

Chapel, on Gosford Street. Lady Windham, Capt. Hudson, A. D. C., and Mr. Hare, A. D. C., accompanied the remains of the deceased General, and were met at Bonaventure Station by Col. Hamilton, Lieut.-Col. Earl, Military Secretary, and several other officers; and also a fatigue party from the P. C. O. Rifle Brigade. The body was taken to the Military Chapel, Gosford Street, where it lay until Saturday afternoon last, when the funeral obsequies were performed with military honours.

No. 7.—SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD, K. C. B., LL.D., &c.,  
PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA.

Under the British system of constitutional government the Prime Minister, for the time being, may be said to fill a larger space in the thoughts of the people than even the occupant of the Throne. It is no longer true with us that "uneasy rests the head that wears a crown," because the thorns have been transferred to the brow of the Prime Minister, and many of the roses, too, for he is not more surely the butt of his opponents than he is the idol of his friends. Many times has this been significantly manifested in England. In fact, for the last thirty years, it has been Peel, or Russell, or Aberdeen, or Palmerston, or Derby, or D'Israeli, or Gladstone, at the beginning, at the middle, and at the end of every political dissertation. Satellites have circled round these suns in the political firmament, and attracted their due share of attention; but never have they obscured the brightness or detracted from the glory of the central orb, to whom friend and foe have been alike accustomed to look for the chief direction of the nation's policy. A similar state of feeling has been created in Canada from the operation of like causes. Especially since Confederation, when general questions became dissociated from merely local issues, has the Premier assumed in the mind of the Canadian public a status analogous to that of the First Lord of the Treasury in England. As in England, so in Canada, it is the highest political position to which the subject can aspire; it is in fact "the power behind the throne," and carries with it responsibilities, commensurate with, if not in excess of, its dignities.

In this number we give a portrait of the Hon. Sir John Alexander Macdonald, K. C. B., the first Premier and Minister of Justice of the Dominion of Canada. His name is familiar "as a household word" throughout the length and breadth of the land; and his remarkably expressive features, strikingly resembling those of the Right Hon. B. D'Israeli, are such as to impress the beholder with the conviction that he is a man of more than common ability. Whether the massive head, rendered still more massive in appearance by the profusion of vagrant jetty curls clustering half way down the brow, be sedately poised on the left hand in an attitude of seemingly profound attention, listening to the vagaries of some weak opponent, or not very able supporter; or whether it be carried jauntily, and with a smiling countenance, under the discharge of the heaviest artillery of the Opposition Benches, the spectator is at no loss to discover that there sits a man who, either by study or natural endowment, is possessed of the qualities essential to a successful parliamentary leader. Sir John leads mainly by the force of personal influence; he is not exactly a "Rupert of Debate," though, indeed, he lacks not the "Scorpion" power to lash an opponent and prick him by words barbed with scorching sarcasm. But in the latter style he rarely indulges, at least while on the ministerial side of the House. He is rather distinguished for speaking without apparent premeditation; fond of quick repartee, in which he is an acknowledged master; impatient of the tediousness of formal debate on all points where a few minutes devoted to conversational discussion would—at least to quick minds like his own—dispel every misconception. In the conduct of Parliamentary proceedings, he is, therefore, more inclined to lean towards seeming frivolity than to ponderous dignity, though none are more ready, and certainly none more able than he, to rebuke a misplaced triviality of expression, or to recall the people's representatives to a solemn sense of their high responsibilities when questions affecting the honour and dignity of Canada or the interests of the Crown are mooted. Of set Parliamentary speeches there will be astonishingly few for his future biographer to reproduce, considering the conspicuous part he has played in the Parliamentary history of Canada during so many eventful years; but of *ex-tempore* outbursts, of natural impassioned eloquence, contrasting strangely with the quiet, far-seeing, cool-headed statesmanship which is undoubtedly his distinguishing characteristic, there will be a surprisingly large number from which to select, but even these, as a general rule, will do little justice to their author, for Sir John, like most British statesmen, though unlike D'Israeli and Gladstone (who are exceptions), is no orator, in the common acceptance of the term. Of all the men of note now in the Parliament of Canada, next to "the other

Macdonald"—the Hon. John Sandfield—he is, perhaps, the greatest plague of the Reporters' Gallery, from his careless utterance, irregular inflexions of voice, and general disregard of acoustic effect; yet there are occasions when his voice swells and his words flow with extraordinary rapidity, when every sound is hushed and all ears bend to catch the rushing torrent of eloquence which rolls with overpowering velocity from his lips. Such accidental outbursts of strong impetuous feeling usually last but for a few minutes at a time; yet often have they called forth bursts of the wildest enthusiasm. By these dashes of the "natural man," all reserve being thrown aside—and, indeed, as a public speaker or Parliamentary debater, it is questionable whether Sir John knows how to be reserved—though his supporters are electrified, his opponents find their strongest points for returning to the assault, so that it happens with him as with many others, in higher or meaner station, that the advantage and the disadvantage are balanced with wondrous evenness.

John A. Macdonald is the eldest son of the late Hugh Macdonald, Esq., of Kingston, who was a native of Sutherlandshire, Scotland. He was born in 1815, and studying for the bar, was admitted in Hilary term 1836. Ten years afterwards he was made Queen's Counsel. He was first returned for Kingston to the Legislative Assembly in 1844, and has since then continued to sit for that loyal old borough up to the present time, having seldom met opposition, and when it came, only as a matter of jest, or to make a little business for the tavern-keepers. In 1847 he entered the Draper Ministry as Receiver General, and was subsequently transferred to the Crown Lands Department, going out of office with Mr. Draper's Cabinet in March, 1848. From that time up to 1854, he was an active and prominent member of the Conservative Opposition. In September, 1854, when the government of Mr. Hincks was defeated, and Sir Allan N. Macnab became Premier, Mr. Macdonald took office as Attorney-General for Upper Canada. In May, 1856, Sir Allan resigned, for causes that need not here be discussed; and under the Premiership of the late Sir E. P. Taché, Mr. Macdonald continued to hold the office of Attorney-General for the Upper Province, and became, in name, as perhaps he had been before in fact, the leader of the Conservatives of the West. The following year, Sir E. P. Taché resigning, the Macdonald-Cartier Ministry was formed, and, save the brief interruption in the early part of August, 1858, when a two-days' hiatus was created by the Hon. George Brown and his party assuming office, the same government, with a transposition of names, continued in power until May, 1862. At that time, on the Militia Bill, "Colonel Lyson's Bill," as it was then called, and an absurdly extravagant bill it was, the Cartier-Macdonald Cabinet was defeated by a majority of 15, though there was an Upper Canada majority in its favour. "The other Macdonald," (Hon. J. S.) as the only Reformer in the West capable of leading a government, then came into power, and in the face of unexampled difficulties—battling with treasons from within, and assaults from without—managed to hold office, honourably, until March, 1864. In the latter part of that month, a motion of want of confidence in the Government, proposed by Mr. J. A. Macdonald, was carried by a very bare majority; Sandfield and his colleagues resigned; and Sir E. P. Taché was called upon to form a government, after other gentlemen on the same side of politics had failed. This was called the Taché-Macdonald Government, in which John A. Macdonald held his old post of Attorney-General and leader for Upper Canada. It lasted nearly three months, when an adverse vote of the Legislative Assembly would have sent it adrift but for the timely intervention of a friend, who, on behalf of the Hon. George Brown, proposed a new policy embracing either the smaller or the greater scheme of confederation, with a truce between the Opposition and the Ministerial benches. These overtures were accepted, and the result was the retirement of three of Mr. J. A. Macdonald's Upper Canada colleagues, and the accession to the cabinet, the Government meantime continuing as before, under the nominal leadership of Sir E. P. Taché. After the death of the last named gentleman, the following year, his place was taken by Sir Narcisse Belleau, the present Lieut.-Governor of Quebec, and save the substitution of the late Hon. Fergusson Blair for the Hon. George Brown, so the ministry continued until the 30th June 1867, when its office ceased in virtue of the coming into force of the British North America Act. At the next general election after that event, Sir John A. Macdonald was again returned by acclamation as the representative of Kingston; and on the first day of July of the same year he was called upon by Lord Monck, then Governor-General, to form a Government; appointed Premier, Minister of Justice, and Attorney-General, and created a Knight Commander of the Bath. Since that date, it is hardly necessary to add that Sir John has continued in

the leadership of the House of Commons and of the Ministry; or to say that a session of Parliament has just been opened which is likely to be fruitful of results of the most momentous character to the future of the whole country.

During such a long Parliamentary career—from '44 to the present day—and with nearly half an average lifetime spent in official position, it would be strange indeed were not Sir John's name intimately connected with the legislative progress of the country. It would be tedious to mention even the titles of the several acts he has been instrumental in passing through the Legislature. His friends boast that not one of these, many as they are, have ever been objected to or sought to be repealed by the voice of the country; it would perhaps better express the service he has done to Canada as a Statesman to say that he has rightly interpreted the feeling of the country, and gone as far in the work of legislation as that feeling was capable of appreciating; that he has distinguished between the "sober second thought" of a well-disposed community and the temporary excitement into which that community may at times be thrown by unexpected influences. His share in the settlement of the Clergy Reserves question; common and criminal law reform, the amendment of the franchise and election laws, &c., &c., is too well known to need comment. At the Quebec Conference in 1864, and subsequently at the Colonial Conference in London in 1866-67, he took a leading part as a Canadian statesman, while more than twenty years ago, when he was but a young man, his voice in the midst of the excited and half-rebellously disposed "British American League" was raised on the side of loyalty and order. His career, up to this time, has been such as few public men in any country can boast of, and he promises yet to have many years of public life before him. Amongst the titular distinctions he holds may be mentioned that of Queen's Counsel, and Benchet of the Law Society of Upper Canada, of which he is regarded as one of the ablest members; LL.D. Queen's University, Kingston; D. C. L. Oxford (conferred in 1865); and K. C. B. conferred by Her Majesty and announced by Lord Monck on the 1st July, 1867, after the swearing in of the first Privy Council of Canada. The last named distinction was expressly bestowed because of services rendered in promoting Confederation, and especially in virtue of his chairmanship of the Colonial Conference at London, at the sittings of which the terms of the British North America Act of 1867 were agreed upon.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK LEGISLATURE.

On the 10th inst., Lieutenant-Governor Wilmot opened the Provincial Legislature with the following speech:—

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*—

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:*

We have abundant cause for thankfulness to Providence for the harvest of the past year, greater than any before known in the history of this Province. Agricultural interests are rapidly extending, and will yet become the first and most important industrial pursuit.

The visit of Prince Arthur afforded an occasion for the hearty manifestation of loyalty to our beloved Queen. It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Prince was deeply impressed with the cordial greeting of the inhabitants everywhere.

The Governor-General's visit was highly satisfactory. His Excellency was delighted with the indications of provincial growth and prosperity everywhere visible.

Large tracts of land have been surveyed under the Settlement Act, and the lots were quickly taken up.

The negotiations with the Dominion Government regarding the Eastern extension resulted in large remissions of the subsidy chargeable against the Provincial revenue.

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:*

The financial condition of the Province is highly satisfactory. The expenditure for last year was within the estimates. Although storms have caused unforeseen outlay, the accounts of income and disbursements will be immediately laid before you.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:*

Never has the public mind of Britain been so agitated as at present on the important subject of emigration to the British colonies. Tens of thousands of men able and willing to work, and who are to a certain extent a burden upon the charities of the mother country, could in many portions of our Dominion at once earn a comfortable subsistence, and within a few years become thrifty farmers, as thousands have already done, and add materially to the strength of the Empire. I trust you will devise such measures as will secure to this Province a share of the prospective immigration to the Dominion sufficient to supply the present demand for farm labour and lead to the early occupation of our wilderness lands.

No subject of greater moment can be entrusted to you than the education of the youth of the Province in order to their early preparation for an intelligent performance of the duties of citizenship. And accordingly a measure relating to this important subject will be laid before you.

It will be well for you to consider whether the provisions of the law disqualifying a certain class of persons from being elected to or holding seats in the Assembly of this Province should not be extended to both branches of the Legislature, and include officers and others under the Federal Government.

The speech concludes with an expression of the hope that we may always be self-reliant, transmitting to our posterity a British heritage rich in everything that can ensure stability and command the affectionate loyalty of an intelligent and prosperous people.