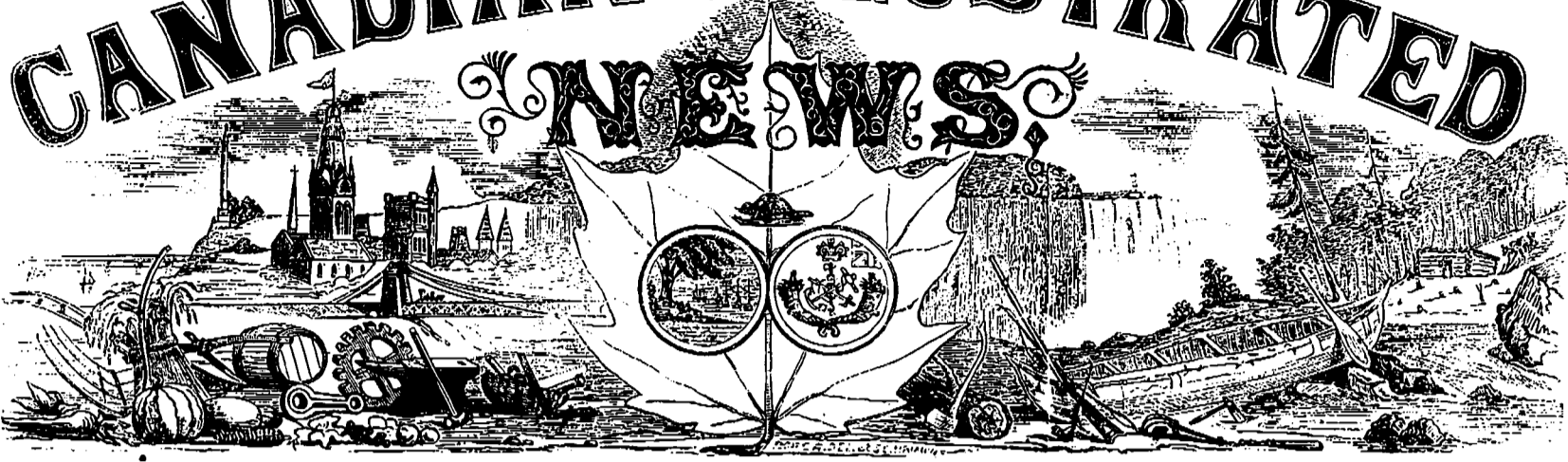


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THE HON. JOHN SANDFIELD MACDONALD, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA.

This week we publish a portrait of the Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald, and, herewith append a memoir of the eminent career of this foremost gentleman of Canada. Mr. Macdonald is the only member of the House of Assembly who has not missed re-election to Parliament since he first entered it in 1841. He is therefore the 'Father of the House' at the early age of fifty; and is the only Canadian Statesman who has been consecutively Solicitor General, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Attorney General, and First Minister of the Crown. The two latter offices, in addition to that of Minister of Militia affairs, he fills at the present time.

John Sandfield Macdonald was born at St. Raphael, in the County of Glengarry, Upper Canada, on the 20th December, 1812, on the property owned and entailed by his grandfather, a Scottish Highlander and Roman Catholic, who settled there in 1786. Remarkable for a spirit of independence, even in his earliest youth, and before he had yet begun to master the rudiments of an elementary education, he resolved to shape his own course in life. Firm in that resolution, and despite the energetic interference of his father, as well as the milder entreaties of his grandmother (his mother died whilst he was yet very young,) he became the uncontrolled arbiter of his own destiny, at an age when youths of his class are generally altogether dependent, for their support and advancement in the world upon their relatives and friends. Thus starting in life, without any of those adventitious circumstances which, when attended by ordinary good fortune and with the exercise of common prudence, usually render its road comparatively easy, it is clear that Mr. Macdonald must not only have worked hard, but that he is possessed of great abilities to have attained

his present eminent, social, and political position. Indeed, his history may be regarded as one of the most extraordinary in the annals of Canadian biography. An account of his youthful adventures and upward progress might be suggestive of philosophic remark, and would be welcome to those who delight to know the 'child who is father to the man';

but our limited space forbids us to fill up the blank. Perseverance, integrity, a high sense of personal honor, these were his early incentives to success, guided by an intuitive knowledge of human character. In the month of November, 1832, after having followed various occupations, he commenced attending school

at Cornwall, under the able tuition of Dr. Urquart, whose students have been invariably received by the Benchers of the Law Societies. That town was then one of the strongholds of the 'Family Compactism' which so long dominated in Upper Canada. Many of its hopeful seions attended school with him there, but none carried their heads higher

than Mr. Macdonald, then a tall and distinguished looking youth. At the first examination, two years after his entrance, he was ahead of all his school-fellows.— Having decided to enter the legal profession, Mr. Macdonald, in the early part of 1835, passed the Law Society and became a Student-at-Law. Later in the same year he was articled to the Hon.— Archibald McLean, the present Chief Justice of Upper Canada, then a practising barrister at Cornwall. When Mr. McLean, who had been previously Speaker of the Upper Canada House of Assembly, was elevated to the Bench, our student entered, at Toronto, the office of Mr. Draper, now Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and finished under him his course of legal studies in 1840.

In the month of June of that year, Mr. Macdonald was called to the bar, having for some months previously practised as an Attorney, at Cornwall. Since then he has followed his profession in that town; and having at an early period built up a lucrative practice, he has, contrary to the usual rule with Canadian politicians, managed to retain and increase it, so that when he was called to his present position as Prime Minister, it was larger than at any former period. By this means, and, as it is believed, by the profitable results of fortunate investments in landed property, he has been able to maintain a position of pecuniary independence, which has conducted very greatly to his political as well as his personal freedom of action. Mr. Macdonald first came upon the public stage as a candidate for the representation of his native county, at the first election which took place after the Union of the Lower and Upper Provinces, in 1841; and, falsifying in his case the proverb that 'A prophet hath no honor in his own country,' was returned by a large majority over his opponent, the late Mr. McDonell, Deputy Adjutant General for Upper Canada, an old and tried politician who had frequently represented the county. It was in the first



HON. JOHN SANDFIELD MACDONALD, (PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA.)