

does not often speak, but when he expresses an opinion it is in order to accomplish some definite good, and in no case are the utterances of any honourable member listened to with greater respect than in his. Mr. Lewin is a good example of the opinion which is now so often expressed, that an active life is not necessarily one to break a man down and shorten his life. No mere idler or pleasure-seeker could attain the very eve of four score years, yet keep such complete possession of all his faculties, as does this hard-working man of business and public affairs. In politics Mr. Lewin, though no mere partizan, may be described generally as a Liberal. He favours freedom as against restriction as a trade policy, and is strongly convinced of the necessity for the establishment of the widest reciprocity with the United States. He believes that under natural conditions those industries that are natural to the country will flourish, and that the national prosperity is to be attained rather through the prosperity of the individuals making up the nation, than through attempts by means of statutes to force trade to grow under unfavourable conditions. While in the employment of the British Government at Miramichi, in December, 1832, Mr. Lewin was married to Sarah Ann, daughter of Sheriff Clarke, of New Brunswick, one of the original loyalists, who came from New Haven, Conn., in 1783, and settled in New Brunswick while that province was little better than a wilderness. In the year of her golden wedding, in 1882, Mrs. Lewin died, sincerely regretted by a wide circle of friends. The family consists of four sons and one daughter.

#### HON. JOHN MACDONALD,

*Toronto, Ont.*

THE late Hon. John Macdonald, of Toronto, Senator of the Dominion, was born in Perthshire, Scotland, in December, 1824. His father was a soldier, a member of the gallant 93rd Sutherland Highlanders, and it was in the regimental school of that corps that the boy received his early scholastic training. John Macdonald was but a lad when he came to America. He lived first in Halifax, N.S., where his father's regiment was quartered, and while there he attended the old Dalhousie College. Subsequently he removed to Toronto, and the last school he attended was the Bay-street Academy of that city, an establishment which is now little more than a memory, the generation of its scholars having almost passed away. The head of the academy was Mr. Boyd, father of the present Chancellor of Ontario, and a man of ripe scholarship and marked ability. John Macdonald profited well by the instruction he

received in the several schools he attended, and in after life he made good use of his scholarship. He began the battle of life as a clerk in the employ of Messrs. C. & J. Macdonald, of Gananoque, then, as now, one of the busiest towns on the Canadian side of the Upper St. Lawrence. He showed marked capacity for mercantile affairs, and won the commendation of his employers. After two years he returned to Toronto and entered the employ of Mr. Walter Macfarlane, a leading Canadian merchant of that time. In this large establishment—large as compared with others of that day in Canada—Mr. Macdonald greatly improved his knowledge of the business to which he had decided to devote himself. The duties of the clerk in the general store in those days were most arduous. There was no thought then of early closing movements or of shorter hours for labor. The vast majority of the people of the country were engaged in agriculture and were their own employers. They worked early and late, and they expected those engaged in mercantile affairs to follow their example. It is hardly to be wondered at that the close confinement and the constant strain upon nervous and muscular energy at length told upon the constitution of the young devotee of business. He became so reduced in physical vigor that, after six years' service, he was obliged to resign his place and go abroad in the hope of restoring his health. The West Indies at that time seemed to offer the opportunities he required for recruiting his strength, and accordingly he set sail for Jamaica. The complete change acted as a tonic, and in a short time he was able to go to work again. In order to get the benefit of the climate for as long a time as possible, he decided to remain and earn his living on the island. He entered the employ of Messrs. Nethersoll & Co., the most extensive general dealers in Jamaica. He remained for less than a year in this establishment, but in that time he gained not only health but also a most valuable experience. He returned to Toronto, of which place he remained a citizen up to the time of his death, and where he achieved the highest distinction as a leader in commercial enterprises and in movements of a religious, philanthropic, and political character. His enterprise and native shrewdness in understanding the wants of the people are well illustrated by the first move he made on returning to Canada. Determined to begin business on his own account, he left the beaten path followed by the merchants of that day, and, instead of establishing a general store, he stocked his place with dry goods only, and devoted himself to the cultivation of that line of business. His store was a small structure on Yonge-street near Richmond. The move was made at an opportune time, as proved by the rapidity with