

a general store on his own account, and during a visit to Scotland, in 1833, married his cousin, Miss Christina McGregor, daughter of a Glasgow cotton spinner. Three years later he was elected for the county of Lanark in the old Upper Canada Assembly. Sir Francis Bond Head was now strutting abroad through the Province, and exasperating the people by the manner in which he treated their requests for redress from political grievances. Against this mock tragedian, Mr. Cameron brought the force of his strong individuality. He who had fought for everything that he had possessed was not likely to defer to the unearned powers and positions of the dominant family compact. He opposed that combination with might and main, and though at the first his exertions seemed not unlike the sea flinging itself against the base of an invincible cliff, after a while the great fabric was seen to shiver, and then to begin rocking. In the parliament and upon the hustings he opposed oligarchy, favouritism, and corruption, advocated responsible government, and declared loudly for separation of church and state. Under Lord Bagot's administration he was Inspector of Revenue without a seat in the Cabinet; he had already refused the Inspector-Generalship under Sydenham. Under the Baldwin-Lafontaine administration he held a seat in the Cabinet. He was once President of the Council, again Commissioner of Public Works; was also Minister of Agriculture as well as Postmaster-General. Upon the Hinks reconstruction, in 1851, he became President of the Council. With Dr. John Rolph, somewhat after this time, he was the leader of the advanced radical element. In 1854 he was not sent to parliament, but in 1858 he was returned for Lambton again. In 1863 he withdrew from parliamentary life, and became, conjointly with Mr. George Desbarats, Queen's printer. In 1869 he was unsuccessful in contesting South Renfrew, and two years later he was defeated for South Lanark, in his contest for the local legislature. In 1874 he was successful again, being sent to the Commons for South Ontario. This seat he held till his death, which occurred at Ottawa, on the 1st of June, 1876. He was instrumental in the passage of much useful legislation, and strenuously advocated the abolition of imprisonment for debt. In public life he always kept his hands pure. His mercantile career was a chequered one, and he died a poor man, leaving little behind him save an irreproachable name.

Blake, Hon. Samuel Hume, Q.C., of Toronto, ex-Vice Chancellor of Ontario, long senior Vice-Chancellor of the University of Toronto, is the second son of the late Honourable William Hume Blake, and brother of the Honourable Edward Blake. He was born at the City of Toronto, on the 31st August, 1835. Elsewhere, in this volume the parentage of the subject of the present sketch is referred to (see the Hon. W. H. Blake, p. 53, and Hon. Edward Blake, p. 19). Samuel Blake received his early educational instruction at home, under the private tutorship of Mr. Courtney, and other gentlemen. In his eighth year he was sent to Upper Canada College, and the record which remains of his career here, shows that his intellect ripened at a very early age. He was a lad of great industry, and he is said to have had an almost phenomenal capacity for the mastery of his lessons. These qualities were, however, not the most striking ones in the boy. At his father's fire-side he had received unusually careful and thorough training in elocution, and when he passed into the public school, he became the wonder and emulation of the classes. Mr. Barron, the principal of the school, was in the habit of holding him up as an example to the other boys; and Lord Elgin, who attended a public examination held at the college, paid an eloquent tribute to this special accomplishment of the school-boy. On leaving college, he felt his tastes drawing him towards commercial life, and he entered the firm of Ross, Mitchell & Co., where he remained for four years. Before the period expired, he was convinced that commerce was not, after all, to his taste, and accordingly he passed the preliminary legal examination before the Law Society, and entered upon a study of law in the office of his uncle, the late Dr. Skeffington Connor. He was fired with the ambition to take a University degree now, and with amazing courage began the labours of the double study of law and arts. In 1858, he graduated as B.A., and he was admitted in the same year to the bar. Immediately he entered into partnership with his brother, and the firm became known as that of E. & S. H. Blake. It is hardly necessary to say how popular this new firm speedily grew. A legal firm with two such brains as those possessed by Edward Blake and by S. H. Blake, could not long remain in the shadow. Business increased at such a rate, that in 1872, our subject's professional income reached closely to \$15,000 per annum. When Mr. Mowat, now premier of Ontario, retired from the vice-chancellorship