

## OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 10.—HON. PETER MITCHELL,  
MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.

WHATEVER else Confederation may have done for the people of "old" Canada, it has certainly made them better acquainted with their fellow-provincials of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; and this better acquaintance has undoubtedly been the source of no little mutual advantage. Of course the politicians and the public men of the Province of Canada knew the politicians and public men of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and *vice versa*; but the great mass of the people of the separated Provinces were assuredly strangers to each other, when in 1864 the *fiat* went forth from the Quebec Conference that they should be united under one government. The Confederation scheme was the principal "issue" at two general elections in New Brunswick. At the first, in 1865, the victory was with the "Antis;" but the general election, the following year, gave a crushing majority for the Union cause. Towards the accomplishment of the latter result the gentleman whose name heads these remarks played a conspicuous and important part.

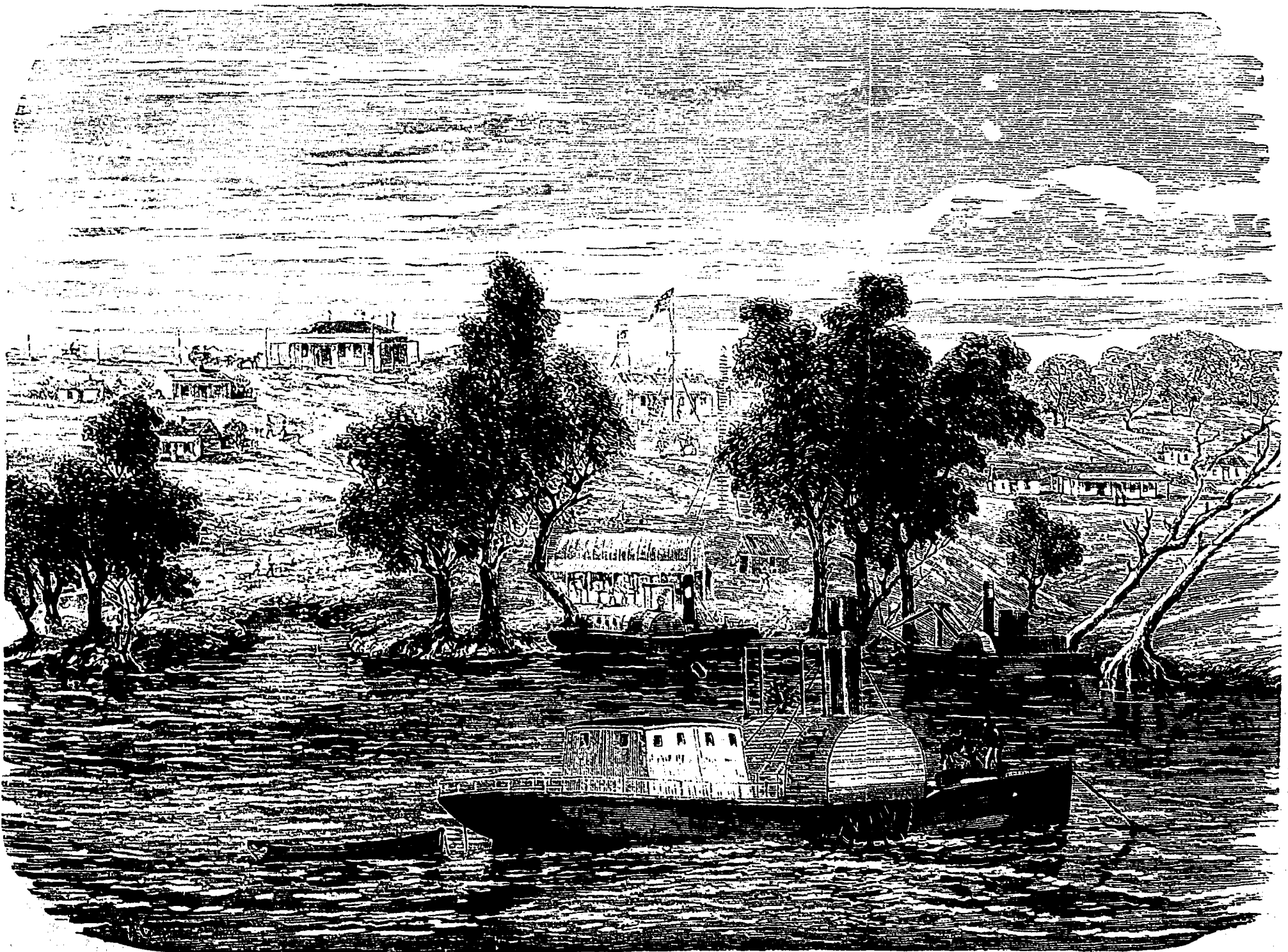
Peter Mitchell is of Scottish descent, and if he lacks the "canny" qualities supposed to belong to the race, he certainly more than makes up for the deficiency by a generous endowment of the *perfidium ingenium*, which, centuries ago, was recognized as the peculiar property of the Scotch. It puzzles us, sometimes,



HON. PETER MITCHELL.—From a photograph by Notman.

to understand why the Scotch should ever have achieved the reputation of "canny,"—"cool,"—"calculating," &c., &c., when we see the dash and daring, the almost reckless positivism in his own way, of every Scotsman who, beyond the chilly borders of his own country, has risen to distinction. And certainly Mr. Mitchell does not help us out of the puzzle. Instead of illustrating a career of cold and judicious calculation, biding time, and taking opportunities, we find him forming conclusions and sticking to them against all odds—carrying his point, or losing it, undisguisedly, in the very face of his opponents; making of every issue a square stand-up fight, and going down with his principle or bringing it into successful operation, as the fortunes of the contest happen to decide.

His parents settled in New Brunswick in 1818, and Mr. Mitchell was born at Newcastle, Miramichi, in 1824. We learn from that excellent and useful publication, Morgan's *Parliamentary Companion*, that he was admitted to the New Brunswick Bar in 1848; but it does not appear that he subsequently devoted much attention to the law, for he engaged in ship-building and lumbering, and we believe that in these lines he still carries on extensive establishments at his native place. When but a young man (32) in 1856, he entered the political arena, and as a member of the Liberal party was returned for his own county, Northumberland, which he continued to represent till 1860, when he was appointed a life member of the Legislative Council. He was a member of the Executive Council, in



BLANCHETOWN, ON THE MURRAY, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—SEE PAGE 298.