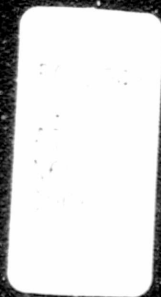


SKETCHES
OF SOME
EARLY SHEFFORD PIONEERS



SKETCHES

OF SOME

EARLY SHEFFORD PIONEERS



*"There is an unwritten history of dangers braved,
and hardships overcome, which ought to be rescued
from oblivion before it is too late."*

—PAGE 103. LUCIUS SETH HUNTINGDON.

To be sold by subscription at \$2.00.

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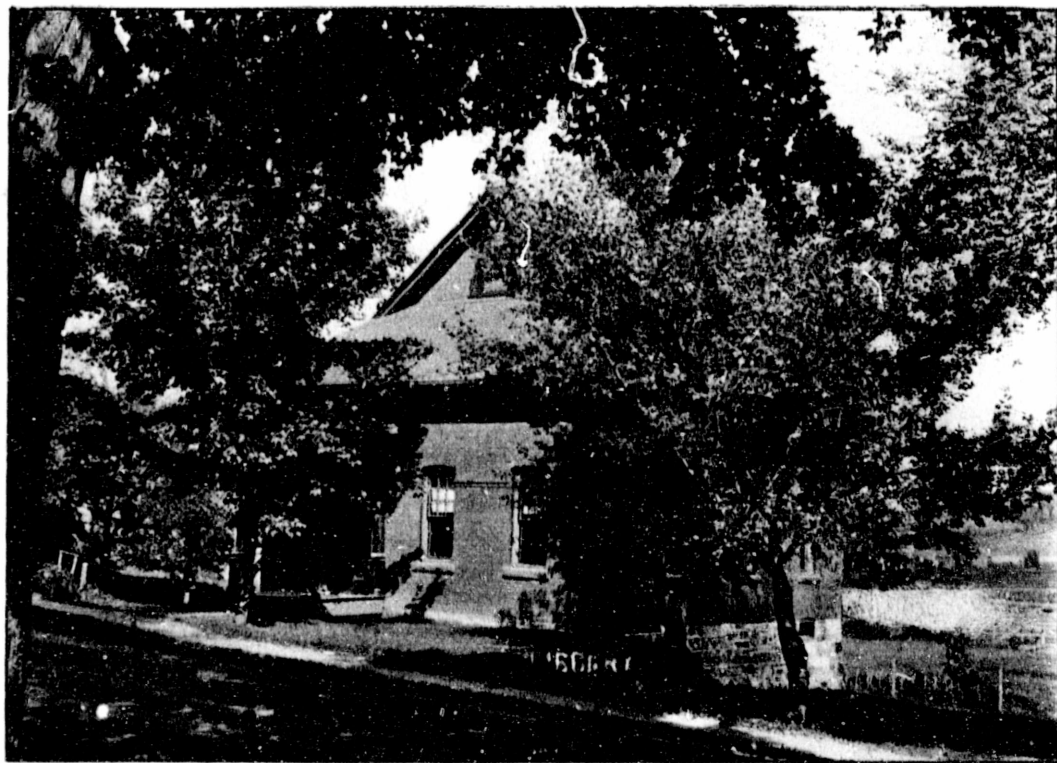
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To the members of the Waterloo Public Library we present the net proceeds derived from the sale of this book, together with the copyright thereof, in the earnest hope that it may prove of financial assistance to them, and serve to keep green the memory of men who deserve well of the present and future generations who live in Shefford County.

J. P. N.
G. G. F.

May 31st, 1905.



WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING.

LETTER BY WAY OF PREFACE

GEORGE G. FOSTER, ESQ., K.C.,
MONTREAL, QUE.

My Dear Foster:—

When you asked me a few months ago to write short biographical sketches to accompany ten portraits of men who had, in one way or another, been intimately connected with the early history of Waterloo in its growing days, and which portraits you intended to present to the Waterloo Public Library to ornament the walls of its Library Building, I decided off hand that I could not, and would not do it. Briefly, my reasons were lack of time, scarcity of material within reach, and inexperience in that kind of writing. On reflection, it occurred to me that, as an old, almost life long resident of Waterloo, I ought to be willing to show, however perfunctorily it might be, my appreciation of the generous donation of one whose interest could not have been influenced by local associations with the place or personal association with the men you have selected for the distinction mentioned. The reason you gave for your gift were such, as it seemed to me, left me no option but to meet your generosity as best I could in the sense you suggested. You gave me however, properly enough, a limit as to extent of the sketches,—which I confess to have exceeded in a couple instances,—and also their general direction. This may have hampered my pen, but I feel it was quite right you should do this, for you understood better than any one else the object intended. Apart from this, the expense of the undertaking is no slight one,

and, besides, the spinning out of slight details might detract rather than add to their value, if any they have. You have the result in the following pages. They are neither "Plutarch's Lives," nor "the short and simple annals of the poor," but, it is hoped they will interest those who may gaze upon the portraits upon the walls of the Library, and possibly incite some of them to emulate those men who, in different ways won success, but after all won it in the old fashioned way of honest, incessant toil in their respective lines.

Fine literary work could not be expected, nor has it been attempted, nor am I an expert in that sort of work. For the most part, the majority of those men here sketched, have their counterparts in many of our Eastern Townships Villages or Towns which have made progress. Their lives were laborious and they did much good, but the startling incidents are strikingly lacking on which to build glowing biographies. The reader who may honor these pages with a perusal, may find them monotonous, and possibly think it is easy work and as to the writing that may be true. But the gathering of facts in connection with matters to a great extent not sufficiently important to have become matters of record, the verifying of dates, as to which there has been disagreement, and the bulky, protracted correspondence necessitated in these respects, have proved laborious,—how laborious no one will ever really know, until they essay something of the kind. I have endeavored to be accurate as to incidents and dates, but I am fallible. I have had access to old newspaper files and scrap books of families, kindly loaned me,—apart altogether from the knowledge gained by sharing in much of the work, and associating with each of those men, all which have aided my constant effort to be accurate.

You desired those sketches primarily for the youth of Waterloo, but I am inclined to suspect that old people will recognize that they have been written by one of their class as to years, and possibly better appreciate them. I make no comment here as to any of those men here so briefly sketched as to most of them. Once they were all very live men to me, and constituted a large part of my world. I have, in the

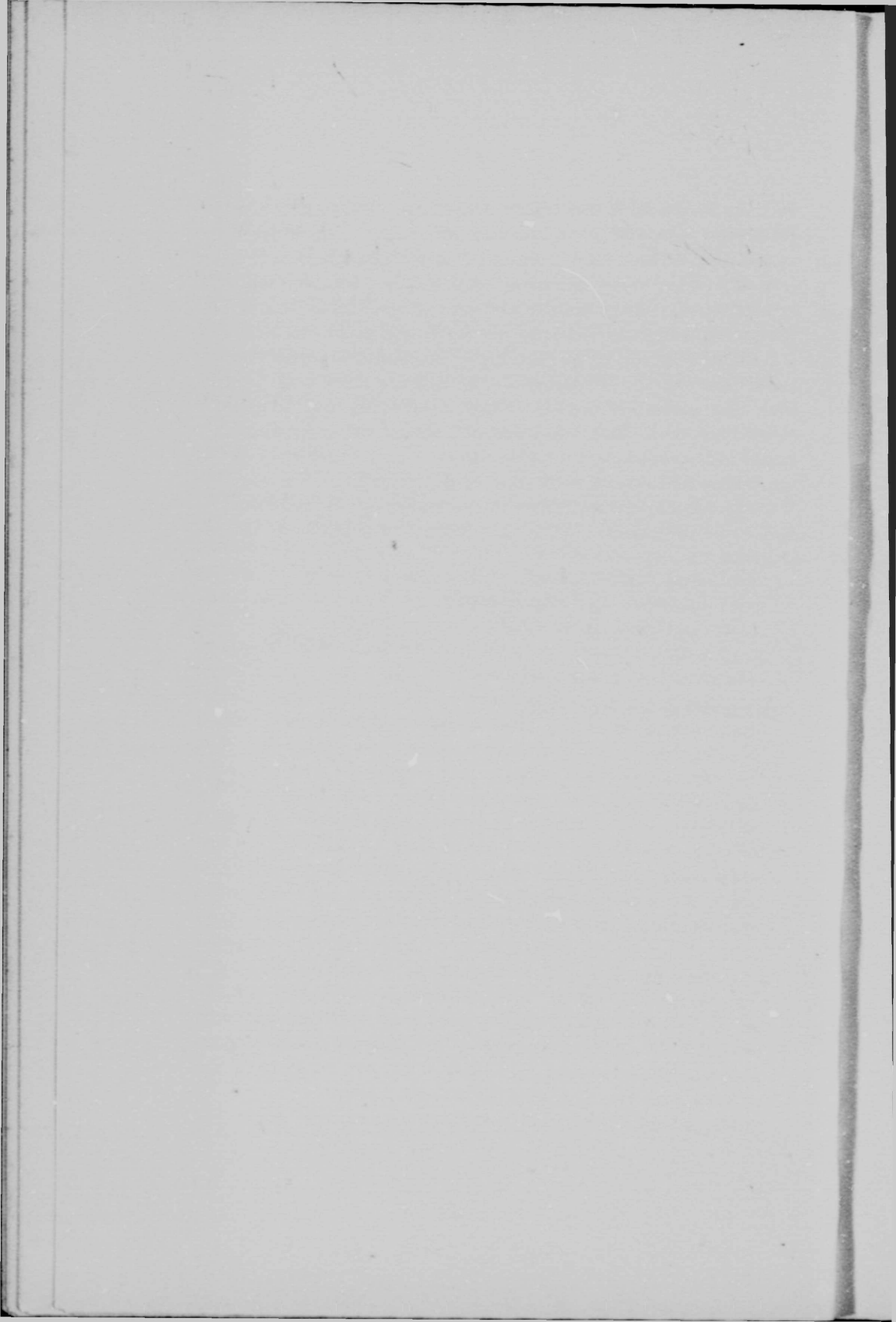
writing, lived over the old days with them, recalled half forgotten incidents and, have renewed my youth. I could have wished that a few names more might have been added, and I earnestly hope some generous soul will be touched with emulation by your generosity and, in the near future add to the portraits and the sketches, other faces and other names.

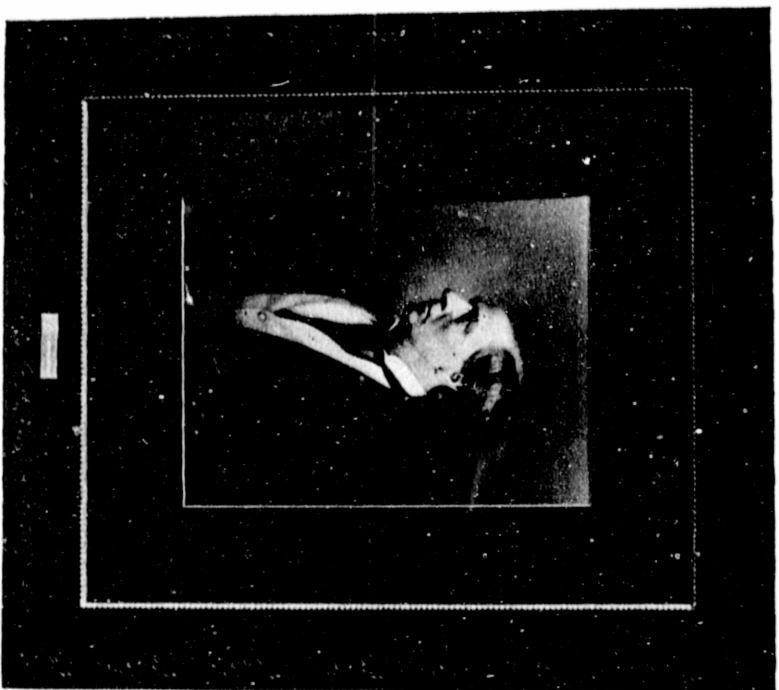
I should like to record here my appreciation of what you have done for the Waterloo Public Library in connection with this particular matter. Only incidentally had it any claim upon you. But I feel sure if I should write my sentiments in that respect you would censor them as ruthlessly as are censored the reports of war correspondents. I am sure Waterloo people will appreciate the portraits, and the generous motive of the donor, even if they do not take kindly to the sketches.

Yours Sincerely,

JNO. P. NOYES.

COWANSVILLE, 9th May, 1905.





HON. LUCIUS SETH HUNTINGTON.

HONORABLE LUCIUS SETH HUNTINGTON



IT IS scarcely possible to do more than touch in a general way the leading points in the career of Mr. Huntington, and keep within the prescribed bounds of this series of sketches. The scope and purpose may be too limited, but the rules must be observed, and those rules cover the special purpose for which the series were planned by other hands than those of the writer.

Unquestionably, Mr. Huntington was, so far as concerns public life, at least, the ablest man born in the Eastern Townships, and, outside of his public career he achieved distinction in many ways. For he was a man of great versatility and rarely failed of success in his many undertakings so long as he retained his health. Those who knew and loved him have mostly passed away. Those who knew and feared him, largely for his wonderful capacity and resolute candor of expression, have transmitted prejudices which have, thus far, prevented a just appreciation of his high merits and distinguished services. It was his misfortune, if misfortune it be, to be outside the run of men who posed locally in these Townships as political leaders through their own self vauntings; through admiring relatives to laud their very ordinary feats; through a crowd of hungry hangers-on to shout from interested motives the praise which they did not feel, or political partisans willing to exalt very common clay for purely party purposes. Had he been that kind of man he would have been glorified by the sort of people who prefer, and better appreciate, the man whose public life has not wandered far outside his County and whose acts will never fill a page in history, than one whose more conspicuous role kept him from essaying the vulgar arts

of the Village politician. It was again his misfortune, if misfortune it be, that his great natural abilities and his conspicuous figure in public life for many years, made him an easy mark for the envy, and hatred, of lesser souls, who pursued him with calumnies throughout his life, scarcely pausing at the brink of the grave. And the sorry thing of it was, and is, that the men who profited by his activities and work, have not been too generous in recognizing all that he did, and essayed to do, in their interests, and on behalf of the principles held in common between them. It was said that he was aggressive and provoked retaliation, but it was only because he despised sham and pretence, and loved the true and right. It was in this sense only, that it was at all true. In his novel,—Professor Conant,—he says of one of his characters: “He held political opinions which were considered advanced and he was too straightforward and outspoken to tolerate the diplomat or the temporizer. He was earnest and sincere before all things.” This was his creed through life, “to be earnest and sincere before all things,” and when bold courage and a warm heart, coupled with deep convictions are added it can readily be seen that to such a man, life would not be without storms.

And it should not be forgotten that bitter, biting aggressiveness was part, and a greater part, of the method of political warfare which prevailed to a larger extent when he was young than is now the practice. It was under that fervid, pugnacious method for which he was not responsible, that he was trained as a speaker, and it was that which existed during his public life. As a hard hitter in the political arena it was, perhaps, not to be expected that his victims should cherish a burning and consuming love for him tho’ on his side, he had no animosity towards those who gave him, openly and frankly, blow for blow. To the few survivors who knew him in the vigor of his full manhood, it quickens the pulse to recall the charms of that wonderful voice, the remarkable felicity of expression, the copious illustration and the commanding, inspiring figure and magnetic presence of an orator like Mr. Huntington. But it was not as an orator alone that

he excelled. For, in organization, whether of a great business enterprise, a political campaign or a party caucus, he was equally successful. And, apart from him, no native-born Eastern Townshippier bore so large and leading a part in Parliamentary debates, in addresses before commercial and other meetings at home and abroad, in discussions at educational meetings or church synods, or was, in one way or another, interested in so many things of public and private interest which required unusual versatility of mind, great knowledge of different and divers subjects and a dominating character. The purpose of this sketch precludes even extracts from his speeches or his writings, editorial or otherwise, or even allusion to but few of them. A bare mention of details, and a mere glance at the things he did and busied himself with, during his career, is the most which can be attempted, and this, in the hope that the memory of a man who spent a large part of his active life in this community, and for whose interests and prosperity he contended as best he could, will be treasured as amongst its best memories.

The ancestors of Mr. Huntington were English. Simon Huntington, from whom he descended, emigrated from Norwich, England, to Massachusetts, in 1633. The date, according to the old annals, fixes the Puritan descent. He died soon after, at Roxbury, Mass., leaving children from whom sprang all the Huntingtons on this continent. There have been many notable men among them. At the close of the Revolutionary war one branch of the family removed to Nova Scotia and is classed there as U. E. Loyalists. In the early part of the 19th century his grandfather, Thomas Huntington, came from Roxbury, Vt. and settled in Compton, P.Q. This must have been after 1802, for that was the year Compton was granted its charter, or patent as a Township, and settlements begun by the old associates. His father, Seth Huntington, lived on the farm acquired by his father until 1833, when he removed to Hatley, P.Q., where he lived until his death in 1875, living to see his son a Minister of the Crown. His mother was a daughter of Capt. Chester Hovey, one of the Hatley patentees or associates. The Hovey's were also of

English descent and came to Canada through New England. They were a numerous, notable and sturdy race in Stanstead County of old, and have many worthy representatives there to this day. Seth Huntington was a great reader of the books available in those days and imparted to his son the same commendable passion. The result was that the son, blessed with a retentive memory and quick mind, early acquired a knowledge of the masters of English literature from whom he could aptly quote throughout his career. He had wonderful facility in grasping a subject, extracting its pith, analyzing it and adapting its salient points for practical use either in writing or speaking. His mother was a woman of clear and vigorous understanding, zealous in encouraging a love of study in her children and stimulating all their laudable ambitions. It has been said, as it is frequently said of notable men, that it was from the mother he received the ardent mind, the robust courage and high ambition which were leading traits in his character. He was of the old Puritan race, as were most of the early settlers in the Townships from New England in those pioneer days. It was a hard headed race, which meant robust manhood, sturdy adherence to principles, scorn for pretentiousness without merit and an ardent desire to get on in the world. It was a race with deep convictions. From such a race Mr. Huntington came.

He was born in Compton, the 26th of May, 1827. In his sixth year the family moved to Hatley, where his early life was spent. At an early age the possession of unusual mental gifts indicated future possibilities for a high career. It is related that when only six or seven years of age, after returning from listening to the long-winded, old fashioned orthodox sermons on Sunday, then in vogue, he would mount a chair and repeat, copying tone and gesture, almost word for word, the sermon he had heard. The close mental concentration necessary to grasp the words and mannerisms of the speaker are remarkable in one so young. It had the effect of strengthening his memory, besides teaching him to epitomize spoken language so effectively that in later life it aided him to become one of the most ready of parliamentary debaters.

The educational opportunities in the Townships in his boyhood were none too good, but such schools as did exist gave a solid grounding in elementary subjects. From them as a bright scholar, he went to such higher schools as that section of the Eastern Townships afforded, finally proceeding to Brownington Seminary, at that time a noted educational institution of Vermont, where he fitted himself for university matriculation. Lack of means thwarted his designs in that respect. But, so thoroughly was he grounded, particularly in classics and English literature, that the teaching of his youth never escaped him. Supplementing this by a wide and thorough reading he became a broad scholar in many ways, a scholarship which a college course might have narrowed, or, perhaps to say better, specialized. As a lad scarcely in his teens he became a popular lyceum debater in the days when that excellent institution had become an acquired habit in rural parts. This practice, assisted by his wonderful memory, his deep convictions as to the right and wrong of things, and the fund of information derived from general reading, made him at an early age, a ready debater and eloquent speaker. It is correctly related that on one occasion whilst waiting at a mill some distance from his home, in a locality where he was unknown, he went in the evening to a lyceum in the vicinity to while away the time until his grist should be ground. The subject was a burning one of the time, and the house was crowded. The views held by the Huntington lad on the subject were not exposed to his satisfaction. After the named combatants had finished, the Chairman called for volunteer remarks. A tow headed boy, of extremely youthful appearance, sprang to his feet and in a vigorous speech carried judges and audience with him by the strength of his arguments, the charm of his language and the pleasing manner of his delivery. That was one of Mr. Huntington's early triumphs. It was then predicted that he would be heard from in the days to come. It was something to win such a victory in that locality in those days, for it was a community which possessed many men of more than ordinary intelligence and fair education.

Leaving Brownington, Mr. Huntington was admitted to

the study of the law and was articled to the late Judge Sanborn, at Sherbrooke. Among his fellow students at the time were the late Thos. W. Ritchie, W. W. Robertson, both K.C.'s, and the late Judge Brooks, all of whom later became famous lawyers, and with whom lasting intimate friendships were formed. Whilst pursuing his studies he taught the High Schools of Hatley and Magog, and finally, in 1852, became Principal of the then popular and well known Shefford Academy at Frost Village, P.Q., wherein many men subsequently prominent were his pupils. In all those places he encouraged the starting of debating societies, or lyceums, wherein he continued his early practice. He also gave weekly lectures on scientific subjects to pupils and parents, at intervals, illustrating them as much as possible with the primitive apparatus in hand. In 1853 he married Miriam Jane Wood, only daughter of Major David Wood, in his lifetime prominent in business and public life at Frost Village, and was admitted to the Bar at Three Rivers, the Bar Section having jurisdiction where he studied. Outside the City of Montreal, the only Court then existing in the present District of Bedford, then part of the Montreal District, was a petty Court with jurisdiction up to \$60.00 at Nelsonville, now Cowansville. There were already five practicing lawyers in the sparsely settled District, in which all important suits were instituted in Montreal and generally entrusted to lawyers there. It was a gloomy outlook for professional practice. Pending a change of conditions Mr. Huntington, the year of his marriage, had formed a mercantile partnership with the late John Williams and combined commercial life with such legal practice as arose in his locality. But already there was a stir in the air for railway communication; for the establishment of local courts with larger jurisdiction; for better municipal laws, and, to aid those projects, resident representation in Parliament. As the distance and inconvenience of travel to the capital, sometimes Quebec, and sometimes Toronto, joined to the moderate sessional allowance of those days, had discouraged good local men, where such existed, from presenting themselves for Parliament for a considerable

period, the representation of the country constituencies had been given mostly to City men. But as the country became more settled, communication more easy, local reforms and legislation more urgent, and men qualified to sit in Parliament more abundant, a sentiment grew, imperceptibly at first, but always increasing in strength, that local men would very likely be more zealous in pushing for local reforms and for local legislative needs, than non-resident men, however able and willing otherwise the latter might be. There was aimless talk to that effect in scattered localities. There were letters printed in favor of the idea in the far away city papers, but as Mark Twain said of complaints about the weather,—“Nothing was done.” A prime condition for success was a leader, not merely to point the way,—to focus, so to say, errant opinion, but to unite and organize those of good will to battle for victory with better hopes of success than could be anticipated from the desultory talk of widely scattered localities. But leadership alone would not suffice. There must be a newspaper, an organ to represent the views of those interested, and promote organization and united effort. At least, that was the opinion of those best informed and most concerned in the proposed reforms. Mr. Huntington saw and felt quickly and keenly the necessities of the situation, but he was practically a stranger in the District, a stranger among a people narrowed by local jealousies, young, without means, business experience, the prestige of family or its influence, and lacking, with all the rest, political or social relations to aid and back his inclinations. The difficulties, however, added zeal and gave zest to the game. His ardent nature and fearless courage under opposition, only increased his desire to surmount the obstacles in the way. He undertook to found the newspaper so essential for success, and that circumstance made him, in effect, the vigorous champion of local reforms, and the resolute, undaunted leader of those interested in their success.

The members of the lower House of the Legislature from this District were Montrealers, none of whom were consumed with zeal for reform, tho' their guarded utterances were favorably interpreted by their attached local friends. Fortunately

the District was represented in the Legislative Council by two men—Honourables P. H. Knowlton and P. H. Moore—who shared Mr. Huntington's views, and had the willingness to help and the prestige to strengthen the advocacy of those views. Allied with different political parties both were, by nature and experience, cautious and conservative, qualities which materially aided and strengthened their action when united for a good purpose. To start a newspaper in the backwoods, as the city papers derisively called this section of the Eastern Townships in the old stage coach days, required some capital, some knowledge of the business, and some journalistic experience, all which Mr. Huntington lacked. It was a desperate outlook for a young reformer, ambitious to speedily set about righting things he deemed to be wrong. Luckily for him and his aspirations, he had a warm personal friend in the late Hiram S. Foster, the late lamented Registrar for Brome for many years, a friendship which began with Mr. Huntington's arrival at Frost Village, and lasted without a break until terminated by death. Differences in party ties or political beliefs never weakened the strong personal friendship, founded on mutual regard, which each had for the other. Those who have had the good fortune to know well Mr. Foster in his lifetime appreciate fully his steadfastness in personal friendships. It was one of his many charming characteristics. Nothing could shake his confidence in one whom he had admitted to the circle of his friends. Mr. Huntington had the good fortune to share that confidence and friendship. Mr. Foster had married a niece of Col. Knowlton, as he was best known at home, and enjoyed his full confidence. Sharing Mr. Huntington's zeal for reform, tho' moderate in its expression, he induced the two Legislative Councillors mentioned to join in financially backing the founding of the newspaper as an organ of the reform cause. He induced Col. Knowlton also to lend his name to endorse the enterprise in order that it might be more acceptable in political quarters which, otherwise, might have been dangerously antagonistic. There is not the slightest doubt that the Advertiser could not have been started at

that time without his influence and co-operation. The Hon. Mr. Moore held the same political faith as Mr. Huntington so that his name was not deemed essential to make the paper acceptable with the party friends, but he was one of its principal backers in other necessary ways. In the latter part of 1855 a prospectus announcing the immediate issue of the paper was circulated in the District. The whole labor of the enterprise fell upon Mr. Huntington. The first number of "The Advertiser and Eastern Townships Sentinel" was issued on Friday the 11th of January, 1856, at Knowlton, in the County of Brome. The office was not fitted with a press and printing outfit for some time, the first numbers being printed by Pierre Cerat, in Montreal. That first number was the beginning of an arduous fight for reform, as well as the commencement of Mr. Huntington's conspicuous and long-sustained successful career as a public man. The prospectus, written by Mr. Huntington, and signed by himself, Hon. P. H. Knowlton and H. S. Foster, Esq., as publishers, was a vigorous production. It covered in a general way the reforms to be fought for. Its key note, however, was Resident Representation, as essential to obtaining those reforms. "But," says Mr. Huntington in the prospectus, "if we have suffered deeply it has to a great degree resulted from our own supineness and indifference. In a free country, the unequivocal voice of a whole people is seldom disregarded, and nobody is better helped than he who helps himself, and though these Townships have produced their quota of worthy public men, and earnest advocates of our interests, what have they done, or what can they do, lacking the support of a hearty, sanguine, cultivated and determined public sentiment. The ideas of our people may be correct enough, and we have, so to speak, a scattering notion of our position and that it should be improved." His first editorial declared that he intended to make the paper "too dear to be bought and too earnest and bold to be flattered, or awed into silence." It was an aggressive paper from the start. Spurred by his vigorous editorials, the petitions he caused to be widely circulated, and the public meetings he,

with others. convened and addressed, Hon. Mr. Drummond, M.P.P. for Shefford, and Mr. James Moir Ferris, M.P.P. for the East Riding of Missisquoi, now the County of Brome, had both introduced bills in the legislature favorable to the decentralization of the Courts. The bills were not earnestly pushed,—Mr. Drummond arousing antagonisms by proposing to make Waterloo the *chef lieu* of the new judicial District, whilst Mr. Ferris fell back on an alleged pledge given by Mr. Drummond to push his bill through. Mr. Huntington took the ground in his paper, that neither of them was sincere, and that the bills were a mere sop thrown out to quiet electors until after the general elections, then imminent. Hon. Mr. Cartier replaced Hon. Mr. Drummond as Attorney-General, East. The latter claimed that Mr. Cartier had promised to push the measure, and Mr. Ferris still pretended to rely on Mr. Drummond's pledge. All these excuses, shiftings and evasions did not quiet the zeal of the young editor, consumed with a thirst for immediate reform, and he continued his attacks and renewed his arguments. Mr. Ferris had been for years an editorial writer of the "Montreal Gazette," and had a wide reputation as a strong, vigorous writer. He was recognized as a man of vast information, and in debate, whether with pen or voice, not to be rashly trifled with. But Mr. Ferris found, on visiting his constituency, that there was a deep-seated feeling in favor of decentralization and a coolness towards him on the part of his constituents on account of his alleged lukewarmness towards that measure. He attributed this to attacks upon him by Mr. Huntington in his paper, and wrote a keen, cutting, personal letter to the "Advertiser," to which Mr. Huntington replied in the same vein and in the same issue. The trained, experienced journalist; the man with wide information upon political affairs and the trusted counselor of the leaders of his party, voluntarily pitted himself against a young man with but a few months editorial experience, scarcely known to the political leaders of either party, or beyond a limited circle, and evidently expected an easy victory. It was apparent that while Mr. Ferris professed to

write about decentralization of the Courts, it was the cry for Resident Representation which most alarmed him. The correspondence continued through several issues, and when Mr. Ferris complained of the reply to each of his letters appearing in the same weekly issue it was taken as a confession of weakness on his part. Up to that time Mr. Huntington had given no indication of unusual skill as a newspaper controversialist. Mr. Ferris was put upon his defence from the outset, and when he ventured to attack he found an opponent ready for the wordy fray. Sarcasm was met by sarcasm equally as biting, invective by invective fully as rasping, and argument by argument not less convincing. Under the conditions then existing Mr. Huntington had the popular side, but, on the other hand Mr. Ferris had a band of party followers and personal friends who gallantly espoused his cause and boldly cheered his efforts. Which had written the best was the subject of great local controversy then, and for a long time after, but that it shov'd, under the circumstances, be at all a debatable proposition was highly flattering to the young and inexperienced editor whose world had yet to be conquered. Looking at the newspaper controversy to day, apart altogether from political beliefs, or party affiliations one cannot but admire the keen, trenchant style, and the high literary flavor of each of the combatants.

In 1857, on the eve of the general elections, Mr. Cartier successfully carried through Parliament his new judicature bill, which included Decentralization of the courts, as they now practically exist. It was not altogether the bill Mr. Huntington and his friends had contended for. They had fought for County instead of District Superior Courts. It was, however, loyally accepted with becoming gratitude. Of it Mr. Huntington wrote in his paper; "Mr. Cartier's bill "is the direct result of Eastern Townships agitation for "practical reform. Our people should ponder upon the "fact,—let demagogues sneer as they will—and learn from "it a lesson of confidence in themselves and in their ability, "if united, to redress the social and political evils which "oppress them." Following decentralization there was a

wild rush to secure the spoils in the shape of the site for the *chef lieu*, the contracts for the erection of the Court House and Jail and the public offices of the new District. Missisquoi, which had shown little interest in, or activity for decentralization, roused itself to gain control in those matters, and, to that end, tendered a banquet to Mr. Cartier at Dunham, refusing in the most cavalier manner to join Shefford and Brome,—by whom the agitation had been successfully led—in making it a District affair. Mr. Huntington made a slashing attack on the manipulators, calling them the Sweetsburg Chisel and the Dunham clique, and his spicy writing in their respect was but little relished by the victims. However disappointing it all was to his side, his own reputation had greatly increased, and was further strengthened by the attacks made upon him by those who feared his caustic pen and dreaded his popular opposition to their schemes. He was looked upon as a dangerous man who must be crushed. All these things helped to make him a popular leader and gained him a large following of steady adherents in his future undertakings, political and otherwise.

He had been active in the early struggles of the S. S. & C. Ry., and one of the principal workers and speakers in Municipal meetings to obtain aid for the road, the result being that he was elected Secretary of the Company, which office he held for many years and during the most trying period of its early existence. In 1857 the route was settled and construction begun. His official connection with the railway, and his growing law practice caused him to remove his paper from Knowlton to Waterloo, the head office of the Railway Company. Apart from that, his co-proprietors did not share his political views, approve his vigorous expression of those views, nor see eye to eye with him as to all the local reforms and measures he unceasingly advocated. Col. Knowlton, after the Ferris correspondence, had come to regard his young editor as a radical, which, to one who had represented Shefford on the Tory side in Parliament before 1837, and, during the subsequent troubles had been a member of the Governor's Council, seemed to be a dangerous habit, and his young

associate should not be openly encouraged to preach what he thought bordered upon sedition. The firm was dissolved amicably, the ties of personal friendship created by the original unity of interest and purpose continuing, however, unabated. The change was opportune in that it left him more freedom and latitude to discuss the live issues of the day than he felt warranted in doing whilst joined with those who held other notions respecting many things he felt of vital importance. The change resulted, in other ways, in exciting some silly postmasters, whose political zeal outran their discretion, to try to kill the circulation of his paper, efforts which had a contrary effect from that intended, and brought upon them much ridicule and obloquy. On the 3rd of July, 1857, the last number of the Advertiser appeared at Knowlton, and two weeks later it was issued from Waterloo where it has since, through many vicissitudes and under many drawbacks, been published. Its editorials became, if possible, more incisive and no less aggressive than formerly. There was a marked improvement in style resulting from his having by experience, gained the professional editorial swing. There was less of the lofty, rather florid style of writing, and more of the concise, pithy form of expression, better adapted to a rural weekly. When he moved his paper to Waterloo, Mr. Jacob Spackman was publishing the Gazette at Granby. Mr. Huntington thought two County papers was one too many, so he induced Mr. Spackman to take the advice of the little boy to his sister on the swing, "There doesn't seem to be room enough for two, so if you get off there will be more room for me." Mr. Spackman joined him on the Advertiser, bringing with him the Gazette material, and they continued together until the fall of 1864. It may not be out of the way here to observe, that the old press on which the Advertiser had been printed prior to procuring the newer and larger one from the Gazette with Mr. Spackman, was given by Mr. Huntington to J. B. E. Dorion, M.P.P. for Drummond and Arthabaska, better known as *l'enfant terrible*, when he started le Defricheur at L'Avenir,—a paper which was subsequently edited in its last days by Sir Wilfrid Laurier,

then a mere youth. The Spackman press was exchanged in 1875 as part consideration for the one on which the Advertiser is now printed.

The general elections of 1857 was the first opportunity for the test of the sincerity and strength of the professed advocates of Resident Representation. Under the law of those days, the elections were scattered over several months to suit the convenience and interest of the party in power, by bringing on the elections in safe constituencies to secure party prestige. The old non-resident representatives in this district so far yielded to the demand for resident representation as to promise that they would not present themselves at subsequent elections. Many advocates of Resident Representation, sincerely attached to the old members on personal or party grounds, were willing to permit their reelection on that understanding. Mr. Huntington did not share that opinion. If the principal was right, he urged, there should be no compromise, no shirking the issue, on account of personal feelings or party exigencies. Brome gave him the opening for the first blow. He persuaded the late Luke M. Knowlton, a respectable farmer of Brome, who was little addicted to public speaking, to oppose Mr. Ferris, who had the advantage of being the sitting member, the advantage of an existing party organization, and the backing of the Government, besides unusual oratorical gifts and experience in political campaigns. It seemed a rash undertaking. The brunt of the fight fell upon Mr. Huntington as the chief, in fact almost the only speaker for his candidate. But he faced the people fearlessly, tho' organized, but fruitless attempts were made to howl him down, and, inexperienced as he was, showed himself the equal of his veteran antagonist on the stump during that most exciting campaign. When the contest was over, so enraged was Mr. Ferris over the keen thrusts of Mr. Huntington, that he declared he owed the latter a debt which he vowed he would some day repay. Mr. Huntington solaced himself over the defeat, and Mr. Ferris' victory, with the remark in his paper ;—" It is emphatically a money triumph—might over right and for the

last time." Two things, at least, resulted from that contest ; one was the settling of the question of Resident Representation for many years to come, and the other the increased reputation of Mr. Huntington as a magnetic leader and a powerful orator.

In his own County of Shefford no local man had the courage to contest the seat with Judge Drummond. He had been a noted lawyer, many times a minister, leader of his party in the Province, a gifted orator and, in addition, had zealously promoted the local railway of which he was President. Besides, he promised not to run for the County again. He was a leader of Mr. Huntington's party, but despite that fact, the latter did not hesitate,—as his enemies anticipated—in endeavoring to procure a resident candidate to oppose the old member. A requisition was presented to Mr. Huntington himself, but lack of property qualification at the time—then a legal requirement—debarred him from accepting, even had he been ever so much inclined. Mr. Drummond was elected by acclamation. Much had been gained, however, for not only had all the old members for the constituencies in the District promised not to present themselves again, but the people had been educated to a firm belief in the principle of Resident Representation. So far as Mr. Huntington was concerned he had come to be recognized as the leader, and as an orator of exceptional power, as well as the champion of local reforms. Up to that time there had been no liberal party in the Eastern Townships so far as respected party organization or prominent and generally accepted leaders. He created the party in the Eastern Townships in that general election campaign out of detached elements, so to speak, by uniting the men of good will in the contest over a few vital principles in which all were more or less interested. Henceforth, he became the target for all the venomous shafts of opponents, for they had taken his measure and decided he was dangerous and, as, in the language of his first editorial, he had convinced them that he was "too dear to be bought and too earnest and bold to be flattered or awed into silence," it was settled that he must be checked or crushed.

Decentralization with local courts, so increased his law practice, that, with the enormous demands made upon his time and strength by his paper, and through his railway connection and political labors, he formed, in 1857 a law partnership with the late A. B. Parmelee, Esq., Advocate, of Waterloo, which was ruptured the following year through differences of opinion over a by election in the County which then took place. By the defeat of the Tache-Macdonald Ministry in 1858 the Brown-Dorion Ministry was formed with Judge Drummond as Attorney General East, the acceptance of which rendered the seat for the County vacant and required his re-election. In four days the new Ministry was defeated, and the Governor General having arbitrarily refused a dissolution of the House, they resigned and by a shuffle of the political cards, the old Ministry was practically reinstated in power. This feat has gone into political history as the notorious "Double Shuffle," success in which depended upon the partisan co-operation of the then Governor General, Sir Edmund Head. No one to-day seriously defends his partisan conduct, which was denounced by the English press at home and practically disapproved by the Home Government through their failure to give him other gubernatorial positions or to reward him with the customary peerage on his retirement from official life in Canada. When Mr. Drummond presented himself for re-election in Shefford, he was met with the pledge by him given the year before, that he would not again present himself in the County. On the other hand it was urged with some reason, that his pledge was for that Parliament which had three years more to run. It is unquestionable, that Mr. Drummond, not anticipating the new and surprising episode, had meant that Parliament, but had really said what was claimed in the other sense. In a strict technical sense he was wrong, but under a broad interpretation he was right. It was well understood that he was elected for four years, one only of which had elapsed. But, without troubling himself as to the propriety of either view, or the interpretation of pledges, Mr. Huntington held that consistency required opposition to a non-resident repre-

sentative on all occasions, without regard to personal sympathy or party allegiance. In his paper he had denounced the "Double Shuffle" in the strongest terms. Mr. Drummond was his party leader. Mr. Huntington's enemies openly chuckled with joy over a situation which, no matter whatever course he adopted, they thought would compromise, if not ruin his political prospects. They believed he would end by abandoning his principles and yield to party demands. Many of his friends hoped he would. It is certain that had he yielded, confidence in his sincere attachment to the principles he had so warmly advocated would have been shaken, possibly destroyed for all time. He did not yield. The late Hon. A. B. Foster was nominated to oppose Judge Drummond. The election of Mr. Foster depended on the sincerity and attitude of the advocates of resident representation, who held the balance of power. On the hustings and on the stump, and in his paper Mr. Huntington heartily supported the resident candidate, Mr. Foster, a party opponent at the time. In the canvass he combatted on the stump Mr. Drummond and D'Arcy McGee, the two most eloquent orators of the time in Canadian Parliamentary life, and was regarded as their equal. On the hustings on the day of nomination, Mr. Drummond magnanimously placed his hand on Mr. Huntington's shoulder and said to the people; "Gentlemen, here is the man who should succeed me as Member for the County of Shefford." After a hot contest Mr. Foster won and with it resident representation was assured. But a generation scarcely sufficed to allay the antagonisms, and dissipate the prejudices and bitterness roused by that election. The election greatly strengthened Mr. Huntington's hold as a leader, and, as a clever debater and eloquent orator, his reputation was greatly enhanced and he became more widely known. It was the difference in views as to this election which caused the dissolution of his legal firm, as before mentioned.

In the years immediately following he advocated in his paper many urgent reforms, such as the settlement of the disputed land titles of the Township of Bolton, Municipal reform, and matters pertaining to education, particularly

the establishment of a Normal School in the Township. He made his paper the common vehicle of the people for the expression of all sorts of views and greatly encouraged the literary productions of young aspirants. He assisted in forming the first association of teachers in this District, and then, as, in fact all through his life interested himself in every educational movement in the Townships, attending, until public duties prevented, all gatherings of teachers. The only municipal office he ever held was that of Councillor of Shefford Township for one term.

In 1860 the two Legislative Councillors for the District, Hon. P. H. Knowlton a Conservative and Hon. P. H. Moore, a Liberal, believing that lack of unity in the District was inimical to its interests, surprised the people by a joint letter to the Advertiser, suggesting co-operation and a public meeting to further that object. Its importance was recognized, and to help the matter along Mr. Huntington supported the letter in his paper by vigorous editorials, and combatted the party critics who favored divisions from which they personally benefited. Public meetings were held and much was accomplished for the moment. At those meetings Mr. Huntington was a leading speaker and one of the moving spirits, in fact, the life of the thing. He had sown the seed in his paper which made such a union possible. It was generally believed at the time that the joint letter mentioned was written, and the public meetings held, to counteract the scheme of a small, but assumedly strong local clique, which had bartered off the new position of Legislative Councillor to a Montreal man. That letter and the agitation which followed, killed the scheme, if it ever existed, and Col. Foster, who had resigned his mandate in the Legislative Assembly, was elected by acclamation. Subsequent to the election of 1858, Sir George E. Cartier, recognizing Mr. Huntington as a rising man, and believing from his having opposed Judge Drummond that he was not too seriously wedded to party politics, made overtures to him to join the Conservative Party. Sir A. T. Galt had been elected for Sherbrooke as a Reformer, but subsequently became a Minister in a Con-

servative Government. That precedent did not satisfy Mr. Huntington. Had he yielded, an alliance with the dominant party in the Province of that day, and for long afterwards, would have made his future more easy. In 1860, the Eastern Townships had not a single Liberal or Reform member of Parliament, no party organization, nor generally acknowledged political leader. The party had to be created and its organization effected. Mr. Huntington declined the offer and set to work to build up the party by creating first, a favorable public sentiment, and then a fighting organization. His succession to Hon. Mr. Foster in the lower House was generally conceded. But his trenchant newspaper writing and his aggressive tone on the stump, particularly during the Ferris-Knowlton election in Brome, had raised up enemies against him both in and outside the County, who disparaged his qualifications, and essayed to minimize his work for reform, ignoring the fact that without him and his paper, and the agitation he created, there would have been no reform. He was denounced as too young, too new a resident, too ambitious, and tho' a good speaker, was that and nothing more. All the local ambitions of mediocre men were against him. Attempts were made, and with some success, to create divisions among his friends in the County by suggesting as candidates the names of others on his side who had done nothing in the fight, but were ambitious to reap the spoils which his labors had placed within reach of residents. Jealousies were created and fostered which, while not successful in defeating his nomination, did prevent his election at that time. Mr. M. A. Bessette, then Mayor of North Stukely, was the Government candidate against him. For the first time in its history racial and religious cries were raised in an election campaign in Shefford County, in the interests of Mr. Bessette. After a sharp, bitter contest the result was a tie, which the Returning Officer declined to settle with his casting vote, making a special return. Both candidates claimed the seat. It was the day of open voting, before the ballot. In Granby, the vote of a man named Collins was struck off from Mr. Bessette on the Poll Book when it was discovered

that his name was not on the Voters List at all, whilst five qualified voters whose names had been entered for Mr. Huntington were changed to Mr. Bessette and three who had voted for the latter were changed to Mr. Huntington. There were 48 votes cast for Mr. Bessette in North Stukely whom the voters list showed had not the legal property qualification. It was clear that on scrutiny Mr. Huntington would win the seat. The Government, none too strong, was bound to prevent this, and Mr Ferris, with the wounds of the old contests and controversies rankling in his breast, was the prime mover on the election trial committee of which he was a member, not only to defeat Mr. Huntington, but right or wrong to seat Mr. Bessette. Mr. Pope, afterwards the Hon. Mr. Pope, the member for Compton, and at that time an Independent in politics, headed this off by shrewd tactics. The Returning Officer and sundry Deputies and Secretary-Treasurers were called to the bar of the House and catechized. Mr. Pope finally had the matter sent to a special committee where Mr. Huntington fought desperately for a scrutiny, backed by Mr. Pope. Knowing well that the result would be unfavorable for his side Mr. Ferris moved that, pending the scrutiny, the seat be given to Mr. Bessette. His motion was lost, and the Committee adjourned for twenty days, which ended the contest, for before the expiry of the delay Parliament was prorogued. Whilst Mr. Huntington had not won the seat, he had been successful in keeping his adversary out, and the skill, tact and courage he had displayed greatly enhanced his reputation. It may as well be said here as later on, that, although years after Messrs Huntington and Pope were on different sides in politics, and both prominent in party strife and public life, they remained warm personal friends to the end.

In June, 1861, Parliament was dissolved, and in the election which followed Mr. Huntington was elected by a majority of 216 over F. R. Blanchard, Esq., the popular Mayor of Ely, who had been selected to oppose him instead of his old opponent, Mr. Bessette. Whilst warmly contested the election was marked by unusual courtesy on each side. So greatly

had Mr. Huntington's ability and capacity been recognized that, during the general elections, party friends came to him from all parts of the Eastern Townships for advice and assistance. So strongly had he imposed his views upon the people that not a single non-resident member was returned in that section. At the official nomination in Shefford Mr. Ferris appeared on the hustings to pay, as he openly avowed, the debt which, in 1857 he said he owed Mr. Huntington. He received a terrible scoring from Mr. Huntington and would have been the victim of personal injury had not that gentleman interfered to protect him. Years afterwards, at a meeting of the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of Montreal, of which both were members, they were found working together cordially for the same objects. Members of the Synod, cognizant of the old antagonisms and strifes, were surprised and delighted to see them walk into the Synod, arm in arm, and loyally supporting one another in debate, illustrating "How sweet and pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." The friendship thus formed was continued through life. One incident of the election just mentioned was a suit for a penalty brought by Mr. Bessette against Mr. Huntington, with Mr. Racicot as his Attorney. It was contested and discontinued before trial.

Parliament met at Quebec the 20th March, 1862. Mr. Huntington spoke early in the debate on the address, taking at once high standing as a Parliamentary speaker,—compliments being showered upon him in and out of the House, by individuals and in the leading newspapers on both sides of politics. The correspondent of *L'Ordre*, an independent paper with Conservative bearings, wrote :—"Mr. Huntington continued the debate with singular ability. He is a distinguished journalist and will become an eminent orator. His sympathetic talent captured the immediate attention of the House. He rendered an eloquent tribute to the toleration of our population." The Toronto Ministerialist organ of the day, the *Leader*, said : "A really capital speech was made by Mr. Huntington, the Member for Shefford. He spoke with energy and effect. His delivery is excellent,

“and his bearing pleasant. He showed himself quick at “repartee, &c., &c.” Such commendations to a young member on his debut were rare then, and have been rare since. A few days later he made a motion in the House on some subject, severely censuring the Government. Hon. Mr. Cartier, the then Premier, in the course of his reply said : “That the “member for Shefferd was an ornament to this House no “one who had listened to his eloquent speech on Friday “would deny. He himself cheerfully admitted it. He had “crossed the floor of the House at the time to congratulate “the Honorable Gentleman upon his successful debut, &c., “&c.” Other members joined in warm commendations, whilst the newspaper correspondents commented favorably, calling him clever, eloquent and strong in debate.

On the 23rd of May, 1862, the Ministry was defeated on its Militia Bill and the Sandfield Macdonald-Sicotte Government was formed in which, feeling that he was too young in parliamentary life, Mr. Huntington declined the office of Solicitor General, although strongly urged, and particularly by the Ministerial press. In May, 1863, that Government was defeated by an adverse vote in the House and a dissolution followed. The Ministry was reorganized under the name of the Sandfield Macdonald-Dorion Government, wherein Mr. Huntington took office as Solicitor General, with a seat in the cabinet. His selection met with favor in the Province, and especially in the Eastern Townships. In the general election which followed, his old antagonist, Mr. Bessette, was his opponent. It was a lively contest, but Mr. Huntington was re-elected by a majority of 227. When the House met in August, 1863, it was found that the members who had been retired by the Premier from his previous administration had joined hands with his opponents and had become its most bitter assailants,—the most bitter being D’Arcy McGee who, at the time, was admitted to be the most eloquent orator in Canada. He was in the prime of his life and vigor, a man of wide reading with a wonderfully retentive memory, an old journalist, a diction at times classical and always keenly attractive, and, with the im-

agination of a poet was still a skilful parliamentary debater. Apart from this, the prestige of long parliamentary experience and prominence in debate, as well as his powers of scorching sarcasm were such that timid souls, and even veteran debaters, shrank from facing him on the floor of the House in debate. The Government put Mr. Huntington forward to meet Mr. McGee on each fresh outbreak. It was a bold undertaking considering his years and brief parliamentary experience, and was keenly watched on all sides. Mr. McGee warily fenced at times for the last word, recognizing an adversary worthy of his steel. Mr. Huntington was by turns aggressive, sarcastic, bold and always eloquent. He had the advantage of being without a vulnerable past record, whilst his adversary had weak spots in his armor as to the past. There was a marked difference between the two men personally, and in their address and delivery, but both were equally quick in repartee, and happy in the little felicities and mannerisms of expression which make debates attractive and interesting. In personal appearance Mr. Huntington had the advantage of a commanding figure, a pleasing, resolute manner, an unusually full, rich finely modulated voice, and his sentences of clean cut, vigorous English were well rounded. But, despite his appearance and manner, there was so much of the true orator in D'Arcy McGee, so sweet and magnetic a voice, such apt powers of quotation and illustration, and such elegant and fitting language that, in listening, one easily forgot the man. He was a master of ridicule. The taunt and well timed sneer were at his service when the occasion demanded. And he could say pleasant and sympathetic things with charming eloquence when the spirit moved, as it frequently did. Perhaps no more scholarly man ever sat in a Canadian Parliament. Mr. Huntington's style, while not more aggressive, at times appeared more noticeably so. He seemed to relish crowding an opponent into a corner and lashing him with invective, sarcasm and argument, whilst his friends looked on and cheered. If Mr. McGee's illustrations showed more classical scholarship, appealing to the few of wide reading, Mr Hunt-

ington had the art of adopting those more homely ones of every day life, which struck a popular chord and were more readily understood by the common people,—always the most numerous. Of their first encounter the Parliamentary correspondent of a French paper of the Province said: “I will not speak of Mr. McGee, whom all your readers have heard, but I cannot pass in silence the Hon. Mr. Huntington. I never believed that to all the talents I knew he possessed the Solicitor General joined in so high a degree those of an orator. Without drawing at the moment a comparison between him and Mr. McGee, I may say that the two speak with the same facility. Their voices are excellent. At the same time, I prefer that of Mr. Huntington, which, with the same sweetness, is more impressive and sonorous. The soul of the orator breathes in his voice, and laughs or cries according to the caprice of the musician or the chord he wishes to touch. Mr. Huntington has the advantage of a fine exterior, which Mr. McGee has not. Mr. McGee has more study and ideas, but he is older than Mr. Huntington. In fact, the ministry has made a great acquisition in their Solicitor General.” In a more practical vein, but with equal laudatory expression, the *Hamilton Times* correspondent wrote of the same debate:—“Mr. McGee, however, did not have it all his own way, for Mr. Huntington, the Solicitor General for Lower Canada took him to task for deserting his party in a manner which must have astonished the Member for Montreal West. There was not a spark of anger in his speech, it was delivered with the most provoking sympathy for Mr. McGee’s position, and must have disconcerted his impertable nonchalance. Huntington is a young, but clever politician, a close reasoner and a talented debater. He has no superior on the floor of the House for Lower Canada.” Of another debate that session, the correspondent of a Montreal paper said of Mr. Huntington’s speech that it “far exceeded the expectations of the House and was eulogized on both sides, his opponents admitting it was one of the best speeches of the session,”—and editorially the same paper said:—“Not only are his speeches

“characterized by editors and correspondents as of the highest rank of oratory and eloquence, but as wonderfully telling upon the House in the points made.” Later, Mr. McGee made an onslaught upon the Finance Minister, to which Mr. Huntington replied, as *La Tribune of Quebec* said cleverly and effectively, whilst the *Montreal Transcript*, speaking of the attack and its effects said :—“Who had pluck enough to respond to the rodomontade of the honey-tongued member for Montreal West (Mr. McGee)? Mr. Solicitor General, Huntington replied in a very quiet, but very telling and effective way to Mr. McGee’s bluster, &c.” These are but a few samples of the many flattering newspaper expressions as to his prominent participation in the heated debates of the session. The close of the session showed the Ministry weak through defections, but out of its turmoil Mr. Huntington emerged a conspicuous figure, with an enviable reputation as a powerful debater and eloquent speaker. In the vacation the by-elections had gone against the Government. When the session opened in February, 1864, the opposition was full of courage. Early in the session there was an encounter between Mr. O’Halloran, Member for Missisquoi and Mr. McGee, in which the latter assailed Mr. O’Halloran with vehemence and passion and was replied to by Mr. Huntington in one of his most brilliant speeches. Of it the correspondent of *L’Ordre* said :—“Heretofore he (Mr. McGee) has been looked upon as the invincible orator of the House, but last night the universal feeling was that he had met with more than his match, and that, in truth, this Samson of the tongue had his locks so completely shorn by Mr. Huntington that he will never recover his lost prestige.” Other correspondents of the press commented on the speech in equally favorable terms.

The Government was defeated in March, 1864, when Mr. Huntington and his colleagues crossed the floor of the House. The divisions, in and out of the House, had produced so serious a condition of affairs as the result of sectional differences, respecting principally representation by population,—differences which every fresh appeal to the country only

widened,—that party Government seemed impossible and, therefore a coalition was formed with the object of bringing about a Union of the Provinces. That something had to be done will be more clearly apparent when it is recalled that in Mr. Huntington's first four years in Parliament there were no less than five distinct Ministries. In 1865 there were two short sessions of Parliament, in one of which the scheme of Confederation was discussed, and against which, as outlined, Mr. Huntington spoke. The measure was carried, a short and uneventful session of Parliament was held in 1866, pending Imperial legislation upon the Confederation measure, and at which Mr. Huntington rarely spoke. He did, however, speak and vote against Confederation. Old party ties were broken by the coalition, and none could see what the future had in store. With the close of that session the old Parliament and Province of Canada passed away, and a new era was inaugurated under grave doubts as to its proving finally a settlement of the old difficulties.

Shortly after Mr. Huntington's election in 1861 he formed a law partnership with the late J. B. Lay, Esq., who had studied with him, which was dissolved in 1863, when he became a partner of the late Judge Buchanan with offices at Waterloo and Sweetsburg. During that year he was made a Queen's Counsel, the first legal practitioner so distinguished in the District of Bedford. In 1865 that firm was dissolved and the late Jos. Leblanc became his partner until October, 1866, when Jno. P. Noyes, who had studied in his office, was admitted a member of the firm. In 1871 Mr. Leblanc retired, and under the firm name of Huntington & Noyes the firm was continued for some years. Subsequently he became a law partner of Hon. R. Laflamme, in Montreal. Mr. Huntington was a successful practitioner at the Bar so long as he applied himself to practice, but politics and other duties eventually compelled him to give it only casual attention and finally to abandon it altogether. He was a skilful cross-examiner, knowing what he wanted to prove and stopping when that proof was made, seized quickly the salient points in the case and presented that case to Judge or Jury with

telling force and effect. In the early days when it became known that he was to conduct or plead a case people would flock into the Court room to watch or listen to him. Whilst his practice at the Bar showed his wonderful versatility and cleverness, it was not, however, as a lawyer that he gained his highest honors or greatest distinction.

On becoming a Minister in 1863, Mr. Huntington severed nominal connection with the Advertiser, though for many years thereafter he owned the outfit and wrote occasional editorials. It was his special organ, however, and in any crisis a trenchant editorial from his pen was pretty likely to appear in its columns. His editorial style, after he had gained a little experience, was different from that which he employed in public speaking, tho', perhaps, he was not exceptional in this. In writing he was direct, concise, pungent and clear, with illustrations and quotations of a scholarly character disclosing wide reading of the best literature, and nice discrimination in selection. He was a great editorial writer, writing much in that way for many years in the Montreal Herald in the same intermittent way in which he wrote for the Advertiser. When the Herald passed to a joint Stock Company, he became one of its largest stock holders. His oldest son, Russ W., a brilliant writer of exceptional promise, was on the editorial staff of the paper until his untimely death, after which Mr. Huntington disposed of his stock in the Company.

In the early '60's he was successfully engaged as Counsel with Judge Drummond in connection with the Bolton Land Commission and about that time he acquired valuable mining property in that Township, which he decided to operate, instead of using it for speculative purposes, as had theretofore been the Eastern Township practice. So energetically did Mr. Huntington push operations that in 1865 a large number of men were employed, and several carloads of ore were shipped weekly to the United States, being drawn by teams fourteen miles from the mine to the railway at Waterloo. It was considered wonderful mining at the time, all the more remarkable when the adverse conditions are considered.

Those conditions were, largely, uncertain and changeable markets, lack of capital, inexperience in mining, and a long haul for supplies and output to and from the railway. It was during these years, prior to the sale of his mine in 1871, that Mr. Huntington displayed most fully his great talent for business and his capacity for managing large enterprises. Absolutely alone, and without backers, he had to negotiate for funds to carry on operations with men who had little faith in mines, were unacquainted with that kind of security, and who did not regard his enthusiasm as the best security for the investment of considerable sums of money. He talked them over, just as in the same dark days of his mining operations, when there was no money to pay his men on pay day, he would call them together, make them a rattling speech which restored their confidence, and they would go to work contentedly. Then smelters would cease operations, the price of copper would tumble, and companies would fail, causing fresh financial embarrassment and crippling operations. The great thing was, really, a stable market for ore. The trials of those years, in detail, as well as the general matters and difficulties mentioned, were sufficient to wear out the strongest man. It was while in the midst of all these worries and difficulties that the first Federal Elections in 1867 came off. Not only was Mr. Huntington's heart in his mining enterprise at that time, but he saw little opening for useful public life until the new issues which he foresaw as likely to arise from Confederation, had been mapped out. He decided not to present himself at the election, and so stated privately, as well as at the party convention. But his friends and the convention persisted and he yielded. His opponent was A. B. Parmelee, Esq., his old law partner, who had been a follower of Judge Drummond of old, He ran as an independent. On the eve of the nomination Mr. Huntington went to Mr. Parmelee and offered to retire and allow his election by acclamation provided he would agree to follow Hon. Mr. Dorion as leader in the House. Taking this to be an admission of weakness Mr. Parmelee declined, saying he would follow no one. Perhaps in none of Mr. Huntington's

campaigns was he so aggressively buoyant as during that contest. There were no public questions to discuss. Confederation had wiped out the old issues and to some extent the old antagonisms, and no new ones had come prominently to the surface. It was purely and simply a choice between leaders and men. Personally Mr. Huntington would not have repined over defeat. But his confident tone of assured victory and his irresistible oratory were more than half the battle, and in a sharp contest he had 328 majority.

It was evident, when the first session of the Parliament of new Canada met in November, 1867, that the coalition born to secure Confederation, had not brought peace and contentment to all the coalescing parties. There was a feeling of unrest, and early in the session Mr. Huntington reminded the Grits who had gone over of his prediction in 1864, when the coalition was formed, and told them jeeringly to accept the situation, that they "had gone over and a deep sea line could not fish them up again as liberals." Hon. Joseph Howe, an experienced parliamentarian, a strong debater and an orator widely known for his rare gifts of eloquence, and largely backed in his Province of Nova Scotia, had been elected to the Federal Parliament as an opponent of Confederation. He had been violently attacked in the press and in the House, and on one of those occasions, on the spur of the moment, moved by just resentment, Mr. Huntington made one of his most effective speeches in defence of Mr. Howe. Later in the debate Mr. Howe spoke, when he said of Mr. Huntington's defence that he (Mr. Howe), "could forgive the attack of the Hon. Member for South Lanark upon him, in consideration for the splendid burst of manly eloquence it had elicited from his friend, Mr. Huntington, the Member for Shefford. That Hon. Member's sympathy for and appreciation of the people of Nova Scotia had astonished and delighted him. It was no praise of that speech to say that it was eloquent. He, (Mr. Howe), had seen something of the world, her orators and great men. He had often sat through important debates in the House of Lords and House of Commons, but he was bound to say as to the

“speech of his honorable friend—apart from its kindness
“towards himself and the people he loved—that, as an ex-
“temporaneous burst of eloquence, for felicity of expression
“vigor of thought, and well sustained argument, he had
“never in any country seen it surpassed. His heart warmed
“to the name of Huntington as that of one of the noblest
“men Nova Scotia had ever known, to whom, on his death,
“the Legislature had raised a monument, but he hoped that
“it would be long before a monument was raised to his friend
“(laughter).” During that session Mr. Huntington spoke on
most of the important questions before the House and in
this larger parliamentary sphere took rank among the first
speakers and debaters in Parliament.

Early in 1868 a meeting of the Synod of the Diocese of
Montreal was held to elect a successor to the recently deceased
Bishop Fulford, in which considerable feeling was displayed.
The laity, almost unanimously, and a small part of the clergy
favored a Montreal clergyman for the position, whilst the
clergy by a large majority, with a few wavering souls among
the laity, were of a different opinion. The feeling was intense
and somewhat strained. The debates were able and, for a
church gathering, somewhat exciting. In those debates Mr.
Huntington was the leading speaker, in fact, the most dis-
tinguished speaker and leader for the lay majority view. It
was conceded at that time that no such powerful speeches
were ever before made in the Synod, nor, admittedly great as
Mr. Huntington was known to have been and to be as an
orator, had he ever spoken more logically, convincingly and
eloquently than on that occasion, or displayed more tact in
management, or shown greater quickness of repartee, at the
same time breathing a broad, tolerant, christian spirit. This
was another instance of his wondrous versatility,—a talent
soon to be displayed in a direction largely affecting Imperial
matters and Colonial affairs.

The second session of the Dominion Parliament was opened
in April, 1869 by the new Governor-General, Sir John Young,
afterwards known as Lord Lisgar. It was generally under-
stood that he was instructed to quietly urge Canadian Inde-

pendence, with a view to obviate suspected difficulties with the United States. The British Press, and particularly the *Times*, advocated separation under that form, and Canada was more than once alluded to in disparaging, if not contemptuous terms, as hanging on to the apron strings of the mother country. Leading men in England spoke in much the same vein. The British garrisons were withdrawn from Canada. Sir John Young and his official family, were not backward in private conversation in the expression of views in favor of Canadian Independence. The Canadian mind was stunned and puzzled over the unexpected situation. Mr. Huntington brought the matter up in the House, and made a powerful plea in favor of Canadian Independence as a means to avoid annexation. It was a bold move. It was the first note of the cry sounded in Parliament, and attracted much attention in the House and in the country, where the first development of the question was scarcely understood. It came up many times and under different circumstances in the Canadian Parliament that session. Sir A. T. Galt, an ex-Minister and ex-colleague of Sir John A. Macdonald, avowed himself a believer in Canadian Independence. Mr. Huntington stirred the House with a brilliant speech in line with Sir A. T. Galt's views. There were warm discussions in the press. The *Herald* and *Star* of Montreal were pronounced advocates of independence. Many prominent men supported it. At Quebec, during the summer, the Governor-General made a speech which had no other meaning than suggesting Canadian Independence. Whilst there was no decisive utterance of a settled policy on the subject by the Home Government, Ministers were believed to favor it, a view favored by failure to deny charges to that effect, and strengthened by the leading articles of the Ministerial press in England. Opinion in Canada had not been formed. There were strong arguments on each side. But the general public seemed to share the mental distress of the small boy in his effort to write a school composition on the subject of candy, who declared he "was bewildered by the mass of material." Mr. Huntington became the mouthpiece and leader of those who supported

Canadian Independence, because he believed the policy of the mother country pointed that way, and because he believed in a robust Canadian nationality. If England wanted to be rid of us for good and all, he thought it unmanly and undignified to supplicate for a continuance of a condition irksome to her and inconsistent with a vigorous national sentiment. Between Annexation and Independence he preferred the solution consistent with a true Canadian national spirit. To those who had not caught the drift of English opinion, official and otherwise, his course seemed inexplicable, and, at all events, ought not to be taken as loyal. In September, 1869, Mr. Huntington was invited to deliver an address upon the subject before the Missisquoi County Agricultural Society at Bedford. In that address, which was long and exhaustive, he made a careful argument upon his side of the question, but running throughout the whole was a note of lofty patriotism. It attracted much attention. Later, on a requisition, the Warden of Shefford County called a public meeting at Waterloo, to discuss the subject, at which speakers on both sides were heard. Mr. Huntington's speech was delivered in his usual forceful manner but, obviously was mostly a repetition of the exhaustive Bedford speech made a week or so earlier. He said at Waterloo to the advocates of annexation the significant words: "Leave your useless agitation, for England will never consent to the annexation of Canada to the United States." During the next session of Parliament, the subject was keenly discussed in the press, and by public men, not only in, but outside of Canada. The acceptance of a knighthood, after notifying the Home authorities of his position respecting Canadian Independence by Mr. Galt, and that he could not accept the honor if intended to influence his action thereon, was regarded with reason as an approval by such authorities of Canadian Independence. In the early days of the ensuing session there was a battle royal on the subject. The Finance Minister, Sir Francis Hincks, wantonly attacked Hon. John Young, for his independence views and in the course of the debate Mr. Galt's name was dragged in disparagingly. Mr. Galt replied calmly, but with

force, and was vehemently assailed in reply by Dr. now Sir Chas. Tupper. Mr. Huntington answered them both in a ringing speech. A correspondent of a leading paper said that Mr. Huntington's speech was felt to be the speech of the debate. Both Sir Francis and his ally Dr. Tupper, winced under the scoring he gave them. In a division of the house during the session on the question Mr. Huntington surprised both parties by securing 58 votes, even when many of his own party friends and leaders voted against him. That subject was the live one for a couple of sessions and in its discussion Mr. Huntington was the central figure. He had, also, during that session a lively set to in the House with Sir George Cartier over the Waterloo Post Office, as to which there was much local feeling against the strange conduct of the Government.

About 1870 Mr. Huntington secured a charter to build a tram, or wooden railway, a construction fad of the time from Waterloo to his mine at Dillonton, to avoid the long and costly haul by teams to a railway. He made a contract with a firm in the United States to supply a large quantity of ore at prices which promised to place his mine on a firm, paying basis. With characteristic energy he pushed the work along, but the wooden rails were a failure; the Government subsidy was withheld, and to add to his troubles copper tumbled to a low price and the Company with which he had contracted became insolvent. Relying on that contract he had entered into operating obligations involving increased expenditure and employed a larger number of men. Checked but not daunted, he bent every energy to find new markets, keep the mining operations moving along, and finance against great odds for means. His wife was a hopeless invalid requiring much of his time and distracting his attention from a business sufficiently complicated, and which needed infinite care. In view of his wonderful activity in his mining operations and enterprises connected therewith, the difficulties he had faced and which were by no means ended; the prominence he had gained in Parliament and his plucky advocacy of Canadian Independence, many of his leading constituents, as well as friends outside of the County, felt

he deserved some public recognition. The result was a public dinner given him at Waterloo in January, 1871, at which, apart from his constituents, were many leading men and personal friends from Montreal and Eastern Townships Counties, irrespective of party politics, all of whom showed the hearty friendship they entertained for him. Mr. Huntington, as usual, made an eloquent speech in which he indulged in a broad characterization of the men then dominating the country, and a fair criticism of their policy. He reiterated briefly his reasons for advocating Canadian Independence, but avowing that if it could be shown that England deprecated the change his mouth would be sealed upon the subject. It was one of his happiest speeches, bold and fearless, and yet he spoke with a sad heart, knowing the dangerous illness of his wife, and feeling the shadow of the great calamity hanging over him. His speech was bitterly attacked by the party press, his motives and expressions distorted, and he was personally assailed with a bitterness, to which, however, he had become accustomed. Shortly after, Mrs. Huntington passed away, after a protracted illness. At the bedside of his wife, shortly before her death, he wrote some lines, which were subsequently dedicated and sent to those who loved her. They were not intended for publication, but a copy found its way into the hands of a friend who gave it to the printer as worthy a wider circle of readers, It has the ring of true poetry, and is as follows :—

WAITING.

There's a sea of troubled waters,
 Stretching far to the unknown,
 Whence no mariner returneth,
 Who shall tempt its depths alone?
 Faith illumineth its blackness
 And from all its perils save :
 Faith in him who calmed the waters
 Him who walked upon the wave.

By that sea of death I'm waiting,
 On the shores where mortals stand,
 For my darling's taking passage
 To the distant Holy Land.
 Gleaming in the golden sunshine,
 Through the shadows spreading far,
 I can see the tents of glory
 And the heavenly "gates ajar."

Oh, it is a cruel parting !
 And my heart is full of woe ;
 But the Master is the pilot,
 And my darling wants to go.
 Give me the faith of Abraham,
 Who dared to slay his son,
 That trusting boundless confidence
 To say " Thy will be done."

My God ! protect my little ones,
 And give me strength to bear
 The first of my afflictions
 That my darling did not share.
 Teach me the prayer of thankfulness,
 At morning tide and even ;
 One friend the less in this cold world,
 One friend the more in heaven !

Shortly after the death of his wife, Mr. Huntington was prostrated by a severe illness which rendered him unable to participate with his usual vigor in the proceedings of the Federal Parliament, which convened in February, 1871. It was a short session, lasting only a couple of months. While speaking at Granby in June, 1871, during the local election, with his usual telling effect, he was notified of the sudden death of his second son, Frederick L., a bright clever lad of twelve, from whom his father had expected much in the future. Afflictions seemed to follow him one after the other. In the fall of 1871, he went to England, and after negotiations in which he displayed extraordinary tact and diplomacy, sold

his mining property for a price which enabled him to pay all liabilities and leave a surplus then considered a large fortune. An instance of party spite and political malignity was developed in the course of the transactions by attempts being made to depreciate and injure him in England and render futile his efforts to sell his mine. The parties wired the Manager of Molsons Bank in Montreal, and the answer was so decidedly favorable that the sneaking effort to injure helped rather than retarded the business. On his return he again pushed the construction of the railway from Waterloo to the mines, and became interested in the Missisquoi and Black River Valley Railway, of which he became a Director and subsequently President, the road failing to be built through the withholding of promised Government subsidies.

Directly after his return from England he spoke at a banquet given to Hon. Mr. Dunkin, at Sutton, on the latter's elevation to the Bench. Sir George Cartier, disregarding the proprieties of the occasion, made a strong party speech, denouncing in rather strong terms the Opposition in Parliament. He was followed by Mr. Huntington. The Montreal Star said it was worth going a day's journey to see the wordy encounter between them; complimented Mr. Huntington on the restraint he showed at a non-political gathering, and said: "Mr. Huntington contented himself with administering a rebuke, which, though betraying little or no passion must have cut like a two edged sword. He had the sympathy of the audience at once." It was a triumph over which to-day the eyes of old men, who had been present, sparkle at the remembrance.

The last session of the first Dominion Parliament met at Ottawa on the 11th of April, 1872, and was a session of considerable importance in view of the alleged sacrifice of Canadian interests just perpetrated by the Washington treaty between England and the United States, at which Sir John A. Macdonald, as an Imperial Commissioner, was claimed to have been a party to the sacrifice, and over which there was a feeling of genuine anger in the Dominion. Mr. Huntington made a notable speech in the House on the subject, not so

much censuring the Imperial Government for making the treaty, as using it to illustrate the Colonial dependent position and appealing for the national existence of Canada as an independent nation. The speech was even commended by the Ministerial press for its moderation and eloquence. In his speech at the Waterloo dinner in January, 1871, before mentioned, Mr. Huntington had caustically criticized Sir Francis Hincks, the then Finance Minister, and had drawn a portrait of him with a boldness of characterization, and a power of antithesis not unworthy of a Macaulay, that had charmed his hearers for its literary excellence, even those who did not share his views, or agree with his estimate of Sir Francis. The latter had acquired his early fame as a hard hitter in the days when hard hitting was the fashion, and his subsequent stormy career in Canadian politics, and in the Imperial service, had been, in a marked degree, equally stormy. He was not the man to take kindly the stinging criticism, which had been seized upon by the press with an avidity which showed a measure of approval, he therefore wrote an open letter to the newspapers addressed to Mr. Huntington in February, 1871, defending himself, and attacking his opponent in the strongest terms an old polemical writer could employ. The letter was published at about the time of Mrs. Huntington's death, when his heart was so full of his own trouble that he did not concern himself to reply. But he had not forgotten. In that Waterloo speech, of which Sir Francis complained, Mr. Huntington had alluded to the unkindly course of the Government which, he feared would provoke retaliation from the United States. The Washington Treaty which followed gave force to his fears, and in the debate thereon in the House, he addressed himself particularly to Sir Francis and made the venerable Knight regret that he had not taken his medicine without a murmur of dissent. There was also a debate during the session upon the Tariff which involved the consideration of Free Trade and Protection, in which there was a wide divergence of opinion in the ranks of both parties. There were then, as now, men who talked of taking it out of the United States

by a retaliatory tariff. Sir John A. did not favor the proposition, being then a pronounced free trader. Mr. Huntington made, what even the Ministerial press admitted, was a sensible speech on the subject, and although a free trader in principle declared "there might be such a protection to native manufacturers as would encourage their progress." He thought, however, that the subject "ought to be viewed above the sphere of mere party politics and be regarded as a subject for statesmanlike consideration." In April, during the session, Mr. Huntington, on invitation, delivered the anniversary address before the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society of Montreal, which evoked much comment from the party press on the alert to find any sort of a weapon to attack him. There ran through it a vein of true patriotism, and he urged the people of Canada "to teach the young men that if they are true to themselves there is a noble heritage in store for them, and an empire the foundation of which it would be theirs to lay," and he deplored to some extent the feeling for National Societies, apart from Canadian ones. He was charged by Ministerial journals, keen to hunt up a grievance against him, with deliberately insulting Canadians by a forced interpretation which made, for that purpose Scotch, Irish and English Societies, Canadians. The same thing has been said scores of times since without attracting offensive remark. The Daily News, then the Ministerial organ in Montreal, defended him on that score, and as to the speaker said: "The Hon. Mr. Huntington is an eloquent "and agreeable speaker, possessing great command of "language, a pleasing voice, animation of manner, and a "lively imagination," and as to the substance said that "his "speech shows that there is the proper stuff in him to constitute a statesman."

While the session was going on Mr. Huntington again went to England to negotiate the sale of a number of Eastern Townships mines for different parties, in the hope they might be worked as his own mine at Dillonton was then being done. Prior to his departure he convened the party leaders in his County, and explained the reason for his contemplated

absence from the House and country, and his willingness to retire from the representation of the County if his friends thought it desirable. The offer was declined and he was unanimously tendered a re-nomination, which he accepted. An arrangement was made prior to his departure with Hon. Mr. Pope, a Minister, and other party leaders interested in the sale of those mines, or in their being worked, by which the election for Shefford should be held back as long as possible, for in those days elections were not all held the same day. The clamors of certain of the Ministerial press against him, in which they even sought to raise the prejudices of French Canadians, led to Chas. Thibault, Esq., of Montreal, being nominated to oppose him. At once the most bitter and absurd stories were fabricated on racial and religious lines, tho' as the sequel showed the thing was overdone. But the feelings aroused by those cries at first had alarmed his friends in the County, more particularly as his absence had paralyzed an organization which, for years, had depended largely upon his presence and personality. He was cabled to return so soon as notice was received of the issue of the Election Writ. He landed in New York the day before the nomination, and reached Waterloo one hour before the official proceedings began for the open nomination of that period. There was an unusally large attendance, for the election had attracted outside interest on account of the unopposed malignant attacks upon him, and the prejudices which had been invoked to bring about his defeat. The tide seemed to be against him, but when, with that air of calm confidence and courage which never forsook him, he had uttered but a few sentences the despondency of his friends gave way to the wildest enthusiasm. He ignored his opponent in a contemptuous manner and easily dominated the situation and controlled the gathering. It was a short campaign. There was no political discussion, for the fight was purely on the cries of race and religion. Mr. Huntington was elected by a majority of 412, being an increase over any prior election of his in the County.

In the fall of 1872 he had the gratification of seeing in

operation by the Central Vt. Ry., the railway he had projected to his mines, and which subsequently passed to the Waterloo and Magog Ry., and later to the Canadian Pacific Railway. His services had become in great demand, not only at political assemblies throughout the country, but on the lecture platform, in support of principles then attracting attention and exciting interest. In February, 1873, he delivered a lecture to young men before the Cathedral Young Men's Christian Association in Montreal, which managed to receive favorable criticism, instead of the animadversions to which he had become habituated from the party press of his opponents. As instancing his remarkable foresight, it was pointed out by him as the duty of the young men to prepare to form opinions upon such questions as the settlement and development of the territories; the connection with the mother country; the Federal union of the Colonies with the Empire, and the like. This was an indication that he had dropped the idea of Canadian Independence, for there had been a change of sentiment in England, not only in the press, but in the Colonial office, and separation was no longer the idea of the Home authorities. Lord Dufferin had replaced Lord Lisgar as Governor-General, and henceforth the dominant Canadian idea respecting the mother country was the unity, instead of the dissolution of the Empire as respected the Colonies, which Mr. Huntington accepted with the same loyalty and attachment to England's views he had entertained when they were otherwise understood. Prior to the dissolution of the House legislation had been had respecting the building of a railway to the Pacific, pursuant to the conditions under which British Columbia had been admitted a Province of the Dominion. It was not generally understood in the older Provinces, but was soon to receive the greatest, if not the most popular consideration, and henceforth to become, perhaps, the most important factor in Canadian politics. From that election of 1872 began the last great struggle of Mr. Huntington's life, in which he was for a time the most conspicuous figure in the political arena, and then to succumb under the constant attacks of his

enemies—enemies the most virulent and insidiously dangerous of any which had assailed any public man in the political life of Canada, at least, since Confederation,—insidious and dangerous because of their racial and religious direction, and of their effect in a Province in which the majority were not of his blood,—a condition also, which actually existed in his constituency. The worst feature of the attacks was, that it was aided, if not really formented by English Protestant journals of the Province politically opposed to him, as well as by many of the leaders. The word had gone forth that Huntington must be crushed, and little cared they what was the character of the weapons used, or the after effects of their agitation. It has sometimes resulted since, that the men who gained a temporary advantage by those means have paid the penalty of their folly by meeting punishment under the working of the same narrow views, not to use a harsher term, which they had actually created. This portion of Mr. Huntington's life will be treated more briefly because it is nearer at hand, and more generally known, at least in political circles. While it is in many respects the most brilliant part of his career in the wide field of Canadian politics, and requires more care and longer narration and quotation, the restricted space of this sketch, and its general purpose, necessitates curtailment. It has been deemed more important to deal with the earlier events, trials and triumphs, in order to show how he grew, and by what means he became a distinguished public man in his world, one of its really conspicuous figures. Apart from that, many of the things here related of his early life have no general publicity, and are known to only a few who had personal knowledge of his early life and struggles.

The Liberals went to the country in 1872 confident of victory, and with good reasons for the belief, unessential for the purpose of this sketch. They could not, after the elections were over understand how, in so many constituencies in which public opinion seemed strongly in their favor, the result had been adverse. The cause soon transpired. The House met on the 15th March, 1873. On the 2nd day

of April following, Mr. Huntington startled the House and the country by making the declaration as a Member in the House of Commons,—failing in the substantiation of which would have led to his expulsion,—that the Government had given Sir Hugh Allan's Company, said to be composed largely of Americans,—the charter to build the Canadian Pacific Railway, on the understanding that Sir Hugh should defray the expenses of the general elections of 1872, then impending, and that Sir Hugh had so contributed. The singular feature of the incident was, that neither before, nor after the declaration, strongly but carefully worded, did Mr. Huntington, nor any member of the Opposition offer a word of explanation, nor had any hint been given that such action was intended. This reticence had a powerful, one might say a stunning effect, indicating as it did, that the proof would be forthcoming. The Government had to do one of two things, either propose his expulsion, which, despite its majority might fail, and even if successful would not prevent the publication of the proof with no word of palliation, or explanation, or, on the other hand, send his declaration to a Committee of the House for investigation. The latter course was adopted and an Act passed empowering the Committee to administer oaths to witnesses. This Act was quickly disallowed by the Home Government, at the request of Sir John A. it was boldly claimed at the time. A special commission was named by the Government,—for whitewashing purposes it was charged by the Opposition,—before which Mr. Huntington refused to appear for the reason stated in a letter to the Chairman of the Commission, that the matter was under the consideration of the House, and it would be a breach of privilege for him to go before an inferior tribunal. The work of the Commission was forestalled and the public taken into confidence by a publication of the famous McMullen correspondence, and the telegrams and letters respecting the financial aid given by Sir Hugh during the campaign, which bore out the declaration made by Mr. Huntington in the House. Public indignation was roused. It was stated that the Governor-General would further adjourn the meeting

of Parliament beyond the day fixed at the time of adjournment. Mr. Huntington wrote him a strong but calm and dignified letter, which was published in the papers, opposing such a course and forwarded the McMullen, and other proof, as printed. The House was adjourned, but when it finally met, without waiting for further action, the Government resigned. Pending that result there were many acrimonious debates. Of one of Mr. Huntington's speeches, a correspondent of the Canadian Illustrated News, a Conservative paper, said: "As a speech it was perfect; as a piece of keen, effective satire, though refined and polished to a degree it was almost too painful to listen to, and by a long way surpassed any oratorical effort of this Parliament." When the vote of censure was proposed in the House by Mr. Mackenzie, as the result of which the Government resigned, replies were made by Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Francis Hincks and Dr. Tupper,—the latter of whom made a personal attack upon Mr. Huntington with the result that he received a castigation from the latter of so scathing a character as ever after to rankle in the breast of that gentleman. It was one of Mr. Huntington's most powerful speeches, in which railery, sarcasm, close analysis and convincing argument were closely blended and aptly joined. It had a tremendous effect in the House, and in the country, where the proceedings in Parliament were watched with breathless interest.

In the galleries of the House during those heated debates was a young British peer, Lord Rosebery, destined to become one of England's leading statesmen, and later Premier of England, who watched and listened with keen interest the struggle on the floor of the House. He became on the spot an ardent admirer of Mr. Huntington and they became warm friends. On subsequent visits to England Mr. Huntington was his guest at the family seat. It has been said by those who heard Lord Rosebery years later, when he had become a conspicuous figure in public life, and who were familiar with Mr. Huntington's oratory, that Lord Rosebery's style of speaking greatly resembled that of Mr. Huntington when the personal element was restrained or eliminated. And

the resemblance went further. Mr. Griffin, the librarian of the Dominion Parliament, in one of his admirable and interesting papers in the Montreal Gazette in 1899, and which have appeared weekly therein for many years under the title of "At Dodsley's," speaking of Lord Rosebery's manner said: "To see Lord Rosebery lounge down the chamber of the House of Lords with his hands in his pockets, reminds one very much of the late Mr. Huntington. There is a certain degree of careless sauntering in his manner, which also marked the late Mr. Huntington." But Mr. Huntington's friends knew that when he thus carelessly sauntered he was preparing for the fray, and that his apparent indifference was a natural habit, indicating mental preoccupation. When the fight was on he was the embodiment of energy, restrained it might be, but always there for the occasion.

After the Mackenzie administration was formed, on the resignation of the old Ministry, Mr. Huntington's Montreal friends, in view of the fierce attacks made upon him, and in appreciation of his distinguished services, gave him a banquet in Montreal, on the 23rd December, 1873, which was a large and popular demonstration. The new Premier and many of his colleagues were present and spoke. Mr. Huntington made one of his characteristically happy speeches, always adapted to the occasion. Shortly after that event,—in January, 1874—the second Parliament of Canada was dissolved and a general election was held. Mr. Huntington then joined the Ministry as President of the Council. At the election in Shefford County which followed, the present Judge Curran was the Conservative candidate, but Mr. Huntington was elected by a majority of 567. It was generally reported and believed at the time, that Sir Hugh Allan, in his anger over the "Pacific Railway Scandal" disclosures, had subscribed liberally to bring about Mr. Huntington's defeat. At all events, effort was made to that end. That was the last election under the regime of open nomination and open voting. On that occasion Mr. Huntington was nominated by Hon. A. B. Foster, Senator, a life long Conservative, who had supported him actively in the struggle over the "Pacific

Railway Scandal." During the two first sessions of the new or third Parliament of Canada, no legislation of national importance was undertaken, tho' the session of 1875, while not productive of heated debates, was marked by much important legislation. On the 9th October, 1875, Mr. Huntington changed his portfolio and was sworn in as Postmaster General. During all that year and, in fact, during the existence of the Mackenzie Government, Mr. Huntington was specially singled out for attack. A Montreal organ was particularly violent and, among other things, kept intermittently stating that he had resigned, or was going to resign, to show that he was not acceptable to his colleagues in the Ministry. The leaders of the Opposition, in their public addresses throughout the country, made him the special object of virulent attack, a virulence never before nor since directed against any public man in the Province. Everything which he did was violently condemned ; everything he said was malignantly distorted, and when everything else failed he was charged with doing nothing, a fatal defect in a young and hustling country, worse possibly, than to be characterized as a scoundrel. In January, 1875, he narrowly escaped drowning while crossing the Ottawa River at Vaudreuil with a team from Lachute, where he had been attending the nomination at which the late Dr. Christie was elected by acclamation. It was a close shave. But that was not all the result of that election. Hon., then Mr. Thomas White, of the Montreal Gazette had been for a long time particularly diligent in making all sorts of attacks upon Mr. Huntington. He was extremely anxious to get into Parliament, and canvassed Argenteuil for that purpose at the election just mentioned, where Dr. Christie was elected. At a meeting held in that County in the interests of Dr. Christie, Mr. Huntington spoke warmly, among other things, of the benefits which might be derived from an alliance between Protestants and Catholic Liberals, and at the same time alluded in terms of censure to the Ultramontanes of the Province of Quebec. The speech had such a local effect that Mr. White retired and Dr. Christie, was returned. There was immediately a great uproar raised by the Conservative

press and leaders in the Province, on the look out vigilantly for means of attack, and Mr. Huntington was taunted with feelings of enmity towards the Catholic faith. No one really believed it who knew him, but it was a good charge until a better could be found. The strange feature of the uproar was, that it was largely promoted by English Conservative Protestants, and even some of Mr. Huntington's rivals in his own party seized the occasion to join in the attack, but not too openly, with one exception. A correspondence was had between Mr. Power, M.P. for a Nova Scotia constituency and Mr. Huntington, in which it was made clear that there was a misunderstanding over the meaning of the word Ultramontane as to the Canadian application. Mr. Huntington made this clear, and that he intended no attack upon the Roman Catholic faith, however much was to be deplored the facility with which it was employed by enemies of Catholic Liberals, whom he thought were Ultramontanes. Hon. Mr. Holton brought the matter up in the House, and in the discussion which ensued, attacks were made upon Mr. Huntington for that speech by opponents anxious to make a point for their party. Mr. Huntington resolutely stood to his guns. But from that time to the end, that speech was flaunted in the face of the people to inspire them with the idea that Mr. Huntington, one of the broadest and most tolerant of men, was an enemy of the Roman Catholic religion and of the French Canadian race. Sir A. T. Galt, who had retired from the political arena in 1872, and who had been leader of the Conservative party in the Eastern Townships when Mr. Huntington entered Parliament, and had opposed his election, wrote a pamphlet, under the title of "Civil Liberty in Lower Canada," not only endorsing Mr. Huntington's utterances, but going further, and this did not help to cool the atmosphere. And to keep things more lively if possible, Mr. Joly, now Sir Henri Joly, also wrote a letter of endorsement. This is not the place nor the occasion to justify, condemn or uphold the timeliness, or the necessity for the making of that speech. Time has so changed conditions that, to-day, the French Canadian Roman Catholics

of the Province of Quebec, are largely liberals, and the term, Ultramontane, is meaningless to most people. It was not so then. Clearly, however, there was then among Protestants a misunderstanding of the real meaning of the term.

During the summer of 1876 Mr. Huntington's services were in great demand in Ontario at political gatherings where he met with enthusiastic receptions. The session of 1877, while comparatively a short session, was much embittered by the personal flavor of the debates. Sir John A. Macdonald and Dr. Tupper lost no opportunity for attack upon Mr. Huntington, attacks which were cheered on by the party press, but Mr. Huntington met them with equal force and vigor. They could not forget that he was the cause of their downfall and the animus of their attacks was clearly apparent. The question of Protection had also, about that time, become a serious debatable question in the House and in the country. Neither party so far as leaders were concerned, had pronounced very strongly one way or the other. The leaders on both sides of the House had been free traders, but in the country, unsettled by a period of "hard times,"—there was a growing sentiment for a change, and that change took the direction of a tariff which would, it was thought, afford a measure of relief through Protection. This sentiment had support in the House, and even among members of the Cabinet. But Hon. Mackenzie, the Premier, was inflexibly opposed to Protection. A Revenue Tariff even, from his point of view, was a necessary evil inflicted upon us for the sins of our predecessors, and if that kind of a tariff incidentally happened to further protection of an industry in any way, he regarded it with suspicion. Sir John A. Macdonald saw his chance and began by slow approaches to feel the pulse of the country upon the question. Mr. Huntington was not in full accord with his chief on that question, having said in 1872, as before quoted, "there might be such a protection to native Manufacturers as would encourage their progress." All the Manufacturers then asked was an increase to 25 per cent.,—the rate for many years having averaged about 15 per cent. Mr. Mackenzie did advance to 17½ per cent. but with such

ill grace that no one was satisfied that it would be permanent. He lived to see his rate doubled and in some respects more than doubled. In the summer of 1877 Protection, or the National Policy, as it had come to be called, assumed a more lively form, as a subject of political division, and having been repudiated by Mr. Mackenzie was taken up by Sir John, who held meetings all over the country. The interest on this question, seeing the business stringency of the moment, overshadowed the issues which had caused the overthrow of the old Ministry. On the other side Mr. Mackenzie held meetings in some fifteen places in Ontario, assisted by some of his colleagues in the Ministry. Mr. Huntington spoke at several of those meetings, being well received and speaking with good effect. His quickness at repartee was never manifested to better effect. He was then Postmaster-General. At the Clinton meeting he was frequently interrupted by a noisy heckler, who, at one time called out, "What about the Post Office? Mr. Huntington retorted, "The Post Office is an institution organized for the transmission of intelligence between men who can read and write—it does not concern you." In the autumn Mr. Huntington made the tour of his County explaining his course to his constituents.

In September, 1877, Mr. Huntington was married to Mrs. Ellen Brown Marsh, the widow of a distinguished Civil Engineer, whose engineering feats had won him distinction in his profession in California prior to his early death, and during the remainder of Mr. Huntington's career as a Minister she was the popular presiding genius of his official residence in Ottawa. There was a strong attachment between the two. They were devoted lovers and eminently suited to each other. In 1878 a son, Lucius Stewart, was born to them, who is now living and engaged in banking in New York.

The last session of that Parliament opened in February 1878, and the Opposition speedily began to make capital for the general elections. Systematic and continuous attacks were made upon Mr. Huntington, who defended himself with his usual courage and force. The party press gave prominence to the attacks upon him, distorting whatever he said

from its true meaning, and never giving the points he successfully made in his defence. Through his fearfulness and tact in overthrowing the old Government he had become the unforgiven and unforgivable foe of that party.

In August, 1878, a large political meeting was held at Granby at which the Premier, Mr. Huntington and other members of the Cabinet spoke upon the public questions of the day, and where Mr. Huntington roused the old enthusiasm of his friends, tho' subordinating himself to the Premier and his colleagues on their visit to his own County. But once more the tide had turned. The unbending free trade sentiments of the Premier during a period when business was unusually depressed, and "Hard Times" were patent to everybody, gave strength to the loud cry for a National Policy boldly enunciated by the Opposition and managed with much skill to capture the electorate.

Parliament was dissolved in August, 1878. and the Federal elections were held on the 17th September following, the Mackenzie Government being badly beaten through the furore for the National Policy of Protection. In the election Mr. Huntington was again, for the seventh time the party candidate in Shefford County. The importation of candidates to oppose him having proved a misfortune, new tactics were adopted. His adversaries thought local jealousies might be successfully invoked, hence a Granby man, Robert Nicol, was nominated as the Conservative candidate, whilst Michel Auger, who had always worked with the liberal party and been a strong supporter of Mr. Huntington's, was by some means, induced to present himself as a third candidate in the expectation that he would poll the French Protestant vote, theretofore liberal, and by that unholy combination bring about the defeat of Mr. Huntington. On the hustings Mr. Huntington rapidly sketched the changes which had occurred since he entered the political arena in 1856 as a journalist, and in which he had always borne a conspicuous part, The political issues, as usual in Shefford in those days, were subordinate to the personal ones. It was an easy victory, Mr. Huntington being elected by 228 majority over the regular party candidate, and the 272 votes taken from him

by Mr. Auger would have made his majority over that candidate an even 500. In October Mr. Mackenzie resigned and Mr. Huntington retired from office never again to return. He had administered the Post Office Department with signal success, making many important reforms of which we are reaping the benefit to day.

During the next four years he delivered many addresses upon literary and patriotic subjects, some of which were specially for young men. An address to the Young Men's Reform Club in Montreal was one of the most notable. Its tone was elevated and inspiring, and its references and suggestions, clearly drawn from his robust political career and the experiences of a life which had accomplished much and desired more. A Montreal literary paper of the day said of the address—"it had a breadth of political wisdom and generosity which young politicians will do well to ponder." On other occasions he sought to inspire young men by a glowing history of Constitutional Government, and its importance in this young country. He loved to talk to young men, and associate with them, for he was their true and sympathetic friend, particularly to the ambitious struggling youth in whom he thought he could detect latent excellencies.

The first session of the 4th Dominion Parliament was opened on the 13th February, 1879, and in a little over one month the National Policy went into effect. Mr. Huntington at once entered the field as a debater, and though speaking less frequently than in former years, fully sustained his high reputation. He still continued the subject of attack, sometimes in one form and sometimes in another but usually to the effect that he was an enemy of, and had spoken against, the R. C. religion. An imputation of that kind is most dangerous in a mixed community, for once started there will always be some who will believe it, and demagogues quick to exploit it to their advantage. The most barefaced lies were boldly uttered, and, so soon as refuted, another batch of like character was started to be again refuted, and again restated. It was a veritable persecution to punish him for having unearthed the scandal connected with Sir Hugh Allan's Pacific Railway

contract. A singular feature in connection with that sort of attack was, that editors of Protestant papers, and who posed as pillars of Protestantism, would not allow quietness on the subject, even when those of the other faith were disposed to drop the matter. Such are some of the peculiar manifestations of Christian faith when brought in contact with alleged practical politics. A leading newspaper said of all this: "He," Mr. Huntington, "must count on a life long legacy of undying hate from the unmasked and their supporters."

The session of 1880 was uneventful—there were no "big debates." In August, Mr. Huntington, wife and family visited England and the continent. The third session of that Parliament opened in December, but did not settle down to work until January, 1881. While the session was going on Mr. Huntington was called away to California on important private business and had paired, so far as certain Government projects were concerned, with Mr. Baker, the member for Missisquoi. He returned in the latter part of the month to his parliamentary duties at Ottawa. In the meantime it had been proclaimed in the Ministerial press that Mr. Huntington had an interest in the new Canadian Pacific Railway Syndicate, which proposed to build the transcontinental railway and that he had gone to California to shirk a vote thereon. He returned, however, early enough to vote against the scheme and make a powerful speech against it. After the session Mr. Huntington accompanied Hon. Mr. Blake, the then leader of the Liberal party on a tour of the Maritime Provinces, where addresses were made at many important centres and where they were given magnificent receptions. The acute critics of the party press on the one side called it a "triumphal progress," and on the other, a "lamentable failure." The fact was, that the people had been captured by the catchy phrase, the "National Policy," and were too unsettled on other questions to become profoundly interested in questions of general policy or party politics. But the seed was sown, and later the Maritime Provinces responded to the arguments then made.

As an after dinner speaker Mr. Huntington had long enjoyed

a high and wide reputation. Tactfully adjusting himself to the situation and fitting his remarks to the occasion, it came about that he was much sought, not only as a speaker, but to preside on such occasions. He had been a leading speaker at many important banquets, apart altogether from those directly concerned with Canadian politics, notably in London, England, and a trade banquet in Boston. On a visit of Mark Twain to Montreal a banquet was tendered him by leading citizens, at which Mr. Huntington presided, and made happy hits in proposing toasts and introducing speakers, particularly in his appreciation of the guest of the evening. From that time he and Mark Twain were warm friends, visiting and corresponding together. In the latter part of 1881 the French delegates to the Yorktown, Va. Centennial celebration visited Montreal and were entertained by the leading French Canadian citizens there. At the banquet Mr. Huntington was seated between the two grandsons of Lafayette, and made "one of his happiest speeches," said one newspaper. One of the delegates in private conversation said: "there is no man in France who speaks like Mr. Huntington." The *Minerve's* report said: "Mr. Huntington spoke in terms alike sympathetic and noble," and editorially the same paper, which was hostile to him politically, spoke of the speech as remarkably eloquent. The delegates were moved by his eloquence, and deeply touched by his kind and sympathetic references to France.

During the local elections in December, 1881, Mr. Huntington spoke but little in his County, apart from a telling speech nomination day, or account of an affection of his throat. The same ailment prevented his participation to any great extent in the debates of the session which opened in February, 1882, during which he was obliged to visit New York for treatment from a specialist there. His absence from the House was misunderstood by his constituents, his enemies constantly asserting openly and covertly that it was due to indifference, and that he was inattentive to his parliamentary duties. In addition, a constant fire, sometimes open and more often insidious was kept up to the

effect that he had attacked French Canadians and the Roman Catholic Religion, despite the fact that his intimate friends and business associates all his active life were of that race and faith. All the old lies nurtured by the growth of years, and which had been denied and refuted over and over again, were rehashed and revamped and in new hands put in circulation. In the press, and by contemptible fellows who ran the ranges, those lies were repeated again and again. Every prejudice was invoked to set the people against him. It would have been surprising if it should have been without effect. The old men who had worked with and for him in the early days of his career, had mostly passed away. The young men who had come in contact with him were enthusiastic, but in a different way from the older generation, which had borne with him the burdens of the battles for reform, but his long absence from the County in Parliament, the Cabinet and otherwise, had left him a stranger personally to a considerable portion of his constituents. And the younger men, who did not know him, and had not been educated to appreciate the great work he had done for reform, the fruits of which they were unconsciously enjoying, showed less of the old time zeal. Parliament was dissolved in May, and the general elections were held in June, 1882. Sick and worn Mr. Huntington entered upon his last campaign. So ill was he, that he was only able to speak once, apart from nomination day, during the campaign,—he who had formerly spoken two and three times a day during his old electoral battles. The Conservatives were unconscious of their own strength, or the physical weakness which prevented him from rallying his party friends and supporters as he had done on many prior occasions. They accepted the candidacy of Michel Auger, who had in former years been a strong supporter of Mr. Huntington and the Liberal party, and whatever distinction he had attained had been due to the generous help of Mr. Huntington and his friends. For some reason, or from no reason other than ambition, Mr. Auger had become soured and had opposed Mr. Huntington as a third candidate at the previous election, and had also supported the Conservative candidate at the

local election in December, 1881, after promising to support the Liberal candidate at the nominating convention. He had shown in 1878 that he could control a few hundred votes, and this led to the belief that, with those votes, and the solid Conservative vote, the "old man," as they called Mr. Huntington, would be defeated. Mr. Huntington felt when he came to to the County, for the reasons given, that defeat was probably his fate, but he expected his opponent would be a straight Conservative. But the cry was "anything to beat Huntington." All the outside strength of the Government party was put forth to defeat him. Mr. Auger, who had declared himself a liberal, was used as a tool to wreak vengeance on the man who had hurled that party from power in 1873. The Shefford Liberals had formed the unfortunate habit of deferring the organization and leaving the conduct of the fight to Mr. Huntington in previous campaigns and, therefore, his illness was disastrous for party organization. He was defeated by a small majority. The joy and exultation of the Government party over his defeat indicate how much he was feared and hated, and is a fair, if not the best tribute which could be offered, of his conspicuous ability as a public man. He took his defeat philosophically, as one of the results of the political game, regretting it more for his friends than himself. If he indulged dreams of a political future he did not mention it, for his health had made life burdensome. Shortly after he removed temporarily to New York where he could receive the special medical treatment which his friends hoped would eventually restore him to health, returning to his old Canadian home only when private business demanded his presence. Accustomed as he had been all his life to activities of a more or less exacting character, public and private, the transition to private life, and the wearisomeness of a sick room led his family and friends to fear that his health might not be so readily restored as he hoped and anticipated. With a view to distract attention, or divert him from the personal introspection so dangerous to a man of his active mind when doomed to the quiet life of an invalid, Mrs. Huntington persuaded him to undertake literary work, for which he had

always cherished a passion, even when busily engaged in political struggles or private business enterprises. Apart from his editorial work in the early years of the Advertiser, he had contributed from time to time to its columns telling articles which he desired to have reach readers whom it might influence more readily and conclusively than a set speech. He had also for years written editorials for the Montreal Herald and other papers, with the same object in view. When the Herald became a joint stock company he was one of the principal stockholders, and largely shaped its policy. He had secured an interest in the paper as an opening for his oldest son, Russ W., who, already on the editorial staff had displayed marked ability as a journalist, and a passion for politics, which led the father to believe that, with the ability he had shown as a speaker in political campaigns, there was promise of a fine future career. Unfortunately, that young man died of typhoid fever in November, 1879, and shortly after Mr. Huntington sold his stock in the paper and seemed to lose interest in journalism. He had become by long experience one of the best editorial writers on the Caradian press. At the outset of his career his style was rather florid, was that of the orator rather than the writer, but as a not too friendly critic recently said on the persual of an early number of the Advertiser: "One can see at a glance that the writer was familiar with good literature, for his composition is unmistakably modelled after high ideals. The matter, no less than the lines, reveals the man. He gets down to the vital point, &c." He became in the end concise, almost epigrammatic in statement, but always clear and forceful. His style grew with practice and wider experience. Always analytical, and yet aggressive, he had gained the art of not dissipating the effect by unnecessary exuberance. He had a wealth of apt illustration and appropriate quotation which seemed to have glided in quite unconsciously, which gave an added charm to his style. Had he confined himself to journalism, it is unquestionable that he would have been one of the masters of the class. In addition to this, he had seen public, business and social life

on both sides of the Atlantic, sometimes as a participant, and always as a keen observer, and the relation of his experiences, and the statement of his views might teach an instructive lesson, particularly, to those just entering upon their life's career. For, like all richly endowed men solicitous to correct evils, political, social, or in whatsoever form or shape, he always sought to teach a lesson that might benefit his fellows. Perhaps, also, it was the instinct of the old teacher in him. At all events, he busied himself during 1883, by writing a novel called "Professor Conant", more, he said, to please his wife than to win fame or to gain money. It was published in 1884 and was dedicated to Professor Goldwin Smith, an old personal friend. The manuscript had been submitted to several of his literary friends, among others to Mark Twain, who read and approved, for in this field, in which he had made no previous essay, he doubted his powers. He felt that he had something to say, and he had no other way of saying it at that time. It came within the broad class called the Problem Novel, but the didactic purpose was, perhaps, too local and provincial to gain at that time, a wide field of readers. Whilst he proposed in his book the desirability of a better understanding between England and America, and made his characters discuss the subject with an ease and certainty that would have made the diplomats of the two countries green with envy, it was, after all, for the greater part, a harking back to his old political battles and the quasi religious discussion which had so largely caused his political misfortune. Thus, one of his characters speaks eloquently of the "difference between the spiritual and temporal," in the Church; his acceptance of its teachings as to matters of faith and morals, and a rejection of such teachings as to public affairs; his approval of Gallicanism in France and disapproval of Ultramontanism, and in a word, his belief in liberal catholicism. These views were, no doubt, the result of Mr. Huntington's association for years with clever, brilliant French-Canadians whose ideas were too far advanced to be practical. They knew, or should as Roman Catholics have known, that the Church makes no distinction nor gives any

definition. But the visions and theories of those who aspired to reform, they knew not what in the church, and whose unsolicited views were not appreciated by its authorities as substitutes for the experience of the centuries no doubt misled him, as others had been misled, into the belief that there was something to be reformed, and those advanced thinkers were the ones to bring it about. Perhaps it was the recollection of the old Pacific Railway scandal which led him to put into the mouth of DeLuynes the words,—“The worst forms of corruption are found where a corrupt people govern. And you have one safeguard, a healthy public opinion. We must treat as an enemy of the State the man who would debauch it,” with which the Professor agrees, adding reflectively ; “But we can set before us a high standard and strive to reach it, and our efforts will improve if they do not perfect us,” all which were underlying motives of Mr. Huntington’s career from start to finish. There is a tinge of bitterness, perhaps, when the Professor says of another, “His talents might have been of great service in a country where there was an independent public opinion.” He may have had his own fate in mind. Whilst his characters are nominally discussing English and American politics and election practices, it is obvious that Canadian politics and election practices were in his mind. “The demagogue is a perpetual menace to free Governments. The mere politician looks only to the moment,” and his hope was, “for statesmen of honor and worth.” In one place he speaks of a man who held “opinions which were considered advanced and was too straightforward and outspoken to tolerate the diplomat or the temporizer. He was earnest and sincere in all things.” Therein is the keynote of his own strength, possibly the so-called practical politician would add, and his weakness. He contended openly and resolutely for what he believed to be right, without resort to subterfuge and political wiles for success, and, if intolerant at all, it was towards the chicanery and tricks of politics, which in his book he characterizes with due moderation as diplomacy. His novel reveals much of the man, of his matured thoughts and, perhaps, records a sigh

over unfulfilled hopes and thwarted ambitions. It is altogether likely that if the book had been puffed, and its sale pushed with the advertising zeal of the publishers of to-day, it would have had a large circulation. It was, despite an effort to be cosmopolitan, perhaps too Provincial for American or English readers, and too American and English for Canadian readers of that time. Its persual, however, will repay well the student of Canadian affairs and the lover of good writing. It was written in the best of English. The style is crisp and incisive. There is the fitting adjective, and the apt quotation, which denote the man of wide reading and high literary taste. One suspects occasionally that the romance writer has forgotten for the moment his **role**, and become again either the old editorial writer, or Parliamentary debater. It is evidently the work of a man who, after running a strong race, had worn out the novelties of life and reached the age of retrospection and introspection. But, as the only novel which has undertaken to deal in any way with Canadian political life, by one who had been a central figure in that life, apart altogether from its high literary merit and the charm of the well-told story, it has special claims for consideration from the student of Canadian political history. It discloses the far-seeing man, whose experience and study forecast changes which make his book at times appear almost prophetic, or to seem so to one who has watched the marvelous changes in the Dominion since he wrote. Had his life been spared and health permitted, he might have made another essay in literature, for it was his nature to be busy.

In New York, during those last years of his life, he assisted in forming a Canadian Club, and was one of its officers. His speeches at its meetings, brief though they were, were looked forward to as a rare treat. But his health did not permit much oratorical indulgence or attention to social matters.

In the fall of 1885 his youngest son by his first marriage, Frank, was assassinated in Texas where he was engaged in business, without the slightest cause or provocation, by an absolute stranger to him. It was a terrible blow to the invalid father. His cup of family misery seemed full. One

after another his three sons by his first marriage, two of whom had reached manhood, and all of whom had given promise of a successful career—had passed away. It was enough to take the heart out of even a strong man, particularly one who was strongly attached to his family. Bravely, to all outward appearances, he bore his misfortunes, but to those who knew him well it was apparent that he sorely grieved. From that time on he was constantly battling with disease, making only occasional visits to Canada for business purposes.

Reference has already been made to his keen interest in education. His last public utterance was in connection with that subject. A few months before his death he came to Waterloo—the scene of so many of his past triumphs—on business matters. The Academy school exercises, among other things, in connection with the distribution of prizes were being held in the Town Hall, and he accepted a pressing invitation to be present. There was a large gathering of parents, as well as pupils. After the prize winners had been rewarded, Mr. Huntington was invited to speak. As usual he had possession of his audience in the first few sentences. After a happy, complimentary reference to the teachers and their work, and allusion to his own pleasant experience as a teacher, he turned to the young students before him, and after a few words he said in substance, that as he looked upon them he felt that he was growing old ; that as he had heard their names called for prizes and honors, and saw their youthful faces, a crowd of memories rushed upon him as he recalled the names of the fathers of so many of them who had been his warmest and truest friends in the past, many of whom had passed away. The expression of the idea, and the memories suggested, seemed to overcome him. He gave a great sob and tried for a moment to go on. His grief was too great. He turned away with the eyes brimming with tears, leaving the sentence unfinished. It was a sadly pathetic scene,—one which moved his audience as, perhaps, he had never moved an audience before. It was the only time in his life that he had broken down while trying to speak. It was his last attempt at public speaking. And, seeing the nearness

of the end, it was perhaps fitting that it should have been made at that time and place, for, as a teacher in the public schools he had begun his career, and it was at a meeting of the institution which succeeded in Shefford, the Academy he had taught, and respecting educational functions therein, that his last public words were said. Apart from that, in Waterloo he had practiced his profession, edited his newspaper, planned his business enterprises and gained his great political victories. Possibly, he felt then the shadow of his pending doom, tho' but a week before his death he had made a business appointment to be in Waterloo on the very day he was laid to rest. He also contemplated returning to Montreal to reside, and arrangements as to resumption of active pursuits had been partially completed. He looked forward with pleasant anticipation to his return to Canada. On Tuesday he felt so well that he said that there was twenty years more of work in him. On Wednesday the 19th of May, 1886, he was taken suddenly ill, and while medical attendance was being summoned, he placed his hand on his wife's shoulder and looking her squarely in the face, said: "My dear, I don't know what this means, but I fear something terrible, but, whatever comes you must have courage and be brave." That night, despite all the efforts of a number of medical men, he was dead. His last words were in French,—"*c'est fini.*" His remains were taken to Montreal and there, on the Saturday he had contemplated being there, or in Waterloo, he was laid to rest in Mount Royal Cemetery, in the family plot, after a funeral service in Christ Church Cathedral, largely attended by friends and relatives who sincerely mourned his death.

In private, as well as in public life, Mr. Huntington had a host of loyal and devoted friends. In politics he had been what is called a hard hitter, and in the course of a quarter of a century of active, aggressive public life, in troublous times, had made many foes, whose venom was hardly quieted by the grave. It was, perhaps, not easy for them to forgive the man who had dealt a blow to their party which had left a stigma upon the reputation of its leaders, and a stain upon the party's record. It is always difficult to understand, in

practical politics, or appreciate too quickly, a line of conduct based upon principle rather than mere party advantage. The result was long-continued personal attacks. All the little souls in his section of country recognized, by their petty slanders in private, the greatness of the man whom they dared not face before the people. In the whirligig of time, which brings its revenges, most of that crowd of petty maligners, as well as the men who betrayed him, have passed into obscurity, some to be remembered only with contempt, and none with honor. For the momentary triumph of small men in his own part of the land, he was hounded to his grave. For, without the constant fire near home on their part, the insidious attacks from the rear, the perpetual raising of false, cruel and dangerous issues in his own section, he would not have been overcome, nor even then would he have succumbed had health and strength been vouchsafed him.

The purpose of this sketch does not permit a lengthy review of Mr. Huntington's career, or the insertion at length of any of his great speeches, many of which had more than a passing interest,—neither can any disquisition be attempted upon the motives which influenced him in respect to the burning political, and other questions of his day. It is hoped that enough has been said in this bare touch of his career to warrant the statement made at the outset, that he was the ablest native-born man the Eastern Townships has produced. It is also to be hoped that it has been made clear, that one of the most remarkable features of that career was his constant adherence to principle, rather than seek to gain a momentary advantage by a petty, worldly policy, or from motives of mere expediency.

Many kind and appreciative things were said of him in the press at the time of his death. The touching eulogy of him the week following his death in the paper which he founded, and written by one who knew and loved him, closed with the words:—"In private life Mr. Huntington was hospitable "and generous, loyal in his friendships and devoted to his "family and those having claims on him. The hand of "affliction was laid on him heavily and his family circle was

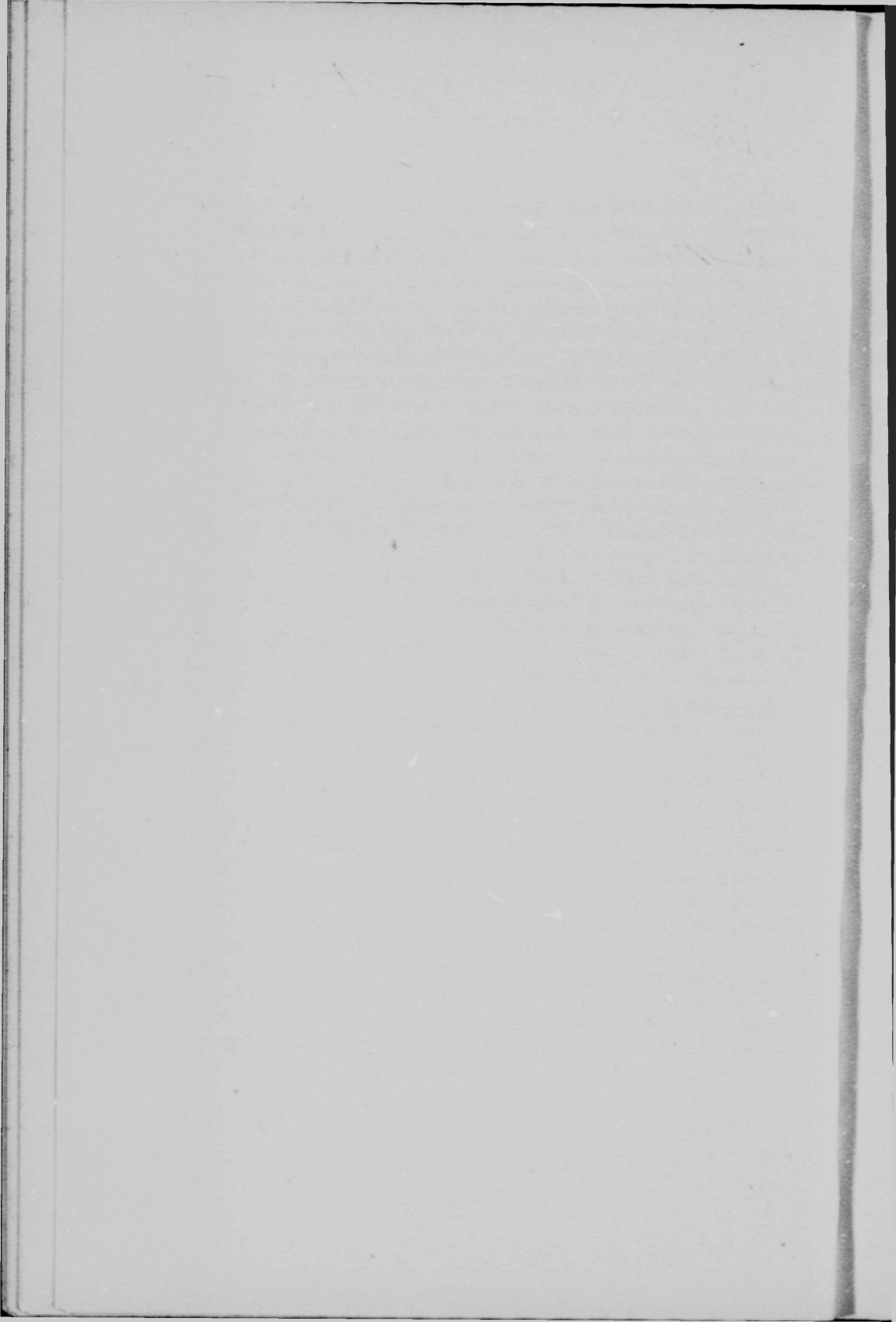
“ often broken by death. His private virtues were numberless and those who got near to his heart only knew how great he really was in the nobility of his character, the elevation of his thought, the purity of his life and motives, and the sincerity and depth of his affections.”

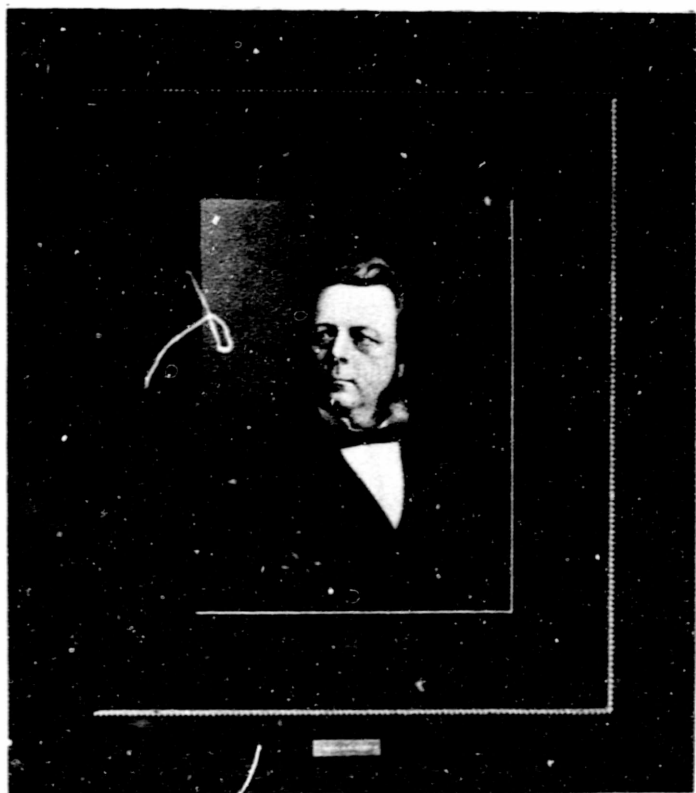
Mr. Huntington had a commanding figure and an attractive appearance. He was tall and, as the years crept on, inclined to corpulence. He had an erect, resolute, fearless air, as though he braved the world with the consciousness of victory. He had the head and face of the classic orators of antiquity. When thoroughly roused while speaking, he was apparently cool and self-possessed, even though the hot blood of passion was surging in his brain--a curl of the lip, an occasional snap of the eye, and the poise of the head intimating to those who knew him well that he was on his mettle, and that the man who had had the audacity to rouse him must suffer the consequences of his temerity. His gestures were few, but expressive, and usually he had the manner of strength in reserve, as though the occasion did not warrant the putting forth of all his powers. So much was he above his fellows in his section of the country, that no one ever thought of comparisons with him. He was instinctively and by common consent recognized to be in a class by himself. Whether he knew, or felt this, no one ever knew, for he never boasted of his gifts, nor of the things he had accomplished for or by himself. He did not care, or seem to care, for popular applause, nor the fruits of power for himself. Had he courted the populace more assiduously, and cultivated better the art of expediency, his career might have been less stormy, and his life beset with less difficulties. But he was so constituted that he could not seek ease and popularity by the sacrifice of principle, and so believing, was content to suffer consequences which would have frightened timid souls to seek cover.

And so we close with the beautiful lines he himself had quoted of another.

“ Tender as woman ; manliness and meekness
In him were so allied
That they who judged him by his strength or weakness,
Saw but a single side.
Men failed, betrayed him, but his zeal seemed nourished
By failure and by fall,
Still, a large faith in human-kind he cherished
And in God’s love for all.
But now he rests ; his greatness and his sweetness
No more shall seem at strife;
And death has moulded into calm completeness
The statue of his life.”







HON. ASA BELKNAP FOSTER.

ASA BELKNAP FOSTER



THE subject of this sketch, Col. Foster, as he was locally known, will be remembered as having been associated with a variety of enterprises undertaken to advance the prosperity of this part of the Eastern Townships, as well as to further large interests for the same purpose elsewhere in the Dominion. His was a mind to conceive on the one hand, large projects, or, on the other, to grasp those which seemed to him practical, and stubbornly endeavour to carry them through successfully. The timid man might shrink through lack of courage or executive ability, from schemes which, while promising success, had yet an element of danger. But he was not such a man, and was willing, with half a chance of success to tempt fortune with a bold front. He was by nature an optimist, but an optimist who shrewdly calculated the chances. He was weakened by no doubts when he once undertook an enterprise. Opposition and difficulties did not discourage him. He accepted them as the inevitable lot of those who do and dare. He was a strong man, such as occasion not infrequently produces, to forward movements to build up a young country. By steady work, close application to whatever matter he had in hand, and an energy not given to ordinary men he grew step by step, so to speak, until nothing seemed impossible for him to accomplish in the way of material enterprises. His youth was spent in a new country, far from the great centres, where he could see, with his large vision, and feel with his restless energy, the pressing necessity for local development from which it was only a step to national development. In his early manhood the first rush of our neighbors to the South for facilities of railway transportation,

not altogether past the experimental stage, claimed his attention. Joining in those enterprises he not only caught the spirit, but gained the experience and practical knowledge which enabled him subsequently to become a leader in like projects.

It is not easy for the present generation of this District to understand, nor is it given to trying too vigorously to understand and appreciate the enormous difference between these Townships to-day and what they were in the early '50's, or prior to that date. The construction of railways since that time has changed the map of the country, the mode of living, the means of prosperity and the aspirations of the people. To-day there is no place in the Eastern Townships so remote as not to be within sound of the locomotive whistle of some of its railways. The centres of those days are now hamlets, respectable hamlets it may be, but nevertheless, of little significance. One set of localities has dropped out of the race as local business centres, whilst others, then undreamed of as such, have come to the front and with greater prosperity than those of old. In bringing about all this, the subject of our sketch was a prime mover, and perhaps, the most important factor in its accomplishment. To more readily understand his career it is well to recall past conditions in order to appreciate fairly and justly what was done, and by whom it was done, in the efforts to ameliorate and better the conditions of backwardness here referred to briefly and generally.

Asa Belknap Foster was born in Newfane, Vt., the 21st of April, 1817, his parents being Dr. Stephen Sewell Foster, born at Oakham, Mass., and Sally Belknap, of Dummerston, Vt., who came to Shefford in 1822. They were of the considerable number of those who, about that time, came from Newfane, Vt. and its immediate vicinity, to Shefford and other points in the Eastern Townships. Such an emigration, in those pre-railroad days, indicated high courage and bold aspirations. It brought skill, experience, thrift and earnest endeavour, as well as moderate capital, to assist in developing a new country. The opportunities for education were exceedingly limited at Frost Village, where Mr. Foster lived

when young, but of such as did exist he took advantage. An incident of his school days is related which forshadowed the character of the man. A schoolmate was wailing and bemoaning a promised threshing from the teacher for some alleged offence. "Did you do it," said young Foster, "No," said the other. "Then said he, "go in and take your licking like a man, and stop whining." His first venture, whilst a mere youth, was as clerk for the late Sheriff Cowan, then a prominent merchant of Cowansville. His store building still exists in the Eureka Block. The connection was not of long duration. He undertook, with other young men of the place, some experiments with gunpowder. The results were not just what the boys were looking for. An end of the building was blown out, causing some damage, besides creating a reign of terror in the place. Timid people were shocked and Mr. Cowan was unappreciative. They parted amicably. The incident showed an indiscreet, but unusual ambition to make a noise in the world, as well as an ardent desire to experiment with great forces. Shortly after he went into trade in Waterloo with a Mr. Woodward, to whom he soon sold his interests and went to Vermont, where he entered the employ of a maternal uncle who had a large and important railway contract. That was the commencement of his career in connection with railway construction. In 1840 he returned to Canada, where he married Miss Elizabeth Fish, daughter of Champion Fish, of Hatley, Que., said to have been the first male child born in that Township. In 1841 he had a contract on the Boston & Portland, now the Boston & Maine Railway, between Boston and Portland, and later other contracts on the southern portion of the Central Vermont Railway, partly alone, and partly in conjunction with his uncle S. F. Belknap. Those contracts being completed he returned to Canada and secured an important one on the Quebec branch of the Grand Trunk Railway, then being constructed, having his headquarters at Danville. Early in the '50's a charter was obtained from the Legislature for the construction of a railway, under the name of the Stanstead, Shefford & Chambly Railroad, through the Townships from Stanstead to Montreal

by way of Magog, Waterloo and Chambly, stock was subscribed, surveys were made and contracts let. But the contractors abandoned their contract and work was at a standstill when Col. Foster appeared upon the scene and was placed in charge by the Directors. He spurred up the Municipalities along the route to vote generous bonuses until St. Cesaire and Chambly were reached. Led by a few narrow men who told the electors of those places that the Eastern Townships people were bound to have the road for an absolutely necessary outlet and must build it that way whether the bonuses were given or not, the by-laws were defeated, and the railway came to a standstill. Col. Foster was a man of resources and equal to the emergency. He obtained an amendment to the charter permitting the construction of a branch to St. Johns, and that it be built prior to the main line. It was a long time before those local obstructionists had a railway and then had to subsidize it more heavily than they were asked to do in the first instance. The road was then surveyed to run through East Farnham,—about where the present line of the Canadian Pacific Railway is constructed,—to West Shefford and thence to Waterloo. But Granby offered a large bonus and the loop was made that way. What a difference it would have made in the map of the Townships had the original survey been carried out and the road built as first proposed. Col. Foster took then the contract to build the road, which he had in operation to Farnham in 1859, and to Granby in 1860, during which work he went to England and with the proceeds of the sale of bonds purchased the rails necessary for the road. After reaching Granby the resources of the Company were nearly exhausted without much hope of being bettered. After some wrangling negotiations a lease was made to Mr. Foster by which he undertook to construct the road from Granby through Waterloo to Stanstead via Magog,—the portion from Granby to Stukley line to be completed by the fall of 1861. In payment he was given a controlling interest in the stock, as well as bonds of the Company, unpaid stock subscriptions and Municipal bonuses, all which he was to return to the Company on payment within the term

of the lease of a sum which it was pretty certain could never be paid, and which never has been paid. To comply with conditions of eastern by-laws granting bonuses, the road had to be built to Stukely line within a certain time, and a quantity of work done in Stanstead County. A bit of grading had been done in Magog to satisfy the Municipal authorities and the bonds issued. The rails were laid to the Stukely line and a station built in a field at Waterloo. The bonds voted were issued in fear and trembling by the Municipal authorities, and the money therefrom was to come from the Municipal and Loan Fund of the Provincial Government, under an Act to that effect. The matter was urgent. Money to carry on the work was needed. The Municipalities were slow to move. Mr. Foster had great influence with Mr. Cartier, then Premier, and the money was advanced from that fund. In the hurry of railway construction, and the distractions of Governments, both parties evidently forgot all about the bonds, and the Municipalities did not crowd them upon the Government. Years later, when settlements were made, it was discovered that the bonds had no existence. This illustrates the personal magnetism and influence of Col. Foster in procuring from the leader of the Government so important an advance of money at a critical moment, upon the sole assurance that by-laws had been passed and the bonds ordered to issue, which was true. It was a further illustration of one of the Col's business maxims,—“ It is no good having friends if you can't use them.’

In the fall of 1861 trains were running regularly between Waterloo and St. Johns by Mr. Foster, under his lease. After operating it for a short time he transferred the lease and conveyed his interests to Gov. Smith and others operating the Vermont Central Railway, for a good sum of money, which ended his connection with that road.

This brief sketch of the early history of Waterloo's first railway is here given, because it had an important influence upon Col. Foster's career, because his biography would be incomplete without it, and was also the most important event in the history of Waterloo, before or since. The records of the Company disclose much, but not all, of the financial

and other difficulties which had to be met and surmounted. It was a struggle of years. It was given to the writer to be present in the capacity of a clerk, or assistant to the Secretary of the road, at many of the later meetings of Shareholders and Directors in the last effort to construct the line to Waterloo. There were prominent men, local and otherwise, present; there was much wrangling to decide upon the best course to adopt, but the sure thing was, that there was no money and only Col. Foster had the courage to tempt fortune by trying to complete the road on credit. The Honorable Mr. Drummond, always stately and dignified; Honorable L. S. Huntington, aggressive, clever and full of zeal; Hon. Chas. C. Colby, young, keen and plausible, and Messrs Ben. Savage, Ralph Merry, H. S. Foster, J. G. Cowie, Chas. Allen, R. A. Ellis, H. L. Robinson, and a host of others were there deliberating as to ways and means. It ended in the man with the strongest will and most dauntless courage, securing the contract,—a contract which scarcely any one believed could be carried out successfully.

It was while the first efforts to build the S. S. & C. Ry. were going on that the general elections of 1857 were held, late that year. Hon. L. T. Drummond, then a conspicuous figure in political life, and popular in the country, was a member for Shefford County, where Col. Foster resided. As Member for the County which had first started the movement for building that railway, and which was deeply interested therein, Mr. Drummond had interested himself zealously in its promotion. He was, also, its President. Mr. Foster had been in Toronto, where Parliament then sat, during most of its last session, making arrangements in the interests of the road with Mr. Cartier, the Lower Canada leader of the party in power. In spite of the strong feeling in favor of Resident Representation as the result of local agitation, Mr. Drummond was elected Member for Shefford in December, 1857, by acclamation. Then came the notorious Double Shuffle,—a sharp piece of partisan work which depended upon the assistance of the Governor General, Sir Edmund Head, for its success. No reputable historical writer, or constitutiona

jurist now undertakes to defend, or to justify it on any other ground than party expediency. It is not within the scope of this sketch to discuss, or dwell upon it, apart from its results as affecting Col. Foster. It is sufficient to say that on the 2nd of August, 1858, Hon. Mr. Drummond was sworn in as Attorney General for Lower Canada in the Brown-Dorion Government, and four days thereafter was shuffled out. By the acceptance of that office his seat, as Member for Shefford, became vacated by law, and a new election had to be held to fill the vacancy. When he came back for re-election Mr. Foster was nominated to oppose him. The feeling favorable to resident representation had not diminished, but, from many causes, had increased so greatly that, whilst Mr. Foster polled the full vote of his party, he also obtained enough votes from the supporters of that political belief in the ranks of the Reform party, as the Liberal party was then called, to secure his election after a contest so bitter that the embers of the hard feelings then created, existed long thereafter. It was said during the contest that Mr. Foster had promised Mr. Drummond the seat during that Parliament; that on account of his connection with the railway, and the work he had done for it, he would not be opposed. On the other hand it was contended by Mr. Foster that he had simply promised not to oppose him at that election and had fulfilled the promise. It did not matter much, for if Mr. Foster had not been a candidate against him there would probably have been another. As a matter of fact, Mr. Drummond had been elected by acclamation at the general election, in fulfilment of the pledges given. The by-election changed the situation. It had been unforeseen and unprovided for in a specific way. It was of the highest importance, in the interests of the railway, and therefore of the County, that the financial arrangements concerning the construction of the road, made by Mr. Foster with Mr. Cartier should be carried out. This depended upon the latter's continuance in office, which the re-election of Mr. Drummond might affect. The election was run on the local issues of railway and resident representation, rather than on party lines. So far as the results concerned both those local

issues, it was fortunate for the County, as time amply showed to the satisfaction of all parties. Hon. Mr. Cartier became Premier, and between him and Mr. Foster grew up a strong personal friendship which was only severed by death. The prior arrangements were carried out and the advances mentioned from the Municipal Loan Fund were obtained.

Under a statute passed in 1856, it was enacted that thereafter, at intervals to be selected by lot, Legislative Councillors should be elected by the popular vote of the Division,—the then members continuing to hold their seats during life. In 1860 Mr. Foster resigned his seat in the Lower House to become a candidate, under that law, for election as Legislative Councillor for the Bedford Division, comprising the present three Counties of the Judicial District. He was elected by acclamation, and continued to hold the position until Confederation in 1867 when he was appointed the first Senator for that Division.

Immediately after the completion of the Railway to Waterloo in the fall of 1861, Col. Foster set himself zealously to work to build up the place. At that time there was no Foster Street, and there was no building in the vicinity of the Station, the old, or lower village being a mile away. He erected a large hotel, known far and wide for years as the Foster House. He constructed a row of houses on the west side of the Square, a large warehouse alongside the track,—and in a short time had the Square surrounded with substantial buildings—mostly of brick. He constructed a large steam saw-mill which he finally gave to Shaw Bros. as part of their tannery which they built there, and at the same time gave them a tract of land for their business, which included the Island, on which a large number of houses for the Tannery workmen was built by the new proprietors. Col. Foster had, with timely forethought, purchased largely of the land in Waterloo bordering on both sides of the Railway track, which enabled him to assist in many ways, even by gifts of land, in building up the place. Waterloo was not then an incorporated Village. It was under the control of the Shefford Township Council, the members of which looked with suspicion upon

any possible expenditure within the Village limits. When Col. Foster applied to have Foster Street verbalized he was met with opposition in the Council. His land extended north from the Station to about where the Canada Hotel and the Town Hall now stand. The Council would only verbalize the street upon the condition that he would open it up for travel at his own expense, which he did, and in a few years there were more houses and places of business upon it than there had been in the whole Village in the fall of 1861, when the Railway was completed to Waterloo. On that street he gave one acre of ground to the Methodist Church and another acre to the Roman Catholic Church, on which the churches of those denominations were built, both of which are today such ornaments to the place. On the parallel street he gave the land for the site of the Academy, for the Church of England and the Universalist Church edifices, together with generous subscriptions towards the erection of the buildings thereon. Apart from that, any man who wanted a lot on which to build a house, shop or store, could obtain the land for the purpose on his own terms. Thus did he show his public spirit in no niggardly sense. He was not always met in the same spirit, but that did not restrain or check his generosity in the least. For instance, the Lewis Bridge had rotted down and the road closed to travel for some years before the fall of 1861. After the railway was built, people from Fulford and the west were compelled to make a detour by Western Avenue, on the west side of the river, cross the bridge at the grist mill and then retrace their steps up the east bank to the Station. It was so obvious an inconvenience that its remedy could not reasonably be doubted. Nevertheless, when Col. Foster applied to the Township Council to have the bridge rebuilt, it was hotly and successfully opposed. A contested Municipal election resulted, the bridge party won and the bridge was rebuilt. In the meantime new streets had been opened, largely at his own expense, from Court Street (the old highway), to the river, which were verbalized after much trouble and annoyance. On each of those streets he erected houses to incite others to continue the work. The incon-

venience of running a Village with an unfriendly rural council as masters of the situation was so manifest from those, and other experiences, that Waterloo became incorporated as a Village Municipality and began its separate corporate existence on the 1st of January, 1867. The first Council was exceptionally strong and representative, comprising Hon. A. B. Foster, and Messrs. G. G. Stevens, H. L. Robinson, George H. Allen, Spencer Shaw, A. Hebert, and N. V. D. Labonte,. At the first meeting Mr. Foster was elected Mayor and John P. Noyes, Secretary Treasurer. The Col. only remained in the Council one term, his railway enterprises monopolizing his time to the exclusion of local interests. But all the projects for promoting the best interests of the Village, whilst he was in, as well as when he was out of the Council, found in him an advocate and helper, despite the fact that he was the largest individual tax payer. He also took a deep interest in military affairs, and, under the Militia Act of 1864, was appointed Colonel commanding the Shefford Battalion of Militia, so that he had a legitimate right to a military title.

About the year 1864 he began the erection of the beautiful mansion now known as Maple Wood Convent. It was a magnificent site and was built in the most substantial manner. He resided there from its completion in 1865 until his death. In its erection, the fitting up of the grounds, and in the buildings which he erected in the Village his time was pretty well occupied. But he was so constituted that he could not rest. He had turned his attention to farming, as a sort of distraction, purchasing the large farm of Amasa E. Knowlton, in South Stukley, whereon he erected large barns, stocked it with blooded cattle and pushed operations with the same relentless zeal he gave to every enterprise upon which he entered. It was one of his leading characteristics to be always doing something. Thus he had, in a lull between railway contracts in the early '50's, taken the contract to build the Episcopal Church building in Frost Village, not for the money there was in it, for there was none, but because he had to be constantly doing something. It is today, probably, the oldest

Church building in the County of Shefford, and perhaps, in the District, and is in as good condition to-day as when it was completed.

But his agricultural operations did not suffice. It was railways, and only railways, which could fully satisfy his cravings for construction. So we find him in the middle '60's engaged in the construction of the Montreal & Vermont Junction Railway from St. Albans to St. Johns. That done a movement was set afoot to build a Railway from Farnham to Newport to connect with the Passumpsic Ry. and procure an alleged shorter route between Montreal and Boston. Charters for that purpose were obtained under the name of the South Eastern Ry. from Farnham to the Province line at Richford, and the Missisquoi & Clyde Ry. from the latter point to Newport, Vt., from the respective legislatures of Quebec and Vermont. It was practically one road, tho' under two separate charters to comply with local legislation. Prior to that, Richford had had many promises and hopes for a railway, all of which had proved illusory. Gov. Smith had obtained a charter for a road from St. Albans to Richford, called the Missisquoi Valley Ry. and was believed to be actuated by a desire to get control of the M. & C. Ry., either to tie it up so as to prevent its construction, or to operate it in connection with the Central Vermont Ry.—his interest in the former being the greater. A meeting was called at Richford for the purpose of organization and to open stock subscription books as a preliminary to that end. Col. Foster, backed by a Newport and Troy contingent, lined up on one side, and Gov. Smith and his Central Vermont friends on the other. It was suspected that the latter intended to secure control of the Company, which purpose the Col. proposed to circumvent if possible. In the organization, Mr. Bisbee, a Newport lawyer, was named Secretary of the meeting. The sum required to be raised for organization purposes was \$100,000, and an arrangement was made by which the end, that is, the Eastern end led by Col. Foster, and the western end led by Gov. Smith,—which subscribed the most of that preliminary stock, should have the control of the Company. Considering

financial positions it looked as though the Governor would win, but when the stock books were opened Mr. Bisbee, tho' not blessed with means sufficiently ample to raise him above the charge of impecuniosity, promptly subscribed the whole sum. The law required that five per cent. of this should be paid down. Mr. Bisbee settled the matter with his note, cheerfully accepted by his friends, the Provisional Directors, as cash and the fate of the road was settled. It was considered fortunate the stamp act had been repealed, otherwise Bisbee's note could not have passed to the Company as an asset to satisfy legal requirements. Richford which had voted \$50,000 for railroads, divided the sum between the two contestants and luckily got both roads. Col. Foster pushed the construction of the road with such vigor that in 1871 it was in operation, opening up to railway advantages a fine section of country through his untiring energy.

Whilst the South Eastern was in process of construction Col. Foster, vigilant in pursuit of means to aid his new road, secured control of the Richelieu, Drummond & Arthabaska Ry. running from Sorel to Acton, obtained from the legislature power to extend the same to connect with the first named road, changed its name to the Northern Division of the South Eastern Ry., and procured large bonuses from the Municipalities through which it passed to aid in its construction, as well as Government subsidies. The mental and physical endowments of a man who could accomplish so much, and at the same time push construction, with the imperfect means and appliances then in vogue compared with those in use to-day, must be conceded as remarkable, to say the least. But these local projects did not satisfy his ambition, tho' already they had won him the title of the "Canadian Railway King." He acquired in Ontario the Brockville & Ottawa Railway, and a charter for the Canada Central, which he built from Carleton Junction to or near Pembroke, passing through his usual experience in procuring Municipal aid and Government subsidies, after some opposition. To help build up the business of the road he purchased along the line large lumber mills and timber limits, which he

operated. In this railway undertaking he seemed to foresee the great railway across the continent and had placed his Canada Central on the route which he conceived it would follow, and which it actually did follow.

In 1873 came the celebrated Pacific Railway Scandal. The Government had entered into an arrangement with Sir Hugh Allan, operating with some American capitalists, to build the transcontinental road to the Pacific coast. Large sums of money had been advanced by Sir Hugh to assist in carrying the elections of 1872, upon the result of which much depended as to carrying out of his scheme,—a scheme which would shut Col. Foster out of all participation in that great work. The Government fell and the Liberals came into power. In 1874 a contract was entered into between the Government and Mr. Foster, by which he was to build what was called the Georgian Bay Branch of the Pacific Railway, under the plan of Hon. Mr. Mackenzie to build the road in sections from time to time, as the resources of the country would permit. What was thought to be a generous subsidy per mile in money and land was voted for that Branch as well as a money subsidy for the Canada Central. The latter road was soon completed and eventually passed into the hands of the present Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The making of that contract in 1874 necessitated his resignation as Senator, closing sixteen years of Parliamentary life,—years, as well, of strenuous work in carrying out his great railway operations. There had been great changes in that time in Canadian life and history. When he entered Parliament the two Provinces which constituted the old Province of Canada were bitterly hostile on the burning questions of the Double Majority and Separate Schools, each of which involved racial and religious differences to a large extent. When he retired the Dominion had been in existence seven years, and those differences had been quieted, if not absolutely settled, in other ways. He had started to legislate for a Province and had ended by legislating for a nation. Then, the whole Bank circulation was not much, if any, greater, than that of the Bank of Montreal alone when he

retired. Then the mail steamships leaving Canada for England were wooden vessels of about 1750 tons capacity, and none too fast, which were changed in his time to iron vessels of more than three times that capacity, with proportionate speed. Canals had been enlarged, Railways had been built,—in fine, the changes had been simply marvelous. Two years after he entered Parliament there was a hard struggle in the House over the granting of a subsidy to the Allan Line of Steamers for carrying the mail—a subsidy then considered extravagant, but which today would be thought a mere bagatelle. There were far seeing men in Parliament in those days. The then Postmaster General, Hon. Mr. Smith, in supporting the subsidy proposition said that it might excite a smile, as it really did. “When I say I look forward with the confident hope of seeing, at no distant day, a railway communication from the Atlantic to the Pacific.” The railway was built but he probably did not live to see it. He looked upon that possibility largely through the great advantages of the St. Lawrence route.

After his retirement from parliament, Mr. Foster devoted the remaining years of his life to the completion and extension of the South Eastern Railway, the building of the Canada Central Ry. and preparations for the Georgian Bay Branch. But the work in connection with those roads was light, compared with the financing operations to raise the large sums required to carry on those enormous operations in those days. Monied men were not so plentiful then, the times were hard, Banks and Capitalists were cautious as to lending money for the great enterprises in which they had had no experience to guide them, the success of which was more or less problematical from their point of view, and the security out of the ordinary run of business undertakings with which they were familiar. One with less courage than Mr. Foster would have shrunk from the difficulties which he thus encountered. It was a continual effort to keep the balance between the financial demands of his western and eastern roads, in which all sorts of people had to be placated. But, apart from the difficulties mentioned, attacks were made upon his western

railway projects—partly in the hope of embarrassing the Government, and partly to punish him because he had not only not condoned the questionable acts known as the Pacific Railway Scandal, but had separated from his old party friends for the time and cast in his lot with their opponents. He had been an important witness before the Royal Commission at whose sittings the details of that famous scandal were, in a measure revealed, and the Opposition assumed without a shadow of reason that his contracts were the reward for that considerable service. As a matter of fact, he received the Contract for the Georgian Bay Branch because his tender was the lowest, and more strictly in compliance with the conditions prescribed. Sir Charles Tupper, in the House, with his usual vehemence, denounced the contract with Mr. Foster in one breath as ruinous to the country, and, in another as being at so low a price that it could not be carried out.

In the course of these transactions, Mr. Foster had secured a loan from the Passumpsic Railway through its President, Emmons Raymond, and had placed the operation of the South Eastern Ry. in the hands of that Company as security. The Passumpsic people were to operate the South Eastern, apply a certain percentage of the income towards payment of the loan, and when fully paid restore the road to Mr. Foster, or the South Eastern Railway Company. The line of the latter Company gave the Passumpsic road direct connection with Montreal and was, therefore, a great advantage to it. The after events showed that Mr. Raymond fancied the game in his own hands, and that he would, by hook or by crook retain the road for all time as part of his railway system. After the expiry of the lease Mr. Foster demanded a settlement and the return of the road to him. Raymond, who had acquired the title in Vermont of "Peanut" Raymond, put him off by one pretext or another. But a man of his calibre could not keep at arm's length a man of the resourceful, determined character of Col. Foster. An appointment was made for a meeting at Newport to discuss the settlement. Raymond, with his henchman, a party by the name of Robinson, of Newport, had induced a man to cause Mr. Foster's

arrest for an alleged claim of \$27.00,—a debt which he did not owe and which had been made by a sub-contractor, who had been paid his contract in full. Without giving him time to communicate with his friends he was hustled off by the officers to Irasburg Jail, a long drive on a cold autumn night for a man of his years and physique,—but from which he was soon released by friends who had learned of the outrage. If Mr. Raymond expected to further his ends by a bluff of that contemptible, childish nature he had mistaken the character of the man with whom he had to deal and, as well, the temper of the people. In this country, as well as in New England, the arrest was denounced as an outrage. It was regarded as an act of folly. Raymond's attempt to explain only made the matter worse. All along the line of the road, in Vermont, as well as on this side, the sympathies of the people were with Mr. Foster, and, if Raymond had appeared on the scene he would very likely have met with the warmest kind of a warm reception. It satisfied the business community as well, that a man who could resort to such a childish move to further his ends had not the mental capacity to carry on successfully any considerable enterprise. Mr. Foster at once adopted heroic measures to secure re-possession of his road. He saw that it was the intention of Raymond to force him to have resort to litigation, in which the laboring oar would fall to Mr. Foster's share,—his opponent, in the meantime retaining possession of the road and manipulating the books during the time such litigation should last, and always with the ulterior purpose of forcing Mr. Foster to dispose of his interests at a sacrifice. The S. E. part of the road ran to Richford, where the M. & C. took up the thread for a piece, and through Mansonville to Troy it was again S. E. and at the latter place to Newport it was once more M. & C. A portion of the road near Mansonville had become dangerous through a landslide which encroached upon the track. Mr. Foster borrowed a pile driver from the Central Vermont at Richford, took possession of the rolling stock to Farnham, and with an engine went out with the pile driver to the landslide near Mansonville, tore up the track for about fifteen rods and with

his pile driver drove down piles which checked the progress of trains. As a Boston paper said at the time: "the work was done in a thorough manner and by a man who understands his business and who is not afraid to stand up for his rights." Within twenty-four hours Col. Foster was in possession and operating the S. E. part of the road. Raymond tried a little jollyng on his end of the road, which was not very effective. It may as well be said here, that later, when Mr. Barlow secured the South Eastern he cajoled Raymond, in some way, to give him possession of his end and lend him \$400,000, to pay off liabilities. That was the last the Passumpsic people saw of the money, and when Mr. Barlow finished with the road it was part of the Canadian Pacific scheme. Raymond was a small pattern of a man, to say the least. It was said of him in Vermont that he ran his railroad on the principle of "catch and skin 'em," and it was while working out this principle that he captured the title of "Peanut" Raymond from his own people.

While this war was progressing Col. Foster had also to look after the interests of his Ontario roads, as well as the construction of the Northern Division of the S. E. before mentioned. Raymond had started litigation in Vermont. The re-possessed line had to be equipped and operated. On all sides there was pressing work,—urgent demands,—work for many men which the Col. looked after himself. It was obvious that he was over-worked, and, as results showed was a sick man. On the evening of the 1st of November, 1877, he went in from Richford, Vt., where the fight for possession was going on, intending to proceed the next day to Brockville, on business connected with his Ontario roads. He ate a hearty meal at the Ottawa Hotel and whilst consulting with friends about the business affairs to be entered upon the next day at Brockville complained of feeling unwell. A physician prescribed for him, and feeling better, he retired for the night, his son remaining in the room with him. At about four o'clock in the morning the son was aroused by the heavy breathing of his father who, almost immediately, expired. It was generally thought at that time, and a sympathetic press

gave reasons for the belief, that his death was accelerated by the anxiety and excitement consequent upon the attempts at a settlement with the Passumpsic people, and the efforts to regain possession of his road.

It appeared, however, that he had been a sufferer for some time with a serious heart affection, and had been warned by medical men against undue excitement and over-exertion, advice difficult for one of his active temperament to follow too scrupulously. The body was conveyed from Montreal to Waterloo by special train, where the funeral was held,—the interment taking place in the family lot at Knowlton.

Whilst this sketch is intended to be just a bare sketch, and not a eulogy of one to whom Waterloo owes so much, and whose generous efforts in its interests are seen on every hand within its limits and vicinity, it may not be amiss to quote what the Montreal Gazette, at that time one of his opponents, said of him:—" Mr. Foster was a man of the rarest executive ability ; and of the most sound and far seeing views. We have known very few men in this country who possessed in an equal degree the power of directing gigantic operations, and very few who had established so extensive a claim upon the confidence of the capitalists upon whom those operations necessarily depend for success. He had the most indomitable courage, and, what cannot be said of many men, was equal to either fortune, as ready to bear up in the face of disaster as he was to profit by success." The press generally without regard to party predilections, deplored his loss. Kind words were said of him, and there was a general sympathetic appreciation. In his own home town, people were stunned at the suddenness of his removal, and lost in conjecture as to the future of the great undertakings in which he was engaged.

As a man Col. Foster was slightly above medium height, but his erect figure and portly dignified bearing, with an inclination towards stoutness as the years grew on him, gave him the appearance of being taller than he actually was. He had always an air of perfect self possession, looking the world square in the face, but too absorbed to care much what the

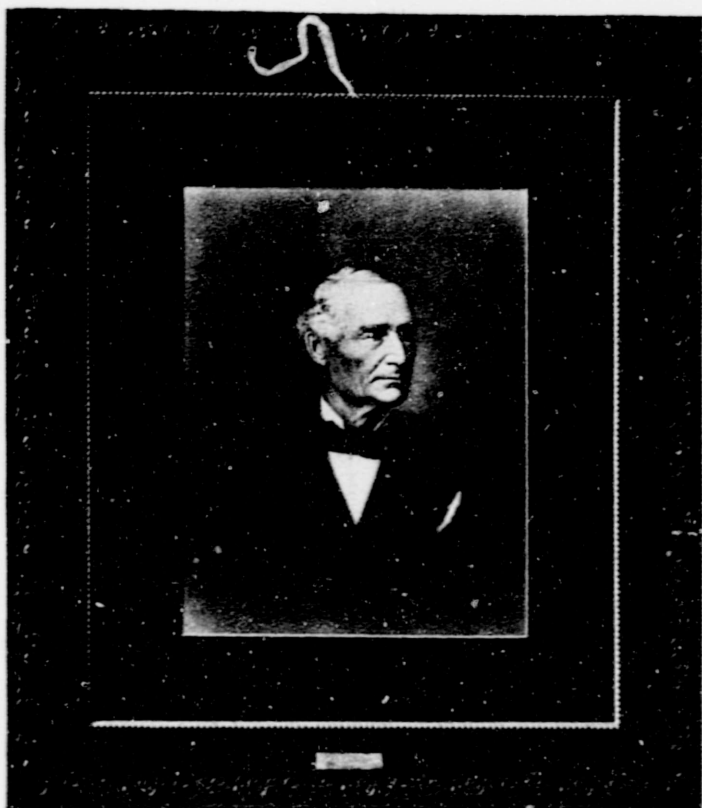
world thought, or to concern himself with the petty details of common things. He was a firm friend and an open fighter. Once a man had his confidence he never swerved in his trust for him. He had no time, nor liking, for parish squabbling, or the ordinary incidents of life in a small community. Whilst not an orator he could speak with clearness and conviction on business in which he had an interest, and he had a convincing, one might say, a dominating way over meetings convened in connection with his railway enterprises. There was a social side to him known only to old friends and intimates. Whilst a serious man, he nevertheless had a keen sense of humor, and enjoyed a good story, or the dry sayings which came up to him from the people with whom he came in contact in a life which brought him much in touch with the common people. He was greatly loved by the men in his employ, no matter in what line or class. In time of trouble they went to the Col. for aid and rarely, indeed, was aid denied.

When he retired from the S. S. & C. Ry., or shortly after, in 1863, his old employees presented him with a large portrait of himself, painted by a well known artist, accompanied by an address testifying the high esteem they had for him. He was a good judge of men, or of human nature, to use the ordinary term employed for that gift. He preferred directness in dealing, not having time or patience for slow approach. He was a generous man, with a kindly sympathetic heart. Apart from his public acts of beneficence, his private gifts and charities were large. It is correctly related that at a time when he was much harassed by all sorts of troubles, just prior to the sale of the S. S. & C. Ry., he was approached in the Waterloo Station, where he had his office, by a decently clad middle aged, sad looking man, who asked him for pecuniary assistance to pay his stage fare to Melbourne. The Col. was apt to be fiery at times, and under his business harassments did not want to be bothered. He ordered the man away in rather caustic terms. Looking out of the window a moment later he saw the man wearily and dejectedly crossing the square. It was before the era of tramps, but within the time when it was true that "the poor ye have with you alway."

“Here, David,” he said to Mr. Frost, the Station Agent, “I may have done a deserving man an injustice. You are a younger man than I am, run after him and give him this,” handing over a four dollar bill, a denomination then much in circulation. It was an act characteristic of Mr. Foster. He had regular pensioners, among them being Blind Joe, a well known character for years in Waterloo and the Townships—an itinerant fruit and candy peddler until age and infirmities rendered his livelihood from that source precarious. The Col. had an old passenger car fitted up in the station yard for a house for poor Blind Joe—who, proud of his domicile, went up every Saturday to the Col’s residence for a weekly stipend under an arrangement which he did not allow to pre-
scribe by non-use. These incidents are only a few of his many generous and characteristically thoughtful acts of kindness, and are given rather as indicating a phase of his character, than a description of a system of benevolence.

It is difficult in a short paper to do justice to such a public spirited man. Nor should it be necessary in Waterloo, where the tokens of his large hearted liberality and active desire to aid the material advancement and prosperity of the place may be seen on every hand, and should entitle his name to lasting respect and esteem.





HON. GARDNER GREEN STEVENS.

HON. GARDNER GREEN STEVENS



THE present writer, for the "Bedford Times" wrote a sketch, or perhaps it might be called a eulogy of Senator Stevens, a few weeks after his death which covers, practically, the details of his life likely to be of public interest. With some changes and corrections it is here reproduced as a fair and just appreciation of an eminent citizen and an upright man.

The standard of appreciation of public men, particularly in our own country, is, perhaps, not the most just. The tendency is to pass judgment rather upon what a man says than what he does. It is so easy to estimate a public man whose utterances are ready at hand, that one is apt to forget that, after all, the number of orators is, fortunately, limited and that it is the quiet, persistent, intelligent worker who really accomplishes the marvellous things in each community and country. These reflections readily occur to one who compares the life work of Senator Stevens with many of the distinguished Eastern Townships men who have acquired fame in public life as orators and debaters, and this comparison may be made without intentionally disparaging those men or depreciating their public services.

Senator Stevens was a pure product of the Eastern Townships. Born in the early days of its history, he grew with its growth, until, at the time of his death there were but few of that sturdy stock left as links to connect our present progress and civilization with the rude period of the pioneer. The succeeding generation, moulded under newer, and, possibly better conditions, and with different aspirations, finds but little attraction in the history of the old pioneer life, and the

old pioneer himself, is likely to be regarded as little more than an object of passing curiosity. This consideration makes it all the more difficult to give an estimate of Senator Stevens, or an appreciation of his services, which would be generally interesting. The quiet events of his life do not lighten the task. And yet, none deserve better to have their names perpetuated with honor than those who, like Senator Stevens, worked so quietly and effectively to advance the true interests of the Eastern Townships.

In the early part of the last century there came to Brompton, Que., from Newfane, Vt., a thrifty farmer by the name of Gardner Stevens. It has been said that he came to Canada from motives of loyalty to the British Crown. This is a flattering reason usually given by the patriotic biographer to account for the presence of our New England ancestors in Canada. It seems to be the proper sentiment in these days to warm over into U. E. Loyalists the old pearlsh makers of the early days, men who were more anxious to procure their daily bread than eager to perpetuate the Hanoverian Succession. The truth is, that it was through special inducements held out for settlers, that so many came to the Townships from New England. They troubled themselves but little about forms of government. Some of Gardner Stevens brothers emigrated at about the same time to Ohio, and for a like reason. It matters but little why he came, the essential fact is, that he did come, and when he died in 1845 he left worthy sons and daughters.

Senator Stevens was born on the 13th December, 1814, at Brompton, a few miles from Sherbrooke. He was the second son, the elder emigrating to the west, where he became the first settler in Minneapolis, Minn., and acquired a large fortune, dying only a few years ago. Until the age of majority the life of Senator Stevens was that of a farmer's son in a new country. During that period his father removed to a farm near Lennoxville. From the rather primitive schools of those localities he graduated into the then noted calling of a district school teacher, a mark of scholarship and study in that day. Fond of reading he diligently pursued those books

within his reach, and with a wonderfully retentive memory treasured up the facts so gained. So acute was this faculty that his mind was a rich storehouse of historical facts and information.

In 1835, leaving the farm, he entered the employ of Charles Brooks, and soon became his manager at Waterville, Que., the business comprising a store, mill and farm, remaining with Mr. Brooks many years. In that early day he was an ardent politician, being largely instrumental in securing the nomination and subsequent election of the late Judge Sanborn as member of Parliament for Compton. Then, as always after, he was an ardent liberal in politics, which, says a biographer, is probably the leading reason why his father and family came to be considered strong adherents of the British Crown.

In 1847 he married Relief Jane, daughter of the late Sidney Spafford, of Compton, who died a number of years ago. In 1854 he moved to Frost Village, having been appointed agent of the British American Land Company, where he resided a few years, subsequently changing his residence to Roxton Falls, where he remained until 1859, having filled the office of Municipal Councillor and Mayor, which offices he filled at the time of his removal to Waterloo on said date.

The general elections of 1857 took place while he resided at Roxton Falls, and despite his sentiments in favor of Resident Representation he supported the late Judge Drummond for re-election on account of his work for the local railway and other local improvements, as well as on account of his admittedly great ability. In the by-election which followed a year later, in spite of the local feeling for a resident candidate and his personal prejudice that way he stood loyally by the party nominee, and through his zeal and efforts Roxton gave Mr. Drummond a large majority, though not enough to secure his election over the late Senator Foster, the resident candidate.

In 1859 a branch of the E. T. Bank was established in Waterloo, and shortly after Senator Stevens became its Manager, still continuing to represent the B. A. L. Co. as its agent. So soon as the branch was fairly launched he resigned, his other pursuits claiming his close attention. Directly

after his arrival in Waterloo he was elected a member of Shefford Township Council holding the seat until Waterloo was incorporated as a village, when he was elected to a seat in its first Council, becoming Mayor in 1870, and Warden of Shefford County—retiring from Municipal life about 1878. Early in 1876, Honorable A. B. Foster resigned the position of Senator of the Bedford Division, held by him since Confederation, and Mr. Stevens was appointed to fill the vacancy,—an office he creditably held up to the time of his death.

When Mr. Stevens reached Shefford the battle for the construction of the S. S. & C. Ry. had just commenced. With his usual zeal he went into the fight and did much to secure the municipal aid which assisted to open the railway to Waterloo in 1861. He became the Treasurer of the road, then Director and Vice-President, and upon the retirement of Judge Drummond was elected President, which office he held to the day of his death by successive annual elections. He warmly advocated the projects for building the S. E. Railway and the Waterloo and Magog Railways through Waterloo, to both of which he rendered great assistance. He was a charter member of the Atlantic & North West Ry. Co.—the road now operated by the C. P. Ry. between Montreal and Halifax. His last railway connection was with the Orford Mountain Ry., of which he was the first President and filled the office at the time of his decease.

Apart from his connection with the Eastern Townships Bank before mentioned, he became a Director in 1870 and held that position the remaining years of his life, being also Vice-President for many years. He was loyal and zealous in its interests, and as Director used his influence to assist local enterprises likely to increase the prosperity of the Eastern Townships. In agricultural matters he took an active interest and was a staunch supporter of the Shefford Agricultural Society. He was a practical farmer, a good judge of stock, and during his last years indulged his taste in those respects by cultivating a fine farm near Waterloo. For upwards of thirty years prior to his death he had been closely connected with the working of nearly every society or associ-

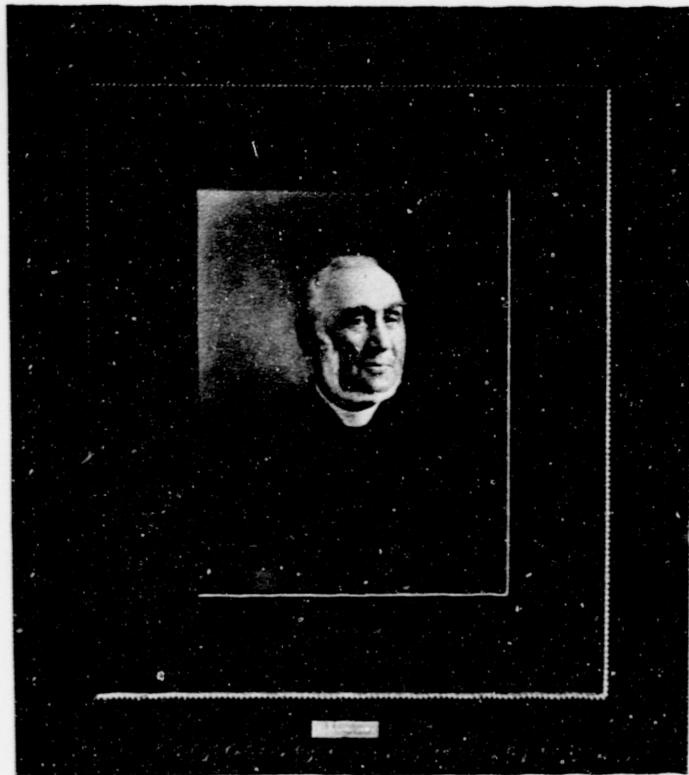
ation which had Waterloo for its centre. In the building of the Academy he was among the first of its advocates, and its constant supporter to the last. In a crisis in its youth he, in conjunction with other leading citizens stepped into the breach, and by financial, as well as other aid, placed it upon a foundation which successfully lasted until it later passed under the control of the School Commissioners. In fine, when any Waterloo institution seemed to languish and require propping up the aid of Senator Stevens was solicited, and as much by the cheerful energy with which he encouraged his co-workers, as by his ever ready financial assistance would he put new life into the institution. Charming conversationalist as he was, he was reticent as to his religious beliefs and tenets. He was brought up a Congregationalist, but at Waterloo became a member of the Methodist Church.

No one ever heard him use a profane word, or even indulge in any of those mild substitutes for profanity which pass current in daily life without remark. He never told a story with a doubtful meaning, although one of the most charming of *raconteurs*. He had profound dislike for so called social scandals. He was a clean man in every sense of the word. He brought to the performance of every charge and relation of life a high sense of duty, and an honesty of purpose without limit. Great tact in the management of affairs and the control of men was not among the least of his many qualifications for success. He was no orator, simply because he could not bring himself to talk upon his feet. In private conversation he displayed a more than ordinary command of pure strong English ; his stock of information was far above the average, and his powers of illustration, with apt quotation and anecdote, were remarkable. All these things would, with practice have made him a powerful debater. His excuse for not attempting it was characteristic, "there are too many talkers in the world," he said. And yet the men for whom he had the greatest admiration were the great orators of the world, past and present.

To the poor he was kind and sympathetic. Placed as agent for a rich corporation in a position where he might, at times,

have been harsh with possible advantage to his Company, his leniency and kindness saved a home to many a poor deserving man. He never ejected a man from his home. In his travels over the country for years he became the receptacle of all troubles, and the settler of all disputes. To the universal grumbler, or idle solicitor of advice, his answers were as short and enigmatical as those of the Delphic oracle, but to the genuine seeker he was a wise and prudent counsellor. To young men he was a good friend, when the young man showed that there was the true ring in his metal,—to the other sort he had neither advice to give, nor aid to offer. When once a man had gained his confidence, it was a lasting confidence. He was true and unshaken in his principles. Of him it was truly said that he died without an enemy, that he possessed only friends, and that he never did a mean thing.

Senator Stevens died at Knowlton, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. H. E. Williams, on the 15th of April, 1892, in the 78th year of his age, and was buried in the family lot in the Waterloo Cemetery, the funeral service being held at the Methodist Church in Waterloo. The Advertiser said of him: "His nature was intensely sympathetic and no poor and deserving man ever sought his counsel or his aid in vain. His generosity was proverbial and many a man borne down by poverty and almost discouraged by the seeming hopelessness of the future, has been set on his feet again with renewed hope and vigor by the timely encouragement of the Senator. * * * * Few public men were better read in political history or better posted on the questions of the day, and he enjoyed a wide popularity at Ottawa, not only among members of his own side of the House, but with public men generally. * * * * His memory was wonderfully retentive and he excelled as a conversationalist. He was fond of biography. Taking him all in all, the lamented Senator was a remarkable man and we shall not soon see his like again."



VEN. ARCHDEACON DAVID LINDSAY.

VEN. ARCHDEACON DAVID LINDSAY



IT IS difficult to do justice to one who worked so unobtrusively, yet effectually, as did Venerable Archdeacon David Lindsay, M.A., D.C.L., of the Archdeaconry of Bedford, in the Diocese of Montreal, and who yet accomplished so many commendable things in his nearly half a century of clerical labor. No single act of his, considered by itself, was of tremendous magnitude regarded from the point of view of large human enterprise. The minute details of the steady, tireless work which he zealously performed for the good of the community in which his lot was cast, and for the advancement of all religious, moral and educational objects in the Eastern Townships, during so long a period of time, can not readily be brought together to form a notable record. For his was a work which did not always show immediate results,—the effects of which becoming visible bit by bit only as time passed on—until it is doubtful if any one man more thoroughly impressed himself in so many ways upon any community, than did he. The Ven. Archdeacon was born in London, England, on the first day of February, 1821,—the son of James Lindsay, a London Merchant, and of Elizabeth Finchman. He was educated in his native city, came to Montreal in 1843, and at first entered upon mercantile pursuits. This he shortly abandoned to enter upon study for the ministry, completing his course at Bishop's College University, from which, it may be said here as well as later on, he received the degree of M.A. in 1856 and the degree of D.C.L. in 1895. He was ordained in Montreal by Bishop Fulford and sent in 1851 as missionary to Frost Village and South Stukely,—a mission which included the present Town of Magog as well as the greater part of Bolton. The same year he married Sophia

Adamson, daughter of the late Dr. Adamson, who was for many years Chaplain to the Senate of the Dominion,—who proved a zealous co-worker with her husband in parochial matters, and who still survives him. Whilst having charge of that extended mission he was instrumental in the construction of Church edifices at Frost Village and South Stukely. In 1862 the Parish of St. Luke's, Waterloo, was reorganized by detaching West Shefford, which was made an independent Parish, and South Stukely an independent mission, whilst Frost Village was annexed to Waterloo. Of the new Parish Mr. Lindsay was made Rector and removed to Waterloo in 1862. Waterloo was not then a large place, but the Parish was an exacting one. Steadily he worked to build up his church, to interest the people in religious work and in all things tending to promote moral views and high aims of life. The present beautiful church building was erected in 1870, the old white church on the hill, where now stands the residence of the late Mr. Duke Roberts, having become too small for the worshippers. In 1874, on the death of the late Dean Slack, he was appointed Rural Dean of the Bedford Deanery, later being appointed an honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, and in 1878 he was named Arch-deacon of Bedford. He was the good father of all the missions around him, aiding them by his time and with his advice, as well as with his means. The churches at Fulford and Boscobel are among his beneficiaries, and through his efforts Warden has become an important part of the North Shefford Mission. He was a warm friend of education. His interest in the Academy was untiring and in him its teachers found a warm friend and zealous helper and support. He was one of the few clergymen who did not neglect his duty as School Visitor, a privilege conferred, or duty imposed by law, unfortunately too little appreciated. Apart from that, he was for a time on the local School Board, was Vice-President of the Dunham Ladies' College—which, but for him probably would not exist to-day, was on the Council of Bishops' College University, and for many years was a member of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, from which he only retired

when incapacitated from public life by failing health. In the days of old Mechanics' Institutes which flourished for a time and gave promise of much usefulness, he frequently lectured at the annual course, and largely aided in promoting the library in connection with that institution.

In church work he became a leading member of the Diocesan Synod whose advice was much sought and greatly valued. He was also a member of the Provincial Synod, and in both was usually on important committees. In his own Parish he was always on the alert to promote societies which would be helpful to the community and particularly to young people, in whom he took a great interest. Always a faithful churchman, he nevertheless co-operated cheerfully with other bodies in furthering all efforts to promote the welfare of the place, particularly in the direction of total abstinence from intoxicating drinks. He was for some time the President of the local branch of the Dominion Temperance Alliance and a member of the Provincial executive for years.

A local historian has justly said:—

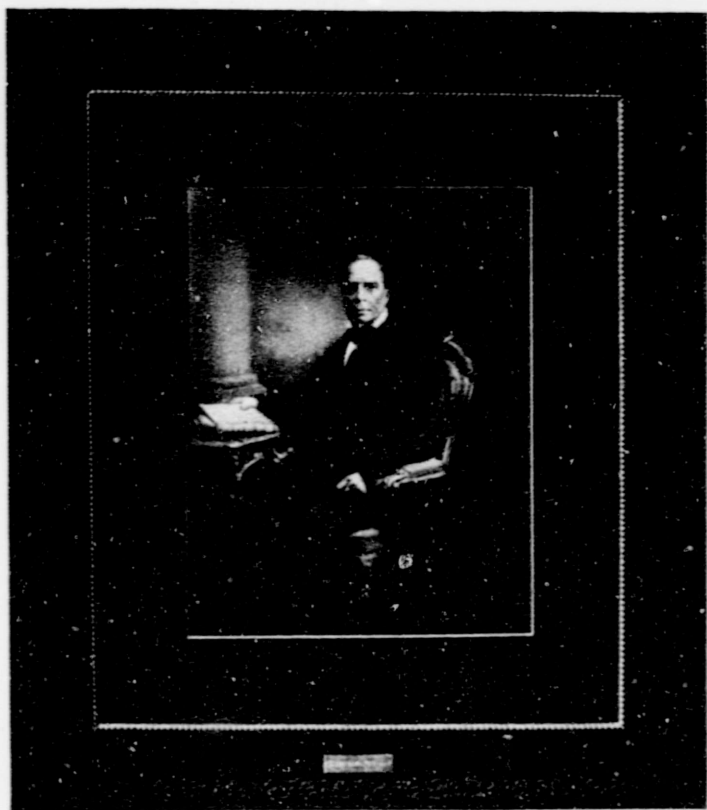
“The life of Mr. Lindsay, during his residence in Shefford, has been one of earnest, patient and unremitting toil. Keenly alive to the responsibility resting upon him as a minister of the Gospel, he has devoted his time and all his physical and mental energies to the furtherance of the work he had in hand. He has warmly espoused the temperance cause, and there is no doubt his exhortations and lectures, united with his example have done much good in this direction. A lover of literary pursuits, he has always endeavored, by the encouragement of schools, libraries and literary societies, to awaken a taste for them in those around him, and it has ever been a source of sorrow to him to see the young of his Parish neglecting the cultivation of their minds. His works of benevolence are manifold, and in them he has always been ably and heartily assisted by Mrs. Lindsay.”

One of his leading characteristics was tact. He seemed to know how to win success on difficult occasions by a skilful management which was akin to genius. He always had the

right word to fit the man or the occasion. This made him a welcome visitor to the sick room and a sympathetic consoler in the days of affliction. Always cheerfully enthusiastic and optimistic he gave courage to his co-workers in times when darkness loomed ahead.

After a severe protracted illness he resigned the Rectorship of St. Luke's in 1898, greatly to his regret, as well as of his parishioners. From that illness he never recovered, and on the 9th day of September, 1900, he quietly passed away, mourned by all classes in the Town and vicinity he had served so long and faithfully. His funeral took place on the 13th of September, and was largely attended by the people, even from long distances, and by the clergy of the Diocese,—Dean, now Bishop Carmichael officiating.





DR. STEPHEN SEWELL FOSTER.

DR. STEPHEN SEWELL FOSTER



HOW few are the strongly marked lines of any man's life. He is born, he lives and he dies. It is the filling in between the lines—the details of the career; the personal characteristics which show the man; the struggles to overcome untoward surroundings; the defeats and the victories and the bearing under the vicissitudes of life which make the record of any life valuable to those who come after. In the narration of these things there are always two leading dangers one of spinning out details of little general interest, and the other of giving so little as to minimize their value. These dangers confront us in preparing a sketch of Dr. Foster. Briefly, as to dates and places the lines may be compressed into small compass.

He was born at Oakham, Mass., of Puritan descent, the 22nd of November, 1791. He studied medicine, was married on the 7th of February, 1813, to Miss Sally Belknap, of Dummerston, Vt., also of Puritan descent, began the practice of his profession in Newfane, Vt., from whence came the Knowltons, the Robinsons and others to Shefford and Brome, followed them with his wife and family in 1822 to Canada, settling for a year at Frost Village, then for a short time at Waterloo, returning to Frost Village, then an important centre, remaining there until October, 1857, when he removed to Knowlton with the intention of retiring from active practice and of being near other members of his family living there, and there he died on the 29th December, 1869. His old homestead at Frost Village he passed over to his son, Hon. Asa B. Foster, and it is still standing in fairly good condition, although nearly three-quarters of a century old.

Professionally, he was licensed to practice by the Vermont Medical Society, and on his arrival in Canada obtained a Provincial license, keeping abreast of the profession by attending medical lectures at Quebec, and later at McGill University. When the profession was organized in the Province by the establishment of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, he was elected one of its Governors, an office he held continuously until 1866, when he resigned on account of impaired health. He filled the local offices of Justice of the Peace and Commissioner for the summary trial of small causes at a time when the duties were arduous and responsible, seeing the distance to higher courts of criminal and civil jurisdiction. He took a deep interest in education and was one of the founders, officers and active supporters of the Academy at Frost Village, for years a noted educational institution. His early religious affiliations were with the Congregational Church, practically the only existing church where he was born and bred in New England, but no organization of that kind existing in his vicinity at Frost Village or Knowlton, he allied himself with the Anglican Church to whose support he contributed greatly at both places.

Politically, he had been an ally for years of the late Hon. P. H. Knowlton, the local party leader, the last member elected for Shefford in the old Parliament of the Province prior to 1837 and the troubles which put Parliament out of business for several years. On the union of the Provinces in 1841, Col. Knowlton was appointed Legislative Councillor and Dr. Foster succeeded him as Member for Shefford in the Legislative Assembly of Canada, a position which he held through subsequent elections for about eight years, when he voluntarily retired.

But it was not as an office holder or representative of the people in Parliament that Dr. Foster was most distinguished in the section where the best years of his life were spent. It was in the practice of his profession whereby his name became a household word in the large field of his professional practice. When he began that practice at Frost Village there was no medical practitioner from Yamaska Mountain

to Missisquoi Bay, on the one hand, and to Stanstead, Sherbrooke and Melbourne on the other. For years he went at every call of the sick by bridle paths, log canoes and snow shoes, guided often only by marked trees, amid forests where wild beasts howled and, if the perils were great the hardships were not less severe.

In the obituary notice of him which appeared in the Waterloo Advertiser on the 7th January, 1869, written by the late Hon. L. S. Huntington, whose family Doctor he had been for many years, the best appreciation can be had of the arduous professional life he led and through which he was loved in his lifetime, and his memory cherished in countless family circles long after he had passed away. Among other things Mr. Huntington feelingly and eloquently wrote:—

“ The name of Dr. Stephen Sewell Foster * * * * * is familiar as a household word to the people of these Townships. He was emphatically one of the self-made men whose education, acquired amidst the stern and masculine realities of active life, is what Mr. Greeley would place in the first rank of human learning—and before all the polish of the schools. Not that Dr. Foster was unknown to the Universities—for we believe he had been the recipient of honors from our own and from foreign institutions of learning, but it is chiefly as a self-made man, pushing his way to eminence and success by the force of his own strong personal qualities that he will be remembered in the history of these Townships, of which he was one of its earliest settlers, and to the prosperity of which he had contributed by nearly fifty years of indomitable labor. * * * * *

“ Here, in the wilds of Canada, he commenced the practice of that profession he loved so much and in which he was destined to achieve so much success in after years. No language can convey to our comparatively luxurious generation, an idea of the perils and hardships which those early settlers endured and vanquished. Sometimes the pen of the historian has depicted the trials and achievements of those heroic men called early settlers, who have been the pioneers of civilization on this continent—but there is an unwritten

history of dangers braved and hardships overcome by our grandfathers and grandmothers here, which ought to be rescued from oblivion before it is too late. Such a history might, indeed, be wanting in the incidents which give the zest and coloring to tragic romance—truthfully written, it would show that those early settlers were noble men surrounded by privations and discouragements which only brave men dare to face, and only men of iron resolution could vanquish. An old pioneer said recently that the early settlers were better men than those of the subsequent generations simply because they were picked men—only the bolder and stronger leaving the old settlements to tempt the demon of the wilderness, and, having planted themselves here, no discouragements could overawe or overcome them, * * * * * they looking forward to the ameliorations of the good time coming, and were frugal, contented and happy.

* * * * *

“ Among such a people it might be thought that our young physician could have found few attractions, but he seems to have loved his work, and with the eye of faith to have beheld the field of usefulness which the future had in store for him. Thoroughly devoted to his profession, he was more than a mere physician—he regarded his patients as friends. His gentleness in the sick room—his tenderness for the afflicted, whose sorrows he made his own—endeared him to the people, and created a popular affection for him which it is the good fortune of but few men to enjoy. And thus it happened that in after years, when he was pressed into political life, the people, without much regard to their political leanings, enthusiastically placed him at the head of the polls. * *

“ Dr. Foster voluntarily abandoned public life and devoted himself again to the arduous duties of his profession with increased usefulness and success. A large country practice is a terrible ordeal to pass. The inclemency of the weather, the fearful roads of the new settlements, night after night of unremitting toil, had no terrors for “ the old Doctor,” as the young generation which supplanted his old patrons affectionately called him, and so he worked on to the last,

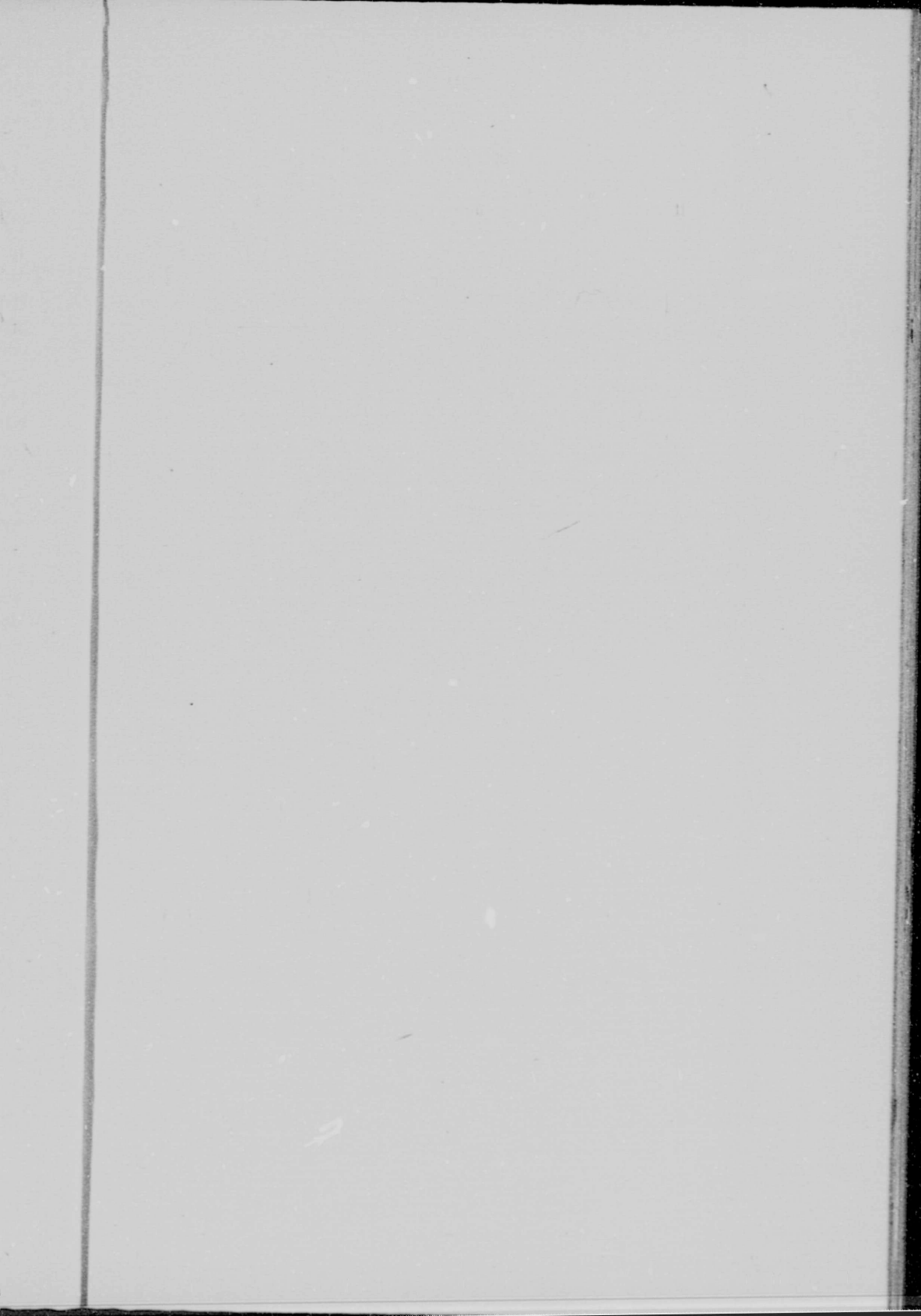
even after wealth and honors had flowed in upon his family, till he had no pecuniary wants. But he loved his work and his patients, and seemed resolved to die in harness, which he did. He was like Luke "the beloved physician"; as such we believe he would have desired to be remembered, yet he found time during his long and active life to steal some thoughts from his professional engagements, to encourage the various enterprises, which from time to time stimulate the growing prosperity of these Townships. He was the friend of education, of temperance and of all social and religious ameliorations. His hand and heart were always open to the appeal of charity, and he was a model of the domestic virtues. His strong attachment to his own family circle was proverbial.

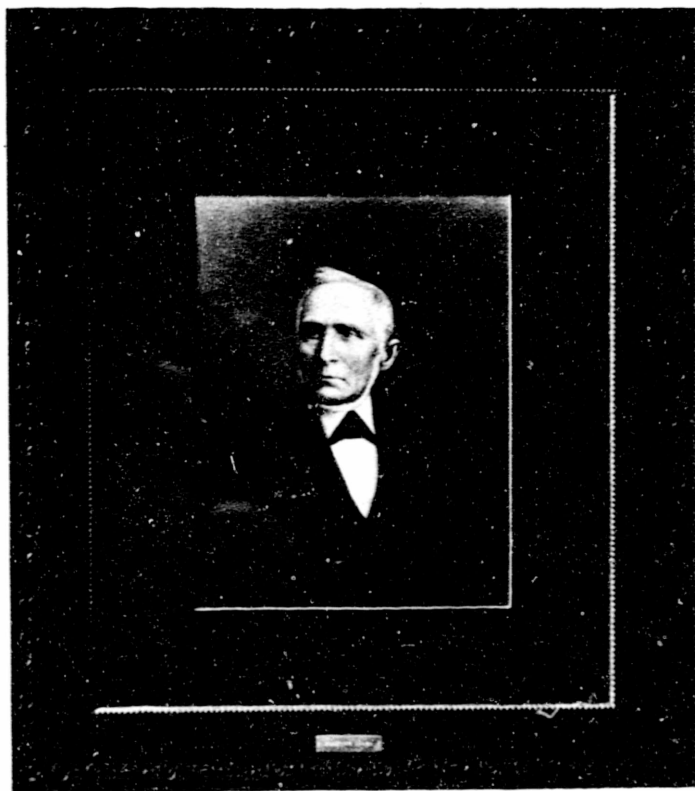
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"For nearly fifty years he had gone in and out among us—the trusted friend of three generations of our people. His death severs another link from the generation that is passing away. But there is left us his example—the record of his long and useful life."

Dr. Foster had a family of seven sons and four daughters and two adopted daughters. Of the sons Hiram S. was Registrar for Shefford, and later of Brome; Asa B. was a prominent railroad man; a member of both branches of the old Canadian Parliament and a Senator in the new; Herschel was a physician; Samuel W. was District Magistrate, Sheriff and a railroad promoter and builder; Arad. T. was a prosperous New York business man; Thomas E. was a leading insurance man in Montreal, in whose City Council he was at one time an Alderman. His daughters were Mrs. Philip Wood, of Knowlton; Mrs. A. B. Chaffee, of Montreal; Mrs. Richard Dickinson, of Bedford, and Mrs. P. Skinner, of Worcester, Mass.







CHARLES ALLEN. ESQ.

CHARLES ALLEN



HERE we have the pioneer manufacturer of Waterloo, the man with large views, good business capacity and untiring energy in whatever he undertook. He was born in Andover, Vt., on the 18th of June, 1799, his father being Isaac Allen and his mother Sarah Dakin. While quite young his parents removed to Chester, Vt., where he received his education in the district school and at Chester Academy. He learned the trade of blacksmith and on reaching the age of majority went to Troy, N.Y. then, as it still is, a great centre for stove manufactories and machine shops. There he worked at his trade for some years and acquired a knowledge of iron working which later stood him in good stead. In the spring of, 1825 he left Claremont, N.H. to work for Messrs Hezekiah Robinson and Daniel Taylor, who had earlier removed from his locality in Vermont to Waterloo. It took him ten days from Claremont to Waterloo, which he reached on the 31st of March, 1825. At Montpelier, Vt., he reached the terminus of the stage line and resolutely started on foot to complete the journey. With an occasional short ride he walked over the mountains at a season when the snow was still deep, reaching Hatley, from whence he followed a path to Magog through the woods marked by blazed trees, during a heavy snow storm, which gave him the unpleasant sensation of homesickness, besides great bodily fatigue. It is obvious that it required the stout heart of a resolute man to push on into the wilderness of an unknown land, as was that section in those days. After a night's rest at Magog he shouldered his pack and started for Waterloo, but after a few miles secured a ride to Frost Village for which he paid his last coin and reached Waterloo shorter in funds than any Allen has been there since that date. The tradition exists in many localities

that the pioneer of a place, to whom remarkable prosperity came later, landed in the sphere of his subsequent activities with a solitary Mexican dollar as his only asset. Mr. Allen did not have the dollar, but he had a stout heart and a good trade of the kind greatly needed in a new country. Waterloo had six families only, when he arrived there. The entire outfit, out of which to create a business town, apart from the modest residences of those families, consisted of a rickety saw mill, a grist mill, carding and cloth dressing shop, a shoemaker's shop and a primitive hotel. On his arrival Messrs Robinson and Taylor added a blacksmith shop, of which he took charge, buying out Mr. Taylor's interest in a few months. He continued in partnership with Mr. Robinson for about two years when he purchased the latter's interest and continued alone. His Troy experience, as well as a natural mechanical ingenuity, proved a great help to him, enabling him to manufacture many things pressingly needed in a new country, particularly axes, sheet iron stove pipes, &c., whereby he gained reputation and profit. In 1829 he married Laura Taylor, who long survived him. She was a sister of Daniel Taylor. In 1832 his shop was burned sweeping away nearly all he possessed. Undaunted by this calamity he rebuilt on a larger scale, and forming a partnership with his brother-in-law, Daniel Taylor, they erected a foundry and machine shop in 1835. The rebellion of 1837 seriously affected business. He sold out his interest to his partner and joined the corps of dragoons, which had its head-quarters at Frost Village. It was a popular corps of the time and the pay was considered unusually good. Whilst in the service he assisted in the arrest of the noted rebel leader, Dr. Nelson, at Stukely, whilst making his way to the border. The trouble ended, he formed, in 1838, a new partnership with Mr. Taylor, under the firm name of "Allen & Taylor," the business of which was ever after continued by them and their descendants at the same place. In 1839 a store was added to the business of the firm. From time to time the shops were enlarged during the life time of Mr. Allen until they assumed their present proportions. For years they were the only stove and agri-

cultural implement manufacturers and machinists in the Eastern Townships and had a wide patronage. Mr. Allen was always on the alert, visiting periodically the Troy shops to pick up improvements to keep abreast of the times in his special lines of manufacture. He had an indomitable will and was a tireless worker. His rugged honesty in business, and in all his relations, won him confidence and helped in his business affairs. He was one of the zealous workers to obtain railway communication, was a large stockholder, for years a Director and for a long time Vice-President of the Stanstead, Shefford and Chambly Ry. Co. From the earliest years in the business history of Waterloo, the bell placed by him on the old tin shop now hanging in its lonely belfry gave the call to and release from labor in Waterloo. It was only after the railway came that the machine shop whistle, the first shop whistle in Waterloo, usurped its time honored functions. It is altogether likely that not a dozen people living there to-day can remember the tones, or the former use of the old bell.

To Mr. Allen, Waterloo is largely indebted for its early growth, for in the ante-railway days his firm were the sole manufacturers for outside business. He was too busily occupied to give much of his time, or well recognized business ability, to the filling of local offices, tho' warmly solicited. He filled, however, the office of Municipal Councillor for a time and acted as a Justice of the Peace. Taking a deep interest in agriculture he was for a time Secretary-Treasurer of the County Agricultural Society, an office subsequently held by a son and grandson. He was a zealous promoter of education and subscribed liberally to the founding of the Waterloo Academy, of whose board he was a member until it was handed over to the School Commissioners. He was also for years a director of the old Stanstead and Sherbrooke Mutual Fire Insurance Company, being succeeded on the Board by his oldest surviving son, Geo. H. Allen, Esq. Shortly prior to his death the old and well known firm of Frothingham & Workman presented him with a valuable double barreled shot gun in recognition of the fact that he was the oldest living customer on the books of that firm. He labored hard

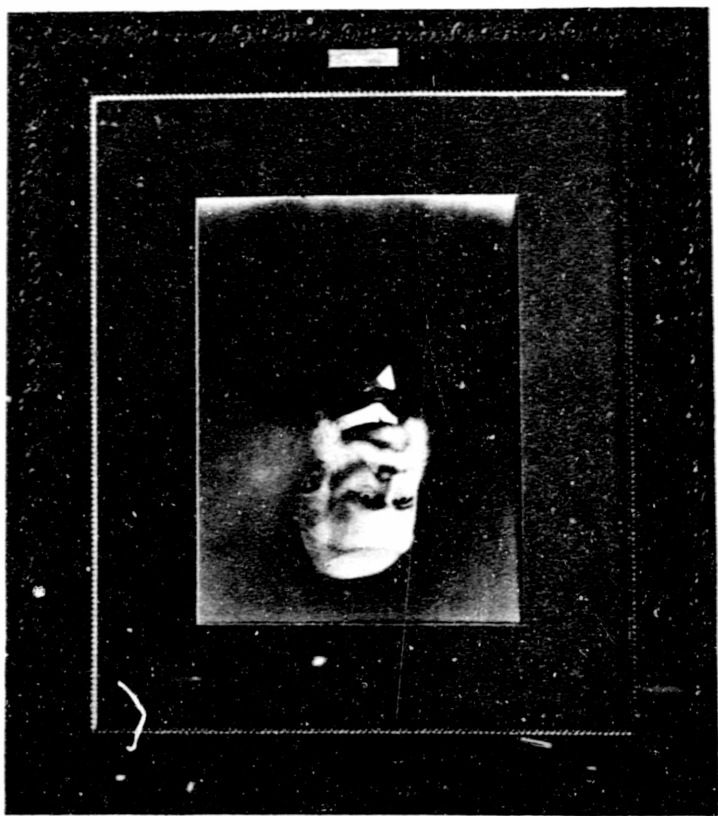
and long to build up Waterloo. He cheerfully assisted all enterprises to that end, and in most was a leader. He was the best type of a self made man, and in building his own fortune retained an unblemished reputation. He deserved and held from start to finish the esteem and confidence of the community in which he lived. He was an active member and a deacon of the Universalist Church, its construction being due to his initiative, and its maintenance depending largely on his aid.

He died on the 31st of October, 1881, in the 83rd year of his age after a protracted illness and was buried from the Universalist Church, the pastor, Rev. Mr. Hooper officiating, assisted by Rev. Mr. Mallory of Huntingville. In the Cemetery lot purchased by Mr. Allen fifty-four years before, he was the first of the family to be buried there. Apart from his widow, he left five children, the late Charles T. Allen, George H. Allen and Daniel L. Allen, who are still members of the old firm of Allen & Taylor ; the late Mrs. Louis Payan and Mrs. W. W. Smith, now residing in North Carolina.

No truer estimate of Mr. Allen can be given than that of the local paper the week following his death. It said:—" He was " an extraordinary man, intelligent, upright, honorable in " his business transactions, true and trusty as a friend, faithful in all his relations, a useful citizen of the Village and one " who will be greatly missed."



MAJOR HEZELIAH LUKE ROBINSON



MAJOR HEZEKIAH LUKE ROBINSON



HERE are many branches of the Robinson family scattered over this continent. The subject of our sketch is descended from William Robinson, —his great-great grandfather,—whose name is mentioned in the local histories of different towns in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. His father Hezekiah Robinson, and his mother Seleucia Knowlton, daughter of Judge Knowlton, were both from Newfane, Vt., Her grandfather was a noted fighter in the Indian wars preceding the Revolution. The interesting journal which he sedulously kept during his soldier life is still treasured in the family. In the '20's there was a large emigration, of an excellent class, from New England into the Eastern Townships, and among them came Hezekiah Robinson and family. After a brief sojourn in other places he finally located in Waterloo, where Hezekiah Luke was born the 1st day of January, 1827, He there erected a carding mill, an important institution in those primitive days, and later went into mercantile business, acquiring subsequently a saw and grist mill. The nearest Post Office was then over forty miles away, at Derby, Vt., tho' people at that time did not concern themselves much about mail facilities. About the year 1841 the "Old Stone Store," an ancient landmark in trade and commerce in that section was built. In an improved and modified form it is still occupied for the same purpose by a firm in which the builder's grandson is senior member. The enterprise of the elder Robinson gave the first impetus to the growth and prosperity of Waterloo. He gave generously of his means to worthy objects, a practice continued by his surviving consort during the long years of her widowhood. It is to her generosity,

among other acts of a like nature, that Waterloo is indebted for its beautiful Park on Lewis Street.

The subject of our sketch received a good commercial education, and after careful training in his father's store formed, whilst still very young, a partnership with the late Thomas L. Osgood at Hatley, with whom he continued in trade there for a few years. As clerks in that store were two Shefford boys, Wm. G. Parmelee, now Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, and Daniel D. Foster, both still living, whilst the late Hon. Lucius S. Huntington was Principal of the Academy there. A lasting friendship was there formed between those young men. On the death of his father he returned to Waterloo, went into partnership with his older brother, the late Jonathan Robinson, in the "Old Stone Store," which continued until the death of the latter in 1866. Except for a short time when he had as partner Alex. Snodgrass, now of Montgomery, Vt., he continued business alone until the fall of 1869, when he removed to the City of New York and there engaged in wholesale trade. In that year he had the misfortune to lose by death, twin daughters, followed by that of his wife, Sarah E. Robertson, of Charlestown, N.H., whom he had married in 1853. Prior to his departure from Waterloo he was given a dinner by the Masons of the Village and vicinity, at which a Past Master's jewel was presented to him. He remained in New York only a few years, marrying there in 1870, Kate F. Haskell, of Fitchburg, Mass. After her early death, and that of his oldest son, Frederick, he removed to Montreal, entering into partnership in the wholesale trade with the late William Donahue. In 1874 he married Louise Robertson, of Charlestown, N.H., a cousin of his first wife, who died in 1876. In the fall of 1878 he returned to Waterloo, formed a partnership with his only son George E., and re-purchased the "Old Stone Store," where, and with whom, he remained in trade the balance of his life. He married for his last wife Elizabeth M. Boutelle, of Fitchburg, Mass., in February, 1885. She died in August, 1885.

Mr. Robinson was elected a Village Councillor when the Village was organized as a separate Municipality in 1867, an

office which he held until his removal to New York. He took an active part in the early '60's in founding the Academy, to which he subscribed liberally, for in those days Academy buildings were constructed and the institution maintained by private subscription only. Prior to his departure from Waterloo he was a zealous member of the Board of Trustees, and after his return, when the Academy had passed under the control of the School Commissioners, he became a member and was for two years Chairman of that body.

He took a deep interest in military affairs, and at the time of the Trent difficulty in 1862, he encouraged the formation of Waterloo Co. No. 2, tho' not joining until later. On the death of Capt. Zenas Reynolds,—under whose command the Company had acquired a wide reputation for its excellent drill and superior marksmanship.—a round robin was circulated soliciting Mr. Robinson to become the Commanding Officer of the Company, and being unanimously signed by officers and men he became its Captain. He kept the Company up to its old standard, and commanded it whilst it was stationed at Niagara in 1865. Shortly after, owing to the ill health of his brother and partner, and the demands of the firm's business he resigned and was retired with the rank of Major. He was a model officer, generous with his means and zealous in all things for the good of his men, who were devotedly attached to him.

He was one of the Directors of the Eastern Townships Bank on its formation, and so continued with only a short interval during which he was local Manager, until his removal to New York. He was the first local Manager of the Waterloo Branch on its establishment there. The business was not exacting, the moderate assets being kept in the firm's safe, and the books not requiring special exertion to keep pace with the business needs of a community unburdened with surplus cash for deposit, and whose opportunity to negotiate a loan depended upon the amount of money the tri-weekly stage might bring from the head office at Sherbrooke. It was there the Bank was first crippled by a burglary. A bold burglar entered Mr. Robinson's room in the night time without arous-

ing the sleepers, abstracted the safe key from his trousers pocket, gained an entrance to the store and easily cleaned out all the ready cash of both Bank and firm, leaving the safe key in the lock where it would be handy for use in the morning. Such self-poised Sleuth's as the late Bailiff Martin and others took up an alleged trail and arrested a party against whom there was a dead certainty of guilt, if craft, experience and fame counted for anything, but there was no conviction. It is still an unsolved mystery.

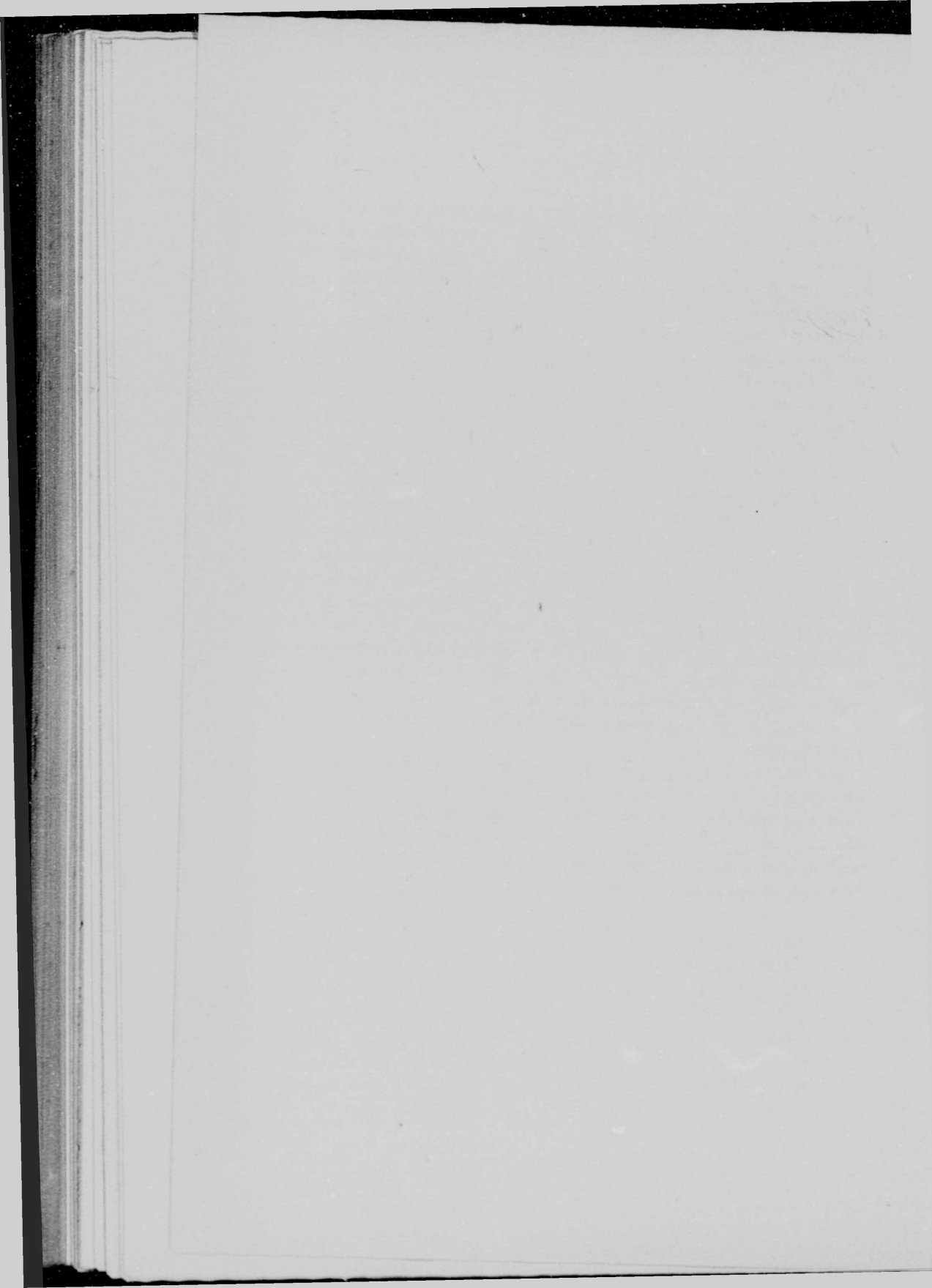
Mr. Robinson took an active part in the organization of the S. S. & C. Ry., and aided by his influence and means in its construction. He was Treasurer of the Company when it had some money. He was subsequently a Director for many years and was such at the time of his death.

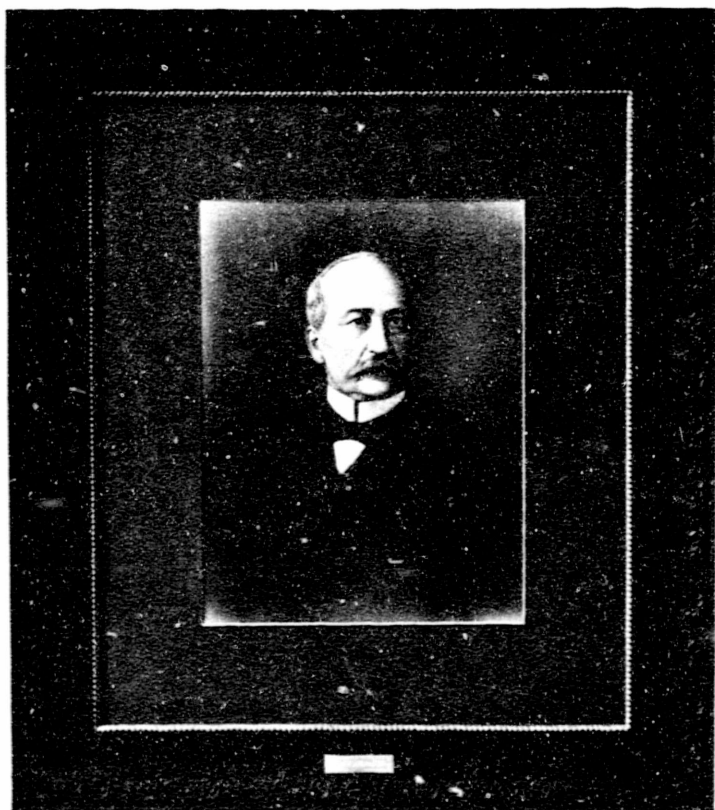
In religious matters he was a faithful and zealous adherent of the Church of England, was repeatedly a Church Warden; was almost continuously whilst living in Waterloo, after reaching manhood, a delegate to the Diocesan Synod, where he was on important committees and was a liberal contributor, not only to parish necessities but also to the Diocesan work. His consistent and exemplary Christian life and zeal for the Church exercised a remarkable influence in the community. Himself a total abstainer, he became interested in temperance work and was, for years the President of the local, as well as the County Branch of the Dominion Temperance Alliance.

Thus it will be seen, he was connected with many things which exacted time, good will and means, none of which did he slight, for he was conscientious in whatever he undertook. But keen as was his interest in those matters, perhaps that which influenced most his life was his long connection with the Masonic order, as it certainly was the one in which he attained his widest and highest distinction. Early in his career he became a mason and was rapidly advanced to the first place in lodge and Chapter. He was the moving spirit in the founding of Shefford lodge, of which he was the first master, nearly fifty years ago. The lodge had its warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, but cast in its lot with the Grand Lodge of Canada on its formation, under which he was

subsequently elected District Deputy Grand Master for the Eastern Townships District. He became first Principal of Dorchester Chapter and was instrumental in its removal from St. Johns to Waterloo. He had taken part in forming the Grand Chapter of Canada, but was living in New York when the Grand Chapter of Quebec was constituted and took no part in the separation. On his return to Waterloo he revived the dormant Dorchester Chapter, kindled the interest of the younger members of the craft in its welfare, entered Grand Chapter as its representative, and after filling the third and second Principal's chairs was elected Grand First Principal in 1883, holding the office two years. In Grand Lodge he was elected Deputy Grand Master, and in 1888 was unanimously elected Grand Master. The illness which only terminated with his death, prevented his close attention to the somewhat exacting duties of that important office. Though suffering from disease he opened Grand Lodge in January, 1889, gave the usual annual address and then bade the brethren a pathetic and final farewell. It was his last fraternal act, for thenceforth his fight with disease was continuous. Perhaps no Canadian Mason, at least of his time, had so large and wide a circle of acquaintance as he among the craft in the U.S. where he was a welcome visitor in many Grand Lodges and Chapters.

He died the 14th of April, 1892, and was buried from the Church he loved so well, amid the grief of the friends, neighbors and brethren by whom he was held in such high regard. He had led a useful life, had borne himself with high spirit and unblemished honor and died enjoying the esteem of all to whom he was in any wise known.





DR. CORNELIUS J. F. R. PHELAN.

CORNELIUS J. F. R. PHELAN, M.D., C.M.

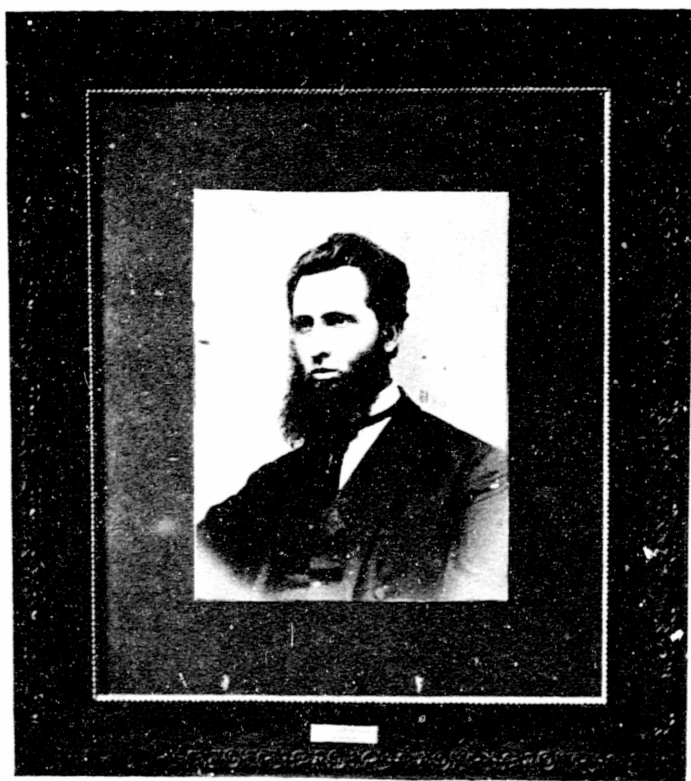


GOOD old Irish stock is the Canadian branch of the Phelan family. It has to its credit in our land, high ecclesiastical dignitaries, noted professional and successful business men. The subject of our sketch,—who was born on the 10th of May, 1840, at St. Columban, County of Two Mountains, in this Province,—is the son of John and Mary Phelan. The father was born in Kilkenny, Ireland, emigrated to Canada and settled at the place of his son's birth, where he was a merchant, and prominent in local affairs, being Mayor of the Parish, an active Justice of the Peace and attaining the rank of Major in the Volunteer Militia Force. Believing with Rabelais, "that misery goes along with law suits, and that suitors are miserable," he is said to have settled so many disputes amicably that he acquired the distinctive and praiseworthy title of the "Peacemaker," for whom there is special blessing in store.

The mother was a sister of the late Bishop Phelan, of Kingston, Ontario, a distinguished prelate in his life time of the R. C. Church, who enjoyed, as his nephew now enjoys, the respect and confidence of Protestant and Catholic alike. Dr. Phelan was educated at the College of St. Therese, from which, after taking the full classical course, he matriculated in the Medical Faculty of McGill University, graduating therefrom in 1865, with the degree of M.D.C.M. He improved the opportunity, during his University course, of perfecting his surgical knowledge by visiting, during term vacations, the army hospitals of the U.S.—the civil war being then in full blast. The experience thus gained was invaluable in his

later medical practice, and led to his being largely consulted, as a skilful surgeon, in the section in which he practiced. He began practice at first, at Knowlton,—marrying in November, 1865, Miss E.M. Guindon, of Montreal, related to the Ouimet family, which has furnished two Judges to the Provincial Bench, besides many public men. In 1870, he removed to Waterloo, forming a partnership with the late Dr. John Erskine. The latter having despaired of his profession, and desiring higher political companionship than Waterloo afforded, removed in 1872 to Ottawa, where he went into the shoe trade, and could occasionally get a glimpse of Sir John A. His removal left a large practice to Dr. Phelan, who easily retained and added thereto. He is one of the leading practitioners of the County. He is a man of wide general reading, apart from the special professional reading in which he indulges,—the latter keeping him abreast of his profession, whilst the former has given him a literary culture which makes him a leader in all the literary societies and associations of the place. He has never held a public office, tho' frequently importuned. He is a quiet member of the local Medical Association, an active member of the local Board of Health, and Medical Examiner of several life insurance companies and societies. Dr. Phelan may justly be called the creator of the local Board of Health, which has done so much to remove from Waterloo the stigma of being an unhealthy place. He has been an untiring worker on the Board. He has held many offices in fraternal and social societies, and for some time has been the active President of the Literary Association of the place. It is largely due to his zeal, and to his hearty co-operation with the members of the Association, that the fine building recently erected as a Public Library has been made possible. His co-workers fully appreciate his efforts.

Many years ago a local historian wrote:—" Dr. Phelan is a studious man, of quiet habits, gentlemanly demeanor, and by rare devotion to his profession has won the esteem and confidence of a large circle of friends,"—all of which is as true to-day as when first written. Sympathetic, thoughtful and skillful he is the model of all the family physician should be.



RICHARD W. LAING, ESQ., M.A.

RICHARD WOODBURY LAING



IN that period of the life of Waterloo which followed the advent of the railway, when Waterloo began to grow, and, for a time, became not only one of the largest, but the leading place in the district as respects business activities and educational facilities, the subject of our sketch was a prominent figure in the literary life of the place. No man ever did more, or, perhaps, so much, to influence the community towards high ideals of education and literary culture than did Mr. Laing. From his teaching went forth a large number of young men into professional and business life, to most of whom some measure of success came, and all of whom received from him inspiration to read and study. It is seldom that a teacher's influence has been so largely an active aid in helping the youth who came to his classes, or who were reached by his influence, as was that of Mr. Laing's.

In the 50's the educational life of the District had been quickened. Population had increased, material prosperity had grown, and with all this, people felt the need of something more than was supplied by the district schools or the few isolated, struggling institutions that were called Academies or High Schools. But there existed at that time no law to tax property to construct buildings for such higher schools or to maintain them when built, and Government aid to support them was rare, insignificant and unreliable. Not deterred by such adverse circumstances public men in divers communities put their hands in their pockets, and erected buildings and supplied means to carry on the work of higher education. They knew what it cost and wanted good value. But there was scarcity of teachers of the right sort. McGill

was in its infancy. There was no Normal School. And teachers from the old land, accustomed to a different system, were eminently unsatisfactory. The University of Vermont was then graduating young men whose early life and conditions accorded more fully with those existing here. From that institution came, during that period, a number of young men to be principals of our Academies, who shaped the educational life of this section, and have left traces of their work which time has not yet effaced or obscured. Taking them as respects priority of advent to the District, there were Butler, McLaughlin, Laing, Marsh, Baker, and many others whose stay was too short to make the mark of those just named. Those men were all great teachers. We recall with pride, and justly so, the men who grew up and lived among us, and who became noted in industrial pursuits, in business life, or in professional and political life. But none of them are more worthy of remembrance than the band of wonderful teachers just mentioned. No men did more for this District in lasting respects, than those poorly paid, energetic, self sacrificing instructors of our youth of those days. How little do the people of to-day, who have benefited by their toils and sacrifices appreciate the work which those men did, in directing educational matters and stimulating intellectual efforts. In many ways, apart from his then special vocation, Mr. Laing was exceptionally useful. Of those named many were his equals as teachers. But none were more helpful, none more energetic in promoting literary undertakings and all sorts of associations for those purposes, apart from those connected with his immediate profession.

Mr. Laing was born in Barton, Vermont, in 1834. His name was frequently spelled Lang. His father was a farmer in very moderate circumstances. His early life was spent on the farm. In the District school he was a bright scholar, and in the local Academy where he fitted himself for the University, he was a diligent and promising student. It is related that in his early days, when ploughing on the farm, he carried a book tied to his plow handle, that he might continue his studies as he toiled. In that way he committed to

memory the whole of Andrews and Stoddard's Latin Grammar, a more difficult text book than those placed in the hands of students to-day. He began teaching elementary schools very young, and from the money thus saved he was able to enter the University of Vermont at the age of 18 graduating in 1856. Shortly after graduating he came to Knowlton as Principal of its High School, and two years later he accepted a like position in Shefford Academy, at Frost Village, then a famous local institution of learning. In the meantime he had married a Miss Rainslow of Vermont. In 1858, while at Frost Village, he set about organizing an Association of the teachers of the District, in which he was greatly aided by the late Hon. L. S. Huntington, a former Principal of the Academy there, and who lent him the columns of his paper, the Advertiser, to further the work. It was the first attempt at such organization in this District, and apart from the St. Francis organization, possibly of the Province. The first convention met in the old Academy at Frost Village, the 29th October, 1858, and lasted two days. It is interesting to note the names of those present and taking part in the proceedings as teachers or educational officials. There were the Rev. Dr. Nicholls, Principal of Bishops College University ; Rev. David Lindsay, Incumbent of Frost Village ; Hobart Butler, Stanbridge Academy ; J. A. McLaughlin, Dunham High School ; Richard W. Laing, Shefford Academy ; Jos. A. Marsh, Knowlton High School ; Henry Baker, Frelighsburg Grammar School ; John Mattingly, Granby Academy ; P. H. Reed, West Brome Academy ; Rev. J. C. Davidson, Missisquoi High School ; L. S. Huntington, representing Trustees of Shefford Academy ; J. C. Baker, representing the Trustees of Stanbridge Academy ; James O'Halloran, Chairman Dunham School Commissioners ; M. A. Bessette, Delegate from the North Stukely School Commissioners ; James Connolly, teacher, of Bolton ; J. B. Lay, an ex-teacher and many others. Apart from organizing, adopting rules, electing officers and listening to a scholarly lecture by Dr. Nichois, the subjects were much the same as those now handled at teachers meetings. It was felt, and generally conceded, that the success of the Convention and

of the organization then and there effected was, to the largest extent, due to the zeal of Mr. Laing, who had first suggested it. It may be said here as well as later, that the Association was continued so long as Mr. Laing remained in the country, and that he was one of the most active in forming the Provincial Association, which still exists, in which he took a deep interest and was one of its executive at the time of his removal from Waterloo.

On the opening of the railway to Waterloo in 1861 steps were taken by leading citizens to found an Academy there. The old Academy at Frost Village was closed and in the fall of 1862 Mr. Laing came to Waterloo as the first Principal of its Academy. Under his guidance it at once took rank among the leading Academies of the Province. While living at Frost Village he had taken part in the founding of the Mechanics Institute and Library Association at Waterloo, which was formed under a statute intended to create local libraries and assist education. Many were formed in the Province, but most of them died long ago. Before those Institutes he was a frequent lecturer,—the prevailing custom in those days. In connection with his academic work he started Lyceums, and in all ways tried to promote in the young a literary spirit and a love of study. By himself he learned to read and translate French and German, and had even acquired a smattering of Italian and Spanish, so that he might explore the literature and the original sources of those languages, without being dependent on translations. By his persistent efforts a reading room was started in Waterloo, which flourished greatly for a time, but finally lapsed by reason of the failure to secure suitable quarters. He was its President and worked energetically for its success. In 1863, when Mr. Huntington retired from the editorial chair of the Advertiser, on being made Solicitor General, Mr. Laing became his successor until November, 1864, a work which did not interfere with his professional life. His selections for the paper were of a high order of excellence. He wrote fine English on general subjects, but they were essays rather than editorials. They were smooth, clean and pure in style and thought, but they

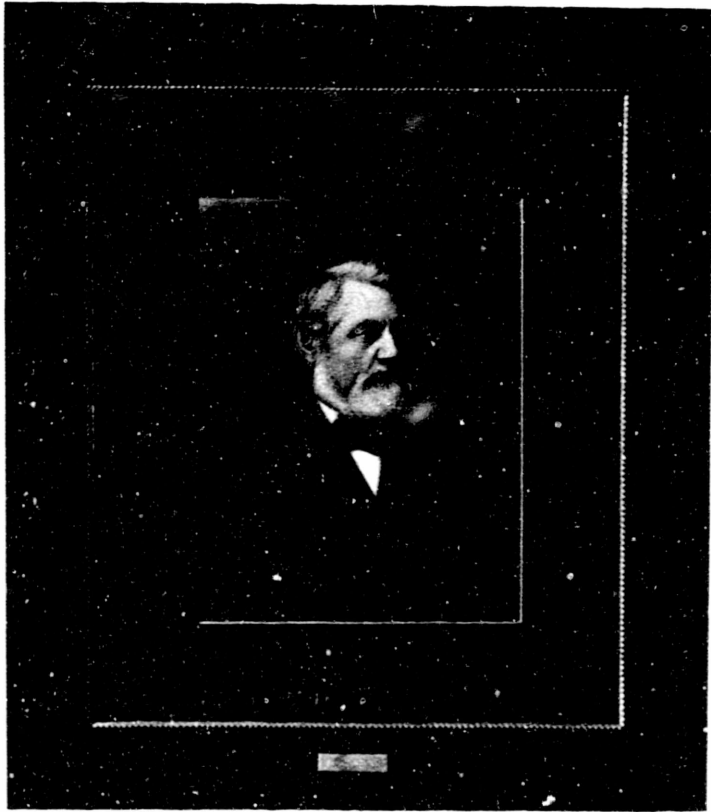
lacked the personal touch so essential to the successful editor. In a day when strong writing was the vogue, when invective and personalities were the common habit, classic English was not appreciated. During those years he also began to study law. This was interrupted in 1869 by an unexpected invitation to accept the Principalship of the High School at Delavan, Wisconsin, where he removed in August of that year. On the eve of his departure a public meeting of the citizens of Waterloo was convened in the Academy building, to pay a last tribute of respect to his worth as a citizen and teacher, Dr. R. Parmelee presided. A Committee, composed of Dr. Erskine, W. B. Heath, J. P. Noyes and Capt. F. E. Fourdrier, on behalf of the citizens presented him with an address expressive of the kind feelings entertained for him, and the regret felt over his departure. This was accompanied by a purse of \$200.00 in gold, "the time being too short to put the present into any shape," said the local chronicler. Mr. Laing made a felicitous and pathetic reply, in which he bade adieu to his old friends and pupils. Addresses were made by Rev. D. Lindsay, M.A. Bessette, M.P.P. and others.

After teaching a few years a Delevan he accepted a like position of Principal of the Bishop Scott School, Portland, Oregon, but was subsequently appointed Professor of English Literature and History in the University of Minnesota, at Minneapolis, a position he filled acceptably for some years, when, having fitted himself for, and been admitted to the Bar he resigned and began the practice of his profession at Minneapolis. He died there on the 22nd of January, 1892, leaving a widow and no Children. Of his professional life, as well as his own activities there, the Minneapolis Tribune said : "After leaving the State University and turning his attention to law, he at once became prominent as a hard working conscientious advocate, who made his client's cause his own. He was a clear and forcible speaker, and frequently won cases when material evidence was lacking, by his logical reasoning and manly bearing. Soon after coming to Minneapolis Mr. Laing began to devote considerable of his time to the Minneapolis Athenaeum, which was organized in 1879, and in a

“short time, by reason of his splendid literary attainments and wonderful knowledge of books, he was made general manager of the institution, which grew and thrived well under his stewardship. He continued at the head and front of the association for many years,” when business engagements and ill health compelled him to retire. “It can truthfully be said,” continued the same paper, “that had it not been for the excellent management of Mr. Laing in the early days, the Minneapolis Public Library would not be what it is today.” The Waterloo Advertiser correctly said of him, “he was a profound, scholarly man, with wide information and varied attainments, great personal magnetism, and a natural aptitude for teaching. In his class room he was a power. Endowed with a magnificent physique and a handsome presence, he won the respect and admiration of all his pupils.” His courteous manner and sympathetic nature easily won the friends which his solid attainments enabled him to retain. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity and at the time of his removal from Waterloo was the actual Worshipful Master of Shefford Lodge, in which he had been a mason. In 1866 his *alma mater* gave him the degree of M.A., and a Wisconsin University gave him later the degree of LL.D. in 1873.

He was an only child. His father and mother are buried in the Waterloo Cemetery.





ALMUS A. KNOWLTON, ESQ.

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DR. A. A. KNOWLTON, or Dentist Knowlton, as he was long and widely known was born in South Stukely on the 8th November, 1822,—the youngest son of the late Judge Knowlton, of Newfane, Vt. His mother's maiden name was Charlotte Kinny. There were fifteen children in the family,—five boys and ten girls. Of the girls those most intimately connected with Waterloo and vicinity, were Mesdames Hezekiah Robinson, Rotus Parmelee, M.D., John A. Jackson and W. W. Willard. One brother, Hanson Knowlton, born in 1814 is still living at Osage, Iowa. The subject of our sketch received a good common school education, with such other advantages for improvement as the locality afforded in those early days, all of which were supplemented by general reading which made him a remarkably well informed man, with independent views as well, upon the leading questions of the day during his long and busy life. The Knowlton family, in all its branches, and with all its affiliations, was and is a large group in the population of this section of the Eastern Townships. Among their leading characteristics are what are called hard headed sense, industry and thrift, Years ago, in a lawsuit which involved the value of a murdered dog, a Mr. Knowlton, examined as a witness, was pressed by counsel to place a value on the dog and persistently declined. The Judge finally stopped the examining counsel with the remark that it was useless to question the witness further, for, said he,—“ the Knowltons' do not get their living with dogs.”

After following different pursuits,—among them being the taking of portraits by the old Daguerrean and Ambrotype processes which preceded photography,—Mr. Knowlton

finally studied dentistry with Dr. Gilman, then a noted practitioner of St. Albans, Vt., and about the year 1860 he began the practice of his profession, according to the then prevailing custom of going about from one locality to another as local demands might require. In 1871 he located permanently in Waterloo, where he erected the fine residence and office near the Post Office where he spent the remaining years of his life. When the first Dental Act of the Province was enacted he became one of the first members of the profession thereby created, and received his diploma in 1870. As a dental practitioner he enjoyed a high reputation and for years had a large practice. His life was quiet and unobtrusive. He was a total abstainer all his life and by precept and example furthered the temperance cause.

In 1876 he married Sophronia Newton, sister of the late E. D. Newton, of Waterloo. She died the 23rd day of October, 1899. After this great loss he retired from general practice. He died peacefully, after a somewhat protracted illness, at his home in Waterloo on the 13th of October, 1903, and was buried from the Universalist Church of which he had long been a devoted member. He was a man who quietly did much good. He was a contributor to all good causes in the vicinity. He generously, among other things, gave the site whereon is erected the Waterloo Library Building, and took a deep interest in its welfare.

