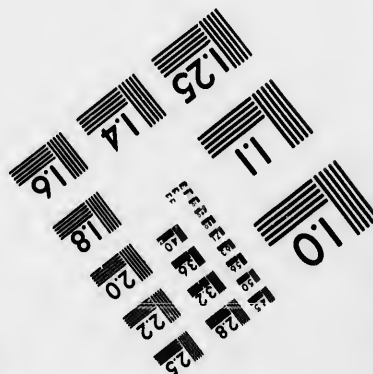
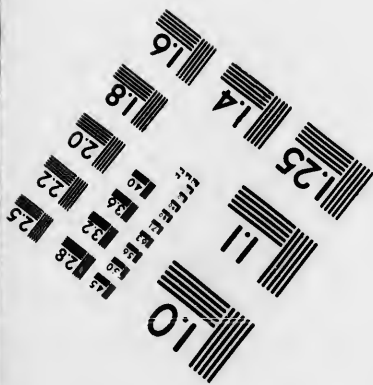
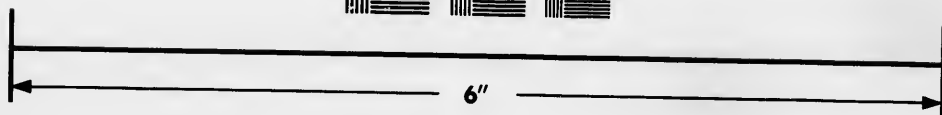
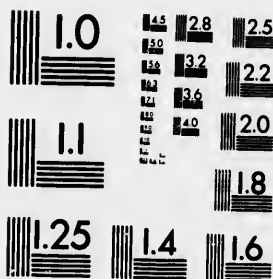


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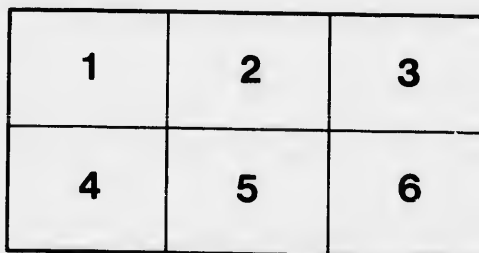
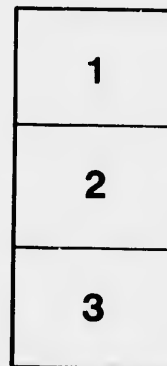
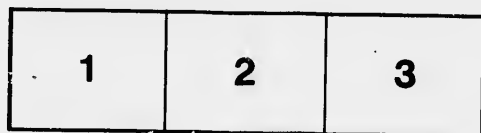
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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS

ON THE RETIREMENT OF

The Hon. Sir Allan Napier MacNab, Bt.

DUNDURN,

From the Representation of the



CITY OF HAMILTON,

IN THE

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.



HAMILTON :

PRINTED BY GILLESPIE & ROBERTSON, COURT HOUSE SQUARE.

1857.

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The resignation of the Hon'ble and Gallant Baronet took place on the 24th October, 1857, and was announced by the following Address, in the *Hamilton Spectator*, on the 26th.

TO THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF THE
CITY OF HAMILTON.

GENTLEMEN,—I deeply regret that the state of my health is such that I am unable longer to discharge my duty in Parliament with justice to you, or satisfaction to myself. I therefore feel that the time has arrived for me to retire from a position that it has been the pride of my life to enjoy. I would have taken this step at the close of the last Session, had I not believed there would have been a general election, and I was unwilling to give you the trouble and annoyance of a second contest; however, from the best information I can obtain, I am inclined to the belief there will not be a dissolution of Parliament. I have therefore transmitted my resignation to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, that you may have ample time to select a member in my place.

Most sincerely do I thank you, gentlemen, for the kind and cordial support you have accorded me during nine successive Parliaments in which I have had the honor of representing either the county or city.

The best portion of my life has been spent amongst you; and I can say *with truth*, that during this long

period my best energies have been devoted to the interests of my constituents, and the honor of my country.

One word more before we part, and that is—if, in times of trial and great excitement, I have erred, I trust you will kindly ascribe it to an error of the head, and not the heart.

Believe me, Gentlemen,

I shall ever remain,

Your greatly obliged

And very faithful friend,

ALLAN NAPIER MACNAB.

DUNDURN, Oct. 24, 1857.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

RESIGNATION OF SIR A. N. MACNAB.

(From the *Hamilton Spectator*, Oct. 26.)

With feelings such as must have been experienced by all who are about to be separated from an old and valued friend, we to-day record the retirement from public life of one who for upwards of twenty years has been the acknowledged leader of the party for whose interests we have battled ever since the establishment of this journal. For nearly thirty years Sir Allan MacNab has occupied the most prominent public position of any man in Canada. During all that time he has served his country faithfully, both in the Council and the field, and now retires into private life only because he feels himself incapacitated, through ill-health, to perform with justice to his constituents and satisfaction to himself, the important duties devolv-

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ing upon him as a Member of the Legislature. In thus yielding up the trust reposed in him by the electors of this city, Sir Allan carries with him into his retirement the respect and good will of all. No man ever enjoyed a larger share of the confidence of the people of this country than he has done; for, notwithstanding his thorough party views and fearless expression of them, he has ever shared the respect of the majority of those from whom he conscientiously differed in opinion. His opponents have been neither few nor insignificant, yet he feared not to stand up boldly in defence of the principles he advocated; while some of his bitterest antagonists have been compelled, by a sense of justice, to own that he was not actuated by unworthy motives, in contending for the interests of his party. There are many, it is true, who have condemned both his motives and actions unsparingly; fortunately, however, this outburst of displeasure was but the ebullition of the moment, and when the excitement died away, the wrath of the gallant Knight's aspersers was silenced, or at least greatly mollified, and the abuse now heaped upon him is solely confined to the mere mouthpieces of a fanatical clique. His long connexion with Parliamentary duties gave him a decided advantage over his brother members, and he was frequently appealed to in matters of difficulty and dispute, alike by friends and foes. As a party tactician he had few if any equals, and struggled against difficulties which others would have succumbed to, or feared to encounter. This will readily be acknowledged by all who have closely watched Sir Allan's political career. His absence from the Assembly will cause a void not easily to be filled, and his loss will be equally regretted by the country and the electors of this city. To Sir Allan MacNab Canada is indebted for its preservation as an integral portion of the British dominions; and to him Hamilton owes a lasting debt of gratitude for having, by his exertions, placed it in the proud position of the third commercial city in the Province. Some of his opponents have attempted to rob him of the credit of having accomplished anything for the benefit of the place in which he has resided

ever since it was a mere hamlet ; but his works speak for themselves, and we need only point to that noble monument, the Great Western Railway !

He has now retired from the arena of public life, to enjoy that repose so necessary to his health, and we fondly indulge the hope—in which we feel confident all his friends will join us—that he may be long spared to look back with pleasure upon his past eventful career.

It may not be out of place here to give a brief retrospect of Sir Allan's life, which we have no doubt will be gratifying to his many friends.

Sir Allan Napier MacNab, Bart., of Dundurn, was born at Niagara, in 1798, and is of Scottish extraction. His grandfather, Major Robert MacNab, of the 42nd regiment, or Black Watch, was Royal Forester in Scotland, and resided on a small property called Dundurn, at the head of Loch Hearn. His father entered the army in Her Majesty's 71st regiment, and was subsequently promoted to a Dragoon regiment. He was attached to the staff of General Simcoe during the revolutionary war ; after its close, he accompanied General Simcoe to this country. He married the youngest daughter of Captain William Napier, Commissioner of the Port of Quebec. When the Americans attacked Toronto, Sir Allan, then a boy at school, was one of a number of boys selected as able to carry a musket ; and after the authorities surrendered the city, he retreated with the army to Kingston, when through the instrumentality of Sir Roger Sheaf, a friend of his father's, he was rated as midshipman on board Sir James Yeo's ship, and accompanied the expedition to Sackett's Harbor, Genesee, and other places on the American side of the Lake. Finding promotion rather slow, he left the Navy and joined the 100th regiment, under Colonel Murray, and was with them when they reoccupied the Niagara frontier. He crossed with the advanced guard at the storming and taking of Fort Niagara. For his conduct in this affair he was honored with an Ensigncy in the 49th regiment. He was with General Ryall at Fort Erie, and crossed the river with him when Black Rock and

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Buffalo were burned, in retaliation for the destruction of Niagara, a few months previous. After the termination of this campaign, Sir Allan joined his regiment in Montreal, and shortly after marched with them to the attack of Plattsburg. On the morning of the attack, he had the honor of commanding the advanced guard at the Saranac Bridge. At the reduction of the army in 1816 or 1817, he was placed on half pay. He then commenced the study of the law, and during this time was employed as copying clerk and Clerk of the Journals in the Legislative Assembly, and when the Parliament of Upper Canada was extinguished by the Act of Union, Sir Allan was Speaker. He was subsequently elected Speaker of the united Legislatures. He was called to the Bar in 1825, and commenced the practice of his profession in Hamilton, where he was for many years a most successful practitioner, having all the most important business in the District. He was then appointed Queen's Counsel, the first appointment of the kind in Upper Canada.— He was first elected to Parliament in 1829, we believe along with the Hon. John Willson, for the County of Wentworth, and after serving in three Parliaments, was returned for the town of Hamilton, in opposition to Mr. Harrison, the Government nominee. He has been opposed successively since then, by Messrs. Tiffany, Freeman and Buchanan.

Sir Allan's zeal and efficiency as a Militia officer during the troubles of 1837-'8 are fresh in the memories of all. He did not wait for the insurrection to reach Hamilton, but went with the "Men of Gore" first to Toronto, afterwards to the West, and then to the Frontier, during which time he commanded the Militia. His time and means were liberally given in defence of his country; the speedy termination of the troubles in Upper Canada was due to his activity and zeal. His services were duly appreciated, not only in his native country but by Her Majesty's Government. He received the thanks of Her Majesty, of Lord Seaton, the two Parliaments of Canada, (he being Speaker of the Lower House,) and also received the thanks of the Legislatures of the sister-Provinces.

Sir Allan MacNab, though always consistent, proved himself to be more liberal than many of his opponents have been inclined to give him credit for. It is known to all our readers how ably he battled for the retention of the Clergy Reserves; yet finding that the country was averse to the continuance of the Reserves, he gracefully yielded to the wishes of the people, and finally effected a settlement of the vexed question, after the boasted champions of its abolition had failed to carry out their oft renewed pledge. He has been in the House of Assembly for nine successive Parliaments, and was never absent from his place for a week except during the last two sessions, when illness confined him to his house. But now, when he finds himself unable to discharge his duties as heretofore, contrary to the generally expressed wishes of his old friends, he has resigned the trust reposed in him by the electors of this city. Having been born and brought up in Canada, and entering public life while but a very young man, he has been identified with every public movement for the last 40 years. He became Prime Minister in 1854, and during his administration, the Clergy Reserve question was set at rest; the Reciprocity Act was passed, the Seigniorial Tenure difficulties were adjusted, and the Militia Act was, we believe, Sir Allan's last measure, the admirable results of which are now generally admitted. Sir Allan was knighted in 1838, and was created a Baronet on his retirement from the office of Premier in 1856. Had he exerted himself as zealously for his own interests as he has for those of the public, there is no doubt that Sir Allan would have been one of the wealthiest men in the Province. As we have already said, he carries with him into his retirement the hearty good will and esteem of his many friends; and while they cannot but regret to lose him as their representative in Parliament, they feel that he has taken the only course which a sense of duty to his constituents, as well as to himself, seemed to point out. Their only consolation is in the hope of finding a competent successor to Sir Allan, to fill the void his retirement has caused.

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(From the *Toronto Globe*.)

In another place will be found the address of Sir Allan to his constituents, announcing the resignation of his seat in Parliament. He delayed this announcement until the present moment, in the expectation that there would not be another session until after a general election. Ascertaining now, "from the best information he could obtain," that there will not be a dissolution, he has sent his resignation to the Speaker, in order that the electors of Hamilton may have ample time to choose a successor.

Sir Allan MacNab retires from public life at a time, and under circumstances, which will prevent the expression of any other feeling, even by those who have opposed him from his advent to his exit, than that of good-will. His name is associated with some of the most important events in Canadian history, and though for a long period of his life he stoutly resisted the liberal ideas and movements of the time, he ultimately relaxed in his opposition, and adopting "Railroads" as his motto, worked cordially with men to whom he was politically opposed in introducing these improvements. His renunciation of high conservative doctrine in regard to the Clergy Reserves, was made, unfortunately, on the eve of his elevation to the Premiership, a circumstance which induced some to question the sincerity of his motives. But for our own part we never doubted that Sir Allan had long before made up his mind that secularization was inevitable, and that he must submit to it. That he would yield as little as possible—would retain for his Church as much as he could—was what all parties expected. His measure, therefore, or the measure of his government, disappointed no one when it proved to be a compromise. The shabby manner in which he was ejected from the Government by his colleagues, created very general sympathy in his favour. He was regarded as the most upright of the batch. He was believed to be a restraint to some extent, upon their profligacy and the public felt that when the bluff old Knight left the Council table, corruption, unabashed, would stalk in and reign in his stead.

Though differing widely from the views and policy of the gallant Knight, especially in past times, we are sure we express the feeling of a majority of our readers when we say, that we hope he may live to enjoy many happy days in the retirement which he now seeks.

From the *Toronto Leader*, (Ministerial.)

The ultimate retirement of Sir Allan MacNab from the active stage of public life has been announced in an address published by himself. During the last few years, how many old political stagers have passed out of sight? It seems but the other day, when the names of Aylwin, Baldwin, Lafontaine, Sullivan, Price, Draper, Sherwood and several others, were pronounced as the chiefs and prominent men of the two opposing parties into which the state was divided. Of these not one now remains in the political arena. Some have been gathered to their last homes; some removed to other spheres of duty; and some have preferred to go into the retirement of private life. It is impossible to look back on the history of parties, and the prominent men connected with them in this province for a period of fifteen years, without being struck with the fact, that an extraordinary consumption of public men, so to speak, takes place among us. At the rate we have been going on, we shall use up half a dozen generations of public men in a single age. No wonder that, when we look back upon the past and forward to the future, we should have some misgivings lest this mode of dealing with our public servants should lead to a deterioration in the quality of the article. We cannot reasonably hope to supply public men of even second-rate abilities at the rate we have been, politically speaking, destroying those who, for the last ten or fifteen years, have served us. The weakening of the forces of political parties, by the rapid successive removal of their leaders is, doubtless, due to various causes. In this country, few are born to riches; and almost every man has to carve out his own fortune. Political life, whatever may be its other attractions, has not, as a general rule, brought

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riches to those who have engaged in it. Lawyers, with a chance of success in their own profession, have entered political life, almost invariably at a sacrifice of their own private interests; and it is not surprising, if many of them have shown a desire to escape from the profitless arena, which had been the scene of their pecuniary ruin, to the judiciary, where they were at least secured in the enjoyment of a moderate fixed salary. Then, again, the rough handling which our public men have generally met has caused some of them to embrace the opportunity of finally retiring into private life. Thus, while in England there are party chiefs whose names have been before the public for nearly half a century, few public men in Canada have remained inactive, and especially in Ministerial life, for more than a few years. *Sir Allan MacNab is one of the very few public men in this country, who, after a career of a quarter of a century, have finally retired from the incapacity which age or infirmity induces.*

Sir Allan MacNab was a strong party man for a great number of years. He was so because times were prolific of partizanship, and because great principles divided those who contended for the supremacy of opinion and power. Sir Allan, however, outlived the days of violent partizanship; and in accordance with the new tendency of things, he ceased to be a strong partizan. The battle of political partizanship had in his person, during a long series of years, been fought and finally lost. He was among those who, to the last, opposed the introduction of Responsible Government; but accepted the change when it had been effected. Equally too had he opposed the secularizing of the Clergy Reserves; but seeing the question unmistakably decided in a general election, he again accepted the result, and became a member of the Government which confirmed in Parliament the victory of the polls. Sir Allan, doubtless, was not a faultless politician; *but this may, at least, be said in extenuation of many of his errors, that they were the fault of the times in which he played a prominent part.*
Sir Allan leaves no post for any successor to fill;

he seems literally to have completed the work assigned to him, and left no arrears for a successor to work off. The last general election was the last in which it will ever be possible to go to the country on the principles which Sir Allan then held. The two old parties fell to pieces whenever the principles over which they had fought had ceased to be in question; and out of the remnants of both, a new and moderate party was formed. That party now holds the reigns of power.—Who is to be its chief and what its future, are questions of some moment. In regard to the first question, everything points to the Hon. John A. McDonald, as the man, who for some time to come, will play the chief part in the affairs of this country. In all free countries, there is almost invariably some one who occupies a commanding position over all competitors. The position which was once occupied by Mr. Draper in Upper Canada, then by Mr. Baldwin, and subsequently by Mr. Hincks, the present Governor of Barbadoes, seems pretty certain of being filled, for some time to come, by the present Attorney General for Canada West. As a parliamentary debater, Mr. Macdonald is literally without a rival in the present house.—The moderate and liberal opinions which he holds are shared by a vast majority of the people of Upper Canada. He possesses, in addition to those qualities, and that is at least, equally important to a public man—the faculty of making friends and retaining them. The proved liberality of his opinions renders him acceptable to the whole body of the Reformers, except the infinitesimal offshoot, usually designated by the term of Clear Grits; while the large body of Conservatives, who have seen the necessity of becoming progressive, continue to give him their full confidence. With such powerful backers there is every human probability that Mr. Macdonald will be in a position to play the chief part in the game of Canadian politics for the next four or five years.—As to the great combined party of which he is the recognized leader, it is abundantly clear that there is nothing in Upper Canada to stand against it. The Clear Grits cannot count more than one-fourth or at

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most than one-third of the electoral population of Upper Canada ; and it is very doubtful, were an election to take place to-morrow, that they would be able to carry a dozen constituencies. Whatever victories they obtained in the electoral contest of 1854 was due, in almost every instance, to their union with a party which, having become liberalized, now forms one of the chief supports of the present Administration. At the next election, come when it will, it is evident that the Clear Grits must stand alone in the contest ; and without allies, they cannot hope for anything like a respectable amount of success. If these calculations are correct—and it would be difficult we fancy to prove that they are not—we are quite safe in predicting that come what will, there is every chance of Mr. Macdonald playing the chief part in Canadian politics, provided he uses wisely the means at his disposal, during the remainder of this, and the whole of the next Parliament.

(From the Dundas *Warder*.)

The *Spectator* of yesterday made an announcement, which, though it very probably was expected by some, yet, to a great many it will be a matter of surprise.— We allude to the resignation of the member for the City of Hamilton—Sir Allan Napier MacNab. This gentleman, for a number of years, has represented the people of Hamilton with great satisfaction—shown by his repeated return to parliament ; but now as old age is creeping on, Sir Allan, very naturally, experiencing the infirmities consequent upon the advancement of years, has wisely concluded to spend the remainder of his days in retirement. The occurrence of this event of course leaves a blank which must be filled up. Who the 'coming man' will be we are not enabled exactly to tell, as sufficient time has not elapsed to admit of indulging in surmises. However, in a day or two we will most probably be in possession of the names of the candidates for the Representation. The *Spectator*, in alluding to this event, gives a retrospect of Sir Allan's life, which at once goes to show that the venerable gentleman has done much to serve his country, and that a life of activity has indeed been his.

(From the *Quebec Colonist*.)

Sir Allan MacNab has taken a long leave of political life—its honors and toils. Of the latter we believe it has been the worthy Baronet's lot to partake in a degree far exceeding the amount enjoyed by him of the former. He has long,—some forty years—been in active service, civil and military, but not till the late period of 1854 did he reach a position which could afford anything like substantial power and emolument. During the Administration of Earl Cathcart, soon after the retirement of Lord Metcalfe, he possessed for a *fleeting moment* a Commission which of all others it was understood he ambitioned, and to which the country at large allowed he had fair claim—that of Adjutant General of Militia. We have said that his enjoyment of his desired rank was brief. Indeed he never entered upon the duties, having been obligated by a sense of honor to resign within a few days. The history of that case is curious, and has about it a feature of what we could almost call *retributive justice*. Sir Allan was appointed by Earl Cathcart *with the understanding* that his Deputy should be a Colonel Cameron, a military friend of his residing in Upper Canada.—Indeed the Commission of the latter was also made out and if we mistake not was actually posted. Whether all this was done by the advice or with the concurrence of the then Premier, Mr. Draper, is not known, but it was suspected that the *Governor General* (acting on the views of his predecessor, Lord Metcalfe, that he was bound to consult his Ministry only upon "adequate occasions"—he, the Governor, being the judge of the *adequacy*.)—had not sought the advice of his Executive on the subject. Be that as it may, Mr. Draper insisted upon the appointment of the Deputy being cancelled—on *the principles of Responsible Government*, principles which Sir Allan had all his life opposed, and which in company with the same Mr. Draper he had just before worked hard to subvert at the instance of the "paternal despot," Metcalfe. The Devil, they tell us "can quote Scripture for his purpose." There is no doubt that Mr. Draper, in invoking a rule which he had denied the benefit of to Mr. Bald-

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win, had his "purpose" in view; and except so far as it shewed that he could simulate and deceive, it cannot be said that the action taken was politically wrong.—It arose thus: Parliament was in session, and Mr. Draper's majority vibrated from one to three,—the downfall of his government was at the moment imminent. Several of his supporters, taking advantage of the position of things, signed a round robin, demanding the appointment of Colonel Macdonell as Deputy Adjutant General. The Premier had no alternative between seeing himself beaten on the first division that might arise, and going straightway to His Excellency to submit the name of the parliamentary nominee. In vain did Earl Cathcart plead his plighted word. In vain was it argued that such was not the interpretation of Responsible Government enunciated by Lord Metcalfe, and defended by Mr. Draper himself, during a contest the sounds of which had not yet passed away. *tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis*, quoth Mr. Draper, and forthwith the honest old soldier, Cathcart, had to stoop to an act which must have wrung his very heart. He was compelled to revoke his appointment of Colonel Cameron, and confer the place upon Colonel Macdonell! Sir Allan, seeing himself and his friends thus treated; seeing that the very condition upon which he had accepted office was in a moment rudely violated, spiritedly threw up his Commission, resumed his place in Parliament, and publicly told of the insult and wrong to which Mr. Draper had subjected Earl Cathcart and himself. But oh! what a triumph for the friends of Responsible (Parliamentary) Government. Mr. Baldwin was too good a man to seek revenge. He, however, felt it to be due to his party to shew in full detail, and have recorded this signal proof of the insincerity of Mr. Draper and others in their former opposition to his constitutional demand to be *consulted* as to the appointments, and to be informed before any one else of his Excellency's determination, in order to be able to examine *in time*, how far he could, consistly with his responsibility to Parliament, assent to the patronage being so dispensed. For this it had been given out, and re-

echoed throughout the land, that he, Mr. Baldwin and his colleagues, had sought to make Sir Charles Metcalfe "a tool." Now it could be, and was retorted,—“who has best succeeded in making ‘a tool,’ an abject tool, of the Governor General—Mr. Baldwin or Mr. Draper?” There was no repelling this taunt. Neither was there any resisting the practical argument adduced, that it was better and safer for the Governor and his Ministry to speak over such matters in good time, and to take heed to the dictum of Lord Durham, “that since the Revolution of 1688 the very crown in England has been preserved by that wise provision in our Constitution which gives the patronage to the majority of the Commons.” We have said that Sir Allan did not acquire substantial power till 1854. But here again misfortune awaited him. History will probably tell that the amalgamated Ministry was the *deep design* of Lord Elgin, in order, *upon the eve of his return to England*, not only to prostrate his *worst enemies*, but to secure their farewell plaudits; and what, perhaps, was more important still—in view of the conservative feeling in England,—to ensure such a disposition of the Clergy Reserves, as would seem to make safe the rights of all concerned.

Mr. Hincks had little difficulty in adopting Lord Elgin's views. First, because he wished well to His Lordship. Secondly, because he was heartily glad of the chance of check-mating such political traitors as *Galt* and *Holton*. And lastly because there were questions as to unauthorized expenditure by the department of Public Works, which it would have been difficult for a mere party vote to put to rest. Thus did Sir Allan become Premier. It is evident that the concatenation of events which led him to the wool-sack did not promise long life and happiness thereupon.—Neither was his reign long nor happy. The Hincks section of Ministerial supporters ill-brooked his leadership; and he was not blessed with working habits.—Feeble health came also to the aid of his enemies; and some one had the indecency to depute his very Physician to intimate to him on his sick-bed that his resignation was necessary to the safety of the Ministry. The

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rest is known. He was put out ; remained out ; and now he takes his long farewell of greatness. With Sir Allan’s political career as a whole we have had little sympathy ; and it is therefore the more pleasing to us to say that as an opponent he was always manly and above-board ; never was there any difficulty as to what he meant ; and when mistaken as to the merits of a question, he, by his distinct and frank manner, gave his opponent every fair chance of replying.

From the *Kingston News* (Conservative.)

We learn from the *Hamilton Spectator* of Monday, that the venerable Knight of Dundurn has at last yielded to the infirmities against which he has so long manfully battled, and resigned his place in Parliament as member for Hamilton. In announcing the circumstance, the *Spectator* pays a just tribute to the public character of the honorable gentleman, which few who knew him will attempt to gainsay. Our first acquaintance with the public acts of Sir Allan dates from the rebellion of 1837, and, we must acknowledge, the favorable impression made upon our mind by his public spirit and dashing gallantry in that memorable year has not been obliterated by his subsequent career. In common with what remains of the old Conservative party, of which he was the respected and fearless leader, we sincerely wish him every comfort and happiness, and a prolonged existence among us.

From the *Paris Star*, (Clear-Grit.)

The rumours which have prevailed, for some time past, of the intended retirement from public life of Sir A. MacNab, turn out to be well founded. He has made his resignation public, and the citizens of Hamilton have now to look about for a representative.— Ill health is alleged by Sir Allan as his motive for retiring from his position, and little as the Liberal party or progressive legislation are indebted to Sir Allan ; severely as all liberal politicians must condemn the principal acts of his career, the withdrawal of so doughty a combatant from the political ranks will be observed with sadness, and the hope that he may find

ease of body and peace of mind in the retirement of private life will be heartily expressed by all to whom he has hitherto been opposed. This voluntary withdrawal, when infirmities rendered his vigorous performance of duty impossible, is a graceful act, and well becomes the Right Honorable Baronet, whose name is woven inseparably with the early history of Canada.

From the *Montreal Herald*, (Rouge-Grit.)

That the gallant and learned Baronet has done well and wisely in retiring from public life all will admit, while few, indeed, but will regret the cause of his resignation. No man in Canada has played a more prominent part in public life than Sir Allan, or, upon the whole, with more credit to himself and advantage to his country. So far, we are inclined to believe, the more candid, at least, of his political opponents will be ready to concede; and we are satisfied he will carry with him into the retirement of private life the personal regard and esteem of many who have been his firmest opponents as a politician and minister of the crown.

From the *Niagara Mail*. (Independent.)

Sir Allan MacNab has resigned the place of representative of Hamilton, on account, we are sorry to learn, of continued ill health. Sir Allan has been member for Hamilton ever since that place sent a representative to Parliament, that is, over twenty years.

From the *Chatham Planet* (Conservative.)

Although Sir Allan was not of the ultra party that looked to Mackenzie, Rolph, Lafontaine, Papineau and others of a like stamp as its leaders, as he was more Conservative than they, still he always had in all his actions a strong view to the country's material interests and internal prosperity, and at the same time remained consistent in opposing every measure that he deemed would weaken the connection of this Colony with the Mother Country, or in the slightest degree impair the rights of its citizens as free men. In fact, Sir Allan in many things proved himself more progressive and liberal than did many of those with whom he associated. This

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was particularly discernable during the agitation of the Clergy Reserves question from 1850 to 1855. Up to nearly the last period he stood side by side with John Hillyard Cameron for what he then deemed the rights of the Church, and battled manfully for the continuation of the connexion between Church and State. But he saw it was a battle that would not bring a victory—that it was one in which the great mass of the people were against him—in fact one which in these times of equal privileges, of equal rights, of universal freedom of thought and action, the mass of his countrymen were against him; therefore he deemed, like a wise statesman, that it would be better to compromise the matter by conciliation, than by obstinacy to lose the whole. Hence his policy in 1855. The Hon. F. Hincks saw that his two-faced policy could not possibly support him longer, and not being so conscientious as his predecessor the Hon. Robert Baldwin, he resolved to die hard, and if die he must—politically—he would leave the scene of his labors for one perhaps not less profitable and honorable. He secures a Governorship and leaves Canada. But upon whom was to devolve the duty of leader? Mr. Baldwin was too scrupulous to suit the views of his party. The Hon. John Rolph could not command the confidence of the House; and the Hon. Malcolm Cameron was too “gritty.” So, after twisting and turning not a little in their seats, the then Ministers concluded they would either be necessitated to surrender the ship or sink with it. In the whole Reform party, with all their protestations of fearlessness, not a single man could be found to assault the Clergy Reserve Battery. They lacked confidence no less than ability.

But Sir Allan MacNab plainly saw, as we have before stated, that the time had come when a dissolution, in a measure, between Church and State, in Canada at least, must take place, and in order to meet what he deemed to be the requirements of the country, he stepped into the breach, and, single-handed as it were, accomplished alone what an entire party had failed to do—settle the Clergy Reserve question. Of course all our readers are aware of the *modus operandi* by

which this was effected—by Commutation. And there is not a single Municipality in Canada that has not already silently thanked Sir Allan for his action in these premises. With the settlement of this question it may be said the career of this statesman ended, for since his retirement from the Premiership in 1856, very little of a political nature has been performed by Parliament. Still, although the infirmities and age of the gallant Baronet have been known to all, it will surprise many to hear that he has resigned his seat and retired from public life; and the general wish will be that he may long watch the proceedings of that House where he has so often and so ably taken an active part, and that his health may be improved by his absence from that busy and perplexing arena of political life.

(From the *St. Catherines Constitutional*, (Conservative.)

The prominent part taken by Sir Allan in the affairs of this country, extending over a period of more than a quarter of a century, will secure for him a name in the future history of Canada worthy of one of her best and most devoted statesmen, and one that will live in the remembrance of a grateful people, when party rancour and the jaundiced prejudices of the stormy past will have been forgotten. The crowning acts of his political career, though regarded as an enigma by many of his friends and old school tacticians have done much to destroy the bitterness and acerbity of bygone times, and without dwelling upon the expediency or in expediency of the measures which distinguished the close of his administration, it will be generally admitted that their accomplishment broke old party lines, and paved the way for the cultivation of better feelings. He carries with him the good wishes of all parties for his future happiness and a general desire that his life may be long spared to benefit both Queen and country.

(From the *Oakville Sentinel*.)

Sir Allan Napier MacNab has taken a graceful leave of his constituents and retired from public life. The necessity which has caused this step is a matter of

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deep regret to all, and both friends and foes may express a fervent prayer that he may be restored to health and enjoy in retirement the remaining allotted years of life.

That a Parliamentary light has gone out none will deny, and the day is far distant when his equal will be found on that floor. As a political opponent he was a host in himself, as those who have long since passed from amongst us always bore testimony. As a "Speaker" he filled the chair with that dignity peculiar to himself: and as a Premier he brought to the discharge of that important duty the experience of a long political life, and that suavity of manner which oftentimes disarmed opposition. He came to his country's rescue in the days of her need. He led her defence against the disaffected, and restored peace and order. He carried out successfully those important measures which destroyed the demon of party by a graceful concession of opinion at the call of a free people. He united the good men and true of both parties and thus secured the peace and prosperity of his country.

To deny that he had his faults would be presumption, for who has not; but he was sound at heart in his country's service, and it will be long before we see his like again.

We sincerely pray that he may be restored to health, and have many years to enjoy in the retirement of private life.

(From the *Galt Reporter*.)

The most prominent man in Canada has at length retired from public life, leaving a great name for the annals of this great country. That name is intimately connected with all the great events that have occurred in Canada since it reached nationality, and in every case it is found on the side of the people and the sovereignty of Britain. Even when a lad at School, he shouldered a musket to oppose the attack on Toronto, and during all the future outbursts of restless and turbulent spirits, he was ever found the ardent friend of peace, honor, and Britain; and he has lived to see a Province, infested at one time with violent men, who

hated us because we loved our country, raised by the exertions of the people to the dignity of a nation, and soon to assume an attitude of peaceful dignity on all the great movements of other countries. Sir Allan, with the great Roman in the Capitol, has ample time, we hope, to "adjust his mantle ere he fall" into obscurity. He has lived to see his native country great, flourishing, and free; its government in the hands of the people: its loyalty bursting forth on all fitting occasions: its wealth and population tenfold increased; and its mercantile honor held up as an example to all the world. To all these Sir Allan MacNab has contributed a great impetus; and he departs from public life amid the applause of all parties.

[From the *New York Evening Post*.]

The retirement from public life of Sir Allan MacNab, for thirty years one of the most prominent men in Canada, calls forth from the Canadian press many expressions of kindness and regret. This event possesses interest also for the people of this country, to whom no name connected with Canadian politics is so familiar. * * * * *

He became Minister in 1854, and, during his administration, the Clergy Reserves question was set at rest; the Reciprocity Act was passed; the Seigniorial Tenure difficulties were adjusted. The Militia Act was, we believe, Sir Allan's last measure, the good results of which are now generally admitted. Sir Allan was knighted in 1838, and was created a Baronet on his retirement from the office of Premier in 1856. He has been identified with every public improvement in Canada for the last forty years.

The ostensible cause of Sir Allan's retirement is ill-health, which renders him unable to perform his official duties.

[From the *New York Albion*.]

In the fulness of years and of honors, Sir Allan MacNab has retired from the representation of Hamilton, and abandons public life, with the intention of spending his latter days in the land of his fore-

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fathers. Prominent for thirty years in the Provincial service of his country, writing, speaking, administering and fighting, now in office and now out of it, sometimes leading a triumphant party, sometimes heading a vigorous opposition, but an adept in all that constitutes an efficient servant of the State, he has been always loyal and zealous for the well-being and well doing of the Colony. The Colony loses a valuable man in losing him; yet who is not glad to see the veteran putting off his harness, whilst yet he may count on some years of repose? Broken health is the cause pleaded; but we trust that absence from Parliamentary duties and change of climate may enable Sir Allan to shake off his maladies. We have no room to-day for an outline of his biography.

(From the Quebec Chronicle)

The anticipations that must have been formed from the reiterated reports of Sir Allan MacNab's intention to resign his seat in parliament and the successive intimations of his declining health have been realized.— In an address to his constituents, the electors of the city of Hamilton, which we published yesterday, he announces his retirement altogether from public life.— The gallant Baronet, full of years and honors, carries with him to England, where he is about to take up his abode, the general approbation of a country for which of all living men he has done most service.— However he may have differed from many in his political career, all must admit that in his late years the greatest reforms, since the Union, took place under his government, and that for the success of those measures which he believed to be best for the interests of the Province he has made greater sacrifices than any other Canadian statesman. Notwithstanding his varied public life, he has deservedly won the approbation of the country, and we are sure his bitterest opponents as politicians will ever admire and esteem him for his personal qualities, and hope he may be long spared to enjoy the proud position he has reached by the weight of his talents.

From the *Toronto Times*, (Ministerial.)

There are many men in Canada who would have been better spared from public life than the gallant Baronet, whose farewell address to his constituents, among whom he has lived so long, and by whom he has been so highly appreciated, appears below.

The great prosperity and increasing importance of Hamilton are mainly due to the influence of Sir Allan's name and *character*. The Great Western Railway, one of the best paying lines in the world, and one conducted with great intelligence, might never have been completed till this hour, but for the credit due to the name of MacNab in the old country, and the services rendered by him to Hamilton and the line have never yet been duly recognised and rewarded.

Sir Allan's private residence and his house at the seat of Government have been always scenes of warm hearted and genuine kindness, and scarcely any one of position arrives from the old country without an introduction to the "stout old knight" of Dundurn, where all were received, as long as health and strength endured, with welcome hospitality.

Sir Allan retires from public life in Canada with the good wishes of every one, and if his health should render his return hither unadvisable, he may still have opportunities of serving the country of his birth and love.

Whoever in the old country should look to Canada as a field for commercial enterprise, an advantageous and secure place for the investment of capital, or for such information as may guide the industrious of any class in the selection of a home, they may depend upon the advice given by Sir Allan, as that of a truthful and leal-hearted *Gentleman*!

It will, we repeat again, be a great advantage to Canada to have a person at home so able and so willing and so "reliable" as the gallant Baronet, who has already been distinguished by a well-deserved mark of his Sovereign's favour.

(From the *Elora Backwoodsman*.)

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cial Parliament as member for the city of Hamilton, and retires into private life. For nearly thirty years the hon. Baronet has been before the public, and during that period—a very trying one for a young and growing colony—he faithfully served the Province in many capacities. True, he was not absolutely perfect—no man is—but he leaves a reputation behind him for honesty of purpose and sterling integrity that any gentleman might be proud of. He was true in friendship and firm in danger—was often tried and never found wanting; and now that the Honourable Baronet has bidden farewell to the public, he will carry with him into private life the respect and esteem even of those to whom he was politically opposed.

(From the *Drummondville Reporter*.)

Canada has given birth to very few political men of whom she can be proud. The majority of those who have made any figure in her Legislative Halls, have drawn their first breath and received their education 'far o'er the wide blue sea.' He whose farewell address we append to this article is a Canadian—a Canadian soldier and statesman—a man not faultless, yet of sterling worth—a son of whom Canada may well be proud. When war winged its wide desolation o'er our land, among the brave and faithful few who battled in our country's cause, ever brave and loyal he. When disaffection and treason reared their blood-stained banners, a hero in his sovereign's and his country's cause was he. When crafty and designing politicians sought to accomplish what war and treason had failed to achieve, an unswerving and unfaltering opponent they met in him. The history of his life is a history of Canada for the past thirty years.

(From the *Brantford Courier*.)

We regret that Sir Allan MacNab has found it necessary, through ill-health, to retire from Parliamentary life. Rumours to the effect that this step would be taken were rife for some time past, although some of his friends affected to disbelieve their truthfulness, even up to the latest moment prior to the publi-

cation of the gallant Knight's valedictory. The retirement of Sir Allan will create an extraordinary vacuum in our political world. For the last forty years this gentleman has occupied a most prominent position in this country, and his name is familiar to every intelligent colonist. Sir Allan has been a man of great energy and of indomitable perseverance. As leader of the Tory party he was always considered both powerful and trustworthy. With unflinching determination he stood foremost in the ranks of those whom he believed to be fighting the battles of loyalty and conservatism against rebellion and democracy. As a loyal man he was admired, even by his enemies. When the Province was assailed by inimical, rash and rebellious bands, he nobly discharged his duty, and braved every danger presented before him. His name was a terror to those who were trying, for selfish motives, to sever this Colony from England. As a politician he was clear-headed, comprehensive, firm and enterprising. He adhered to the political creed of his party with unswerving fidelity so long as there was reason or hope in doing so; but when at last he found that the masses of the country were determined upon procuring the abolition of all State connexion with any particular church, and when he found that a blight and mildew, as it were, would rest upon Canada so long as religious discord were allowed to prevail—through church endowment—he, from a sense of duty to his country, fearlessly came out in favor of the secularization of the Clergy Reserves, and by his energy and influence actually abolished that fruitful cause of dissension and bitterness among us. Sir Allan was a good orator, and was always listened to with marked attention. He possessed great suavity of manners, and was personally much respected, even by his most bitter political enemies. Sir Allan has always been a true friend to Canada, and has advocated such measures, we sincerely believe, as he thought were most beneficial to the country. The press of this country, and such as have spoken upon the subject among our American *confreres*, are almost unanimous in eulogizing the past career of the Knight of

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Dundurn. That he has not been without his faults ; that he was opposed for years to some of the measures he afterwards pushed forward, is most true ; but who is there among his contemporaries who has been either more consistent or more useful to this Province, even in the ranks of Reformers, than the member for Hamilton? A few ultra-demagogues affect to traduce Sir Allan, and to find fault with some of his public acts, but their ill-natured remarks will weigh not a feather against him in the minds of those who candidly reflect upon his career. Sir Allan has always been held in high estimation by us ; and now that he is retiring from the political world, we cheerfully publish our views concerning him. He has acted wisely, well, and graciously, to resign his office, when he finds his health too delicate to discharge its duties. We sincerely wish the ex-member for Hamilton every blessing in his retirement, and trust that he may yet live many years to witness the progressive happiness and prosperity of this Province, the present rapid advancement of which is most undoubtedly to be attributed to the absence of that ravenous and rabid party spirit which prevailed among us anterior to the secularization of the Clergy Reserves.

(From *Le Canadien*, Quebec.)

Sir Allan MacNab has just resigned his seat in Parliament. We will say on this occasion what we should have said if he were dead, (which God forbid,) and that is, that Sir Allan MacNab was a Patriot after the fashion of La Vendee, of Pontiac and Tecumseh. He was imbued with the fanaticism of loyalty and the chivalrous spirit of Toryism, of which he was the *beau ideal* among his party. His blind devotion to British dominion in Canada and to the success of his caste, impelled him to acts which history cannot but judge with the last degree of severity. The *Caroline* in flames precipitated by his orders over the Falls of Niagara—the Canadian Parliament Buildings burnt when he was all-powerful with the party which dared to commit this national outrage,—it will remain for history to say whether these were errors of the head or of the heart.

Setting aside the politician, or rather the party man, Sir Allan MacNab is of a noble nature, heroically moulded in the granite of which great men are made, and bearing the stamp of physical and intellectual superiority. He had the misfortune to be born at a time when patriotism thought it necessary to be savage in order to be pure, and after having fitted up his life with all the startling acts of a blind partisan of power he ended by yielding to the progress of the age, and by setting his party an example of submission to the will of the people, in accepting, in the fulness of time, their Legislative decrees. He has now, in his resignation, rendered a last homage to that popular sovereignty to which he has only been able to sacrifice by generously breaking the ties which bound him at the feet of the Family Compact, the first idol which he served on his entry into political life. His retirement leaves a void in his party which it will be impossible to fill.

(From the *Journal de Quebec*.)

Sir A. MacNab has just announced to his electors his retirement from public life, The *Hamilton Spectator* has taken the opportunity to give a succinct account of the principle events of his life. The public acts of the Knight of Dundurn have since been differently appreciated by various papers, having been applauded by some and condemned by others. This is the way of the world, and the full measure of justice is only attained a long way on the other side of the grave. But that hour has not yet tolled for the political veteran, and perhaps we Lower Canadians are not placed in a proper position to judge him. We have before our eyes too many reminiscences of what has happened since 1837, to admit of our appreciation being very impartial.

Sir Allan and ourselves have on many occasions been found on opposite ranks. In 1837 and 1838 he commanded the volunteers of Upper Canada against Mackenzie, who commanded the insurgents. We then denounced MacNab and blessed Mackenzie. But since then Mackenzie has in his turn denounced us often enough in the house and in his *Message*. At any rate

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Sir Allan MacNab was merciful in the terrible days of 1837 and 1838; and (in striking contrast to the men whose names history has already branded) in the midst of the horrors of civil war he pardoned where they spilled blood. Mercy alone makes us forget many faults.

In 1841 Sir Allan strove almost alone in Upper Canada against the Machiavelism of Mr. Poulett Thompson, who died too soon to reap the results of his infernal policy.

As Speaker of the House from 1844 to 1847, the Knight of Dundurn showed himself just and impartial, sometimes to the great discontentment of his friends; thus setting an example which it is sometimes to be desired that others would follow.

In 1849, with those who a few months later (forgetting their violent loyalty of some months previous) became violent annexationists, he fought fiercely against the Lafontaine Ministry and the Rebellion losses Bill; he was even accused of encouraging the riots. He wanted to get his own party into power.

God forbid that we should here attempt to justify him. It would be a denial of the principles of the *Journal*. For we, too, have our own history, which is sufficiently honorable to demand respect. But who is there that, after eight years of quiet and reflection, after a series of events in which men of all parties have met and crossed each other in turn—who is there that would have the courage to remain inexorable towards his natural enemy if he saw as we have seen, men who were once the very perfection of patriotism, walking arm in arm with the leaders of the rioters while the riots were going on.

How can we have the face to be even severe, when so many vampires and leeches were allowed with impunity to speculate upon the Rebellion losses Bill, and drain the very last drop of blood of the victims of our unhappy days. But time and the pencil of history will do justice to this subject, and bring out in deep red colors on its canvass—these satiated harpies.

We have been sufficiently acquainted with the veteran of Dundurn to be enabled to say what he is. We

affirm that Lower Canada had no friend more sincere than he among the public men of Upper Canada. He has confidence in the loyalty of the Lower Canadians whom he thinks honorable. He is not wrong in this respect, for they have been his best friends from the moment they allied themselves with him, and he well knows that it is not they who turned him out of power. We trust that he will long enjoy in the quiet of private life that comfort which is only to be found in the bosom of one's family.

(From *Le Courier du Canada*, Quebec.)

RESIGNATION OF SIR ALLAN MACNAB—Sir Allan MacNab has just resigned his seat in Parliament. He has upon this occasion addressed to his Hamilton constituents, whom he has represented in the last nine successive Parliaments, a letter, in which he thanks them for their confidence, and informs them that his health is no longer such as to allow him to attend to public business. Sir Allan MacNab has played an important part in Canada, and his name is now an historical name in the annals of our country. Sir Allan closes his letter with the following words which every one must applaud:—"One more word before we part, and that is—if in times of trial and great excitement I have erred, I trust you will kindly ascribe it to an error of the head, and not the heart."

(From *La Minerve*, Montreal.)

The *Hamilton Spectator* announced, on Monday last, the resignation, by Sir Allan MacNab, of the seat he held in Parliament. It appears that this gentleman is about to retire altogether from political life, and intends going to England.

(From Correspondence of *La Gazette de Serel*.)

We perceive by the address of Sir Allan MacNab to the electors of Hamilton, that a general election is not immediately at hand; from the most reliable information he had been able to obtain, he inclined to the belief that no dissolution of Parliament would take place.

The retirement of Sir Allan MacNab from the arena of politics, after having enjoyed both before and subsequent to the Union of the Province so eminent a position in the affairs of the country, is an event which may be deemed an epoch in the political history of United Canada, for with him it may be said, died the old Tory party.

It may be said, that as Speaker of the House, Sir Allan was surrounded by none but friends; as Speaker he materially elevated the dignity of that office. His long parliamentary experience caused him to be looked upon as an authority in respect of parliamentary precedents, and we are aware that his doctrines were always regarded with the greatest respect.

Le Courier de Saint Hyacinthe, of Tuesday, Nov. 3, 1857, published a translation, borrowed from the *Canadien*, of Sir Allan MacNab's address, without comment.

(From *La Patrie*, Montreal.)

The *English* papers contain an address from Sir Allan Napier MacNab to the electors of the city of Hamilton. The honorable M. P. P. declares that, owing to the present state of his health, he can no longer satisfactorily discharge the duties of public life. Sir Allan states that he would have tendered his resignation at the close of last session, had he not been of opinion that a general election was at hand, in view of which he was desirous that his constituents should not be subjected to useless trouble and expense.

(From the *Brantford Herald*.)

Sir Allan MacNab, after a faithful service to Canada, for the term of upwards of thirty years, owing to severe and continued indisposition, has resigned his seat in the House of Assembly, and retires from the arena of public life, carrying with him the respect and good will, not only of his friends, but of the majority of those who had been in opposition to him in his political career. The interests of the City of Hamilton, represented by Sir Allan for a number of years, have ever been closely watched by him, and pleasing must

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it be to the gallant Knight, to know that his services in this respect have been duly estimated, and that the citizens of Hamilton, with the exception of a few fanatics, from whom he received most unwarranted abuse, entertain towards him a deep feeling of gratitude.

Long may he live to enjoy the repose he now seeks in a retired life.

(From the *Anglo-Saxon*.)

The following address has been issued by Sir Allan MacNab, on the occasion of his retirement from public life. The name of the honourable and gallant Baronet will ever be held in grateful remembrance by his countrymen, as one whose career has perhaps more than any other been identified with the parliamentary history of Canada. We are sure that the cause of his retirement will be a subject of sincere regret to his constituents, and will be largely shared by the colonists in general.

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Address to Sir A. N. MacNab, by the
Citizens of Hamilton.



At a meeting of the citizens held in the Mechanics' Hall, on the 19th November, 1857, pursuant to notice, the Mayor in the Chair, and Alderman Law acting as Secretary, the following Address was unanimously adopted:—

Mr. Freeman, M. P. P., then rose, and moved that a committee be appointed to draft an address to Sir Allan; the committee to consist of Aldermen Gray and Davidson, Messrs. D. C. Gunn, H. C. Baker, A. Brown, and himself. Carried.

In a short time the committee returned and reported the following address.

TO SIR ALLAN NAPIER MACNAB, BART.

We lament the existence of your precarious health, as a necessity for your retirement from public life.

The public trust which you have so long and honorably fulfilled, the duties of which, while your health permitted, you have so faithfully discharged, has again, by your own act, been returned to the electors.

On the eve of your departure for England, we feel it to be a fitting occasion on which to tender you our sincerest thanks for your valuable public services.

It is most gratifying to observe the proud position which our flourishing city has attained, while the feeling is blended with the conviction that its privileges, together with the improved character of its communications, are benefits for which we are largely indebted to your influence and preserving exertions.

Your public career has been alike honorable to you, and the country of your birth. Your patriotism and gallantry in defence of your Sovereign's and country's rights, have earned for you the thanks and honors of the one, and the admiration and gratitude of the other.

Your labours as a statesman, in which your love of country and consistency were ever prominent features, have earned for you the esteem and devotion of your friends, and the respect of thousands who conscientiously differed from you in principle. We sincerely hope that your intended voyage to Europe may be the means of restoring to you the constitutional vigour you require. If it should please the Allwise Disposer of events to impart to you renewed and vigorous health, we assure you that nothing would yield us greater pleasure than to welcome you back to the city of Hamilton, to spend your remaining years amongst us. We would take our leave of you, on this occasion, by wishing you and the different members of your family a pleasant and safe voyage, and many prosperous and happy years.

MAJOR BOOKER, had much pleasure in proposing that the Address be adopted, and that the Mayor be requested to sign it in behalf of the citizens of Hamilton. (Hear, hear.)

This motion was seconded by Dr. Ridley and carried amidst cheering.

Mr. FREEMAN then took the chair, and a vote of thanks having been moved to the Mayor, the meeting dispersed with three hearty cheers for Sir Allan.

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