Mayor and members of the City Council manifested their respect to the memory of Mr. Mackenzie—the first chief magistrate of Toronto—by attending his interment in their corporate capacity.—*Abridged from the "Leader."*

#### No. 23.—THE HON. EDMUND MURNEY.

The late Edmund Murney, who departed this life on Thursday, August 15th, 1861, was the second son of Henry Murney, Esq., of Kingston, was born in Kingston, on the 11th of Nov., 1812, and consequently was 48 years, 9 months and 4 days of age when he died. He was educated in Upper Canada College, acquired the knowledge of law in the office of Marshall S. Bidwell, Esq., at Kingston, and was called to the Bar at Osgoode Hall in 1834. He commenced practice in Belleville, and for years dedicated himself to his profession, ranking first among his professional associates. His eloquence and ability soon gave him a position, and at the early age of 24, we find him elected a member of the Provincial Parliament. At the period he entered the Legislature the political horizon was clouded with great and coming events, and opened an appropriate field for the exertions of a strong mind and powerful speaker. Mr. Murney first entered Parliament in 1836, when he was elected with Mr. Manahan, in opposition to Messrs. Yager and Reynolds. This Parliament was the last in Upper Canada. The first election that took place after the Union of the Provinces was in 1841. Mr. Murney was again the candidate on the Conservative interest, but