

porations, besides having an extensive general practice. Mr. Macdonald was made Queen's Counsel in 1890. It is only lately that he has appeared in public life. Several times he has been urged to allow himself to be put forward as a candidate for important representative positions, but having no desire for political preferment, and knowing from his relationship with the greatest of them all that the life of a public man was not so pleasant as those who are merely ambitious believe it to be, he always had himself excused. In the Dominion general elections of March, 1891, however, it was so strongly urged upon him that the party's interests would be safer in his hands than in those of any other person, he consented to run. His opponent was Mr. Isaac Campbell, also a prominent lawyer and the man who more than any other was the rising hope of the Liberal party. The contest, though free from personal rancour, was fiercely fought on either side. Mr. Macdonald was successful, his majority being 509. In the House of Commons he is thoroughly popular. He does not seem ambitious to shine in debate, but he speaks when he thinks occasion requires. He is an easy and graceful speaker, more finished in style than any but the most practised debaters in the House. He is without the mannerisms which marked the speeches of the late Premier, but his style has much of the directness which was the chief claim of Sir John Macdonald to rank as an orator. Mr. Macdonald has always taken an active interest in military affairs, and has seen more active service than many a veteran volunteer. His experience began with his seventeenth year. The Fenians were expected to cross from opposite Cornwall and a large force of volunteers was encamped at that town in order to meet the invaders. Mr. Macdonald was then a private in the 14th Princess of Wales' Own Rifles, one of the battalions making up the defending force. There was no fighting on that occasion, the display of force being enough to warn the Fenians off. Again in 1876, when the first expedition under Col. Wolseley (now General Lord Wolseley), went from the eastern provinces to suppress the uprising of the Métis, under Riel, Mr. Macdonald was ensign in the First Ontario Rifles. In Riel's second rebellion, in 1885, the corps which did the greatest service and lost most heavily in killed and wounded was the gallant 90th Battalion of Winnipeg. In this regiment Mr. Macdonald held the post of captain of No. 1 company, which, with No. 3, suffered the severest losses of the campaign. The bravery of the Winnipeg boys at Fish Creek and Batoche is a matter of history of which all Canadians are proud. Mr. Macdonald has now retired from the service, retaining his rank. Mr. Macdonald is a member of the Church of Scotland. He

was married on the 1st March, 1876, to Jane, daughter of W. A. Murray, Esq., of Toronto. She died in 1881. In 1883, he was married again to Agnes Gertrude, daughter of Salter J. Vankoughnet, Q.C., of Toronto.

ALEXANDER MACLEAN,

Ottawa, Ont.

THE subject of this biographical sketch, Mr. Alexander MacLean, President of the Canadian Granite Company, Ottawa, was born in South Dumfries, Brant county, Dec. 9th, 1834. His parents were John MacLean and his wife Isabella McRae, both of them natives of Invernessshire, Scotland. Of their family of eight children, Alexander was the fifth. Two years before his birth, the family emigrated to Canada and settled in Dumfries, where the father took up land and engaged in farming. As Alexander grew up he attended the public school, and subsequently the Paris grammar school, acquiring in both a good English education. When he reached his twentieth year, he entered upon the profession of teaching, but in this he continued only a year, abandoning it to accept a clerkship in the village of Ayr. Thence he removed to Paris, and afterwards to Stratford, where he found a vocation in the lumber business. In 1861 he made another change, this time taking up newspaper work, for which after-developments showed he was specially well adapted. He established the *Mitchell Reformer*, which he conducted with marked ability until the year 1865, when he sold out and took editorial charge of the *Cornwall Freeholder*, then the home organ of the late Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald. In this charge he remained till near the close of 1872, when he withdrew from it to accept the position of Ottawa correspondent of the *Toronto Globe*, filling this important post to the entire acceptance of his employers and of the Reform party generally. This was during the exciting times of the Pacific Railway Scandal, which culminated in the resignation of Sir John Macdonald's government in 1873. Shortly after this event, he retired from the *Globe* staff and joined Mr. John C. Roger (now alderman), in the purchase of the *Ottawa Times*, this leading to the formation of the since well-known firm of Messrs. MacLean, Roger & Co. For two years the paper was conducted by the firm in the Liberal interest, when they sold it to Mr. A. M. Burgess, the present Deputy-Minister of the Interior. In the meantime, the firm had secured the contract for the government and parliamentary printing, and this they carried on successfully until July, 1888, when the work was taken over by the Government on